

It's Electrical Safety Month!

Everyday we rely on electricity to power our homes, offices, shops and lives! Oftentimes, we take for granted the safety aspect of this silent, smell-free, service. Unlike propane or natural gas, there is no alert when something is off. May is National Electrical Safety Month, and a great time to raise awareness on how to avoid potential electrical hazards.

By taking simple precautions, everyone can avoid fire hazards, injuries, property loss, electric shock and fatalities.

Indoor safety tips include:

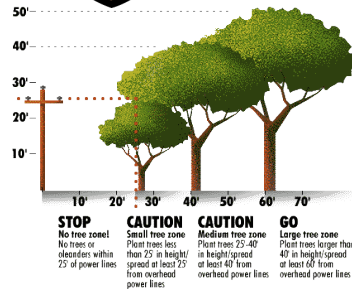
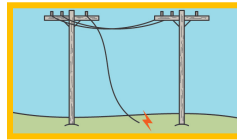


- Check electric cords for fraying or cracking. Be sure to keep Fido away from any potential chew toy related incidents!
- Extension cords should be used temporarily, not as a permanent replacement for proper wiring.
- Don't run cords under carpet or rugs to avoid overheating.
- Keep appliances and tools away from water. Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter outlets should be installed near sinks in the kitchen and bathroom areas.

- Contact a licensed electrical contractor if your lights are flickering, an outlet feels hot to the touch, have outlets that

don't work, or need wiring and repairs.

Outdoor safety tips include:



- Never touch a downed power line! Always assume a power line is hot. The area surrounding the line will be energized and can cause electrocution. If you see a downed line call us immediately!
- Watch for overhead lines when working on your roof, near trees, or when flying kites or model airplanes.
- Know what's below! Always call 811 at least three days before digging or excavating. All utilities including power, water, gas, telephone and cable will be located—and it's a free service!
- When planting baby trees in spring or fall, remember that they'll grow! Be sure not to plant any trees near power lines or in the power line right of way clearance.

For more safety tips follow our Facebook page!

Nick's Notes

By Nick Dulaney
Line Superintendent



April sure had its fair share of excitement for the crews. The pictures below show just a few of the flooding-related and Mother Nature's damaging effects that we've had to contend with.

The South Nashua three phase reconductoring job is complete. The next reconductor job we'll be working on is along Dead Lamb and Geer Roads. This single phase job will increase capacity and reliability to the members along this line.

We are also beginning to change out meters in the Whatley Substation from the Turtle system to the new PLX system. We are also com-

pleting equipment upgrades in the Benrud Substation.

The crews have completed the annual line patrol and we're assessing the data to determine the best course of action to replace the biggest concern areas.

Finally, we will be working to replace 4 miles of underground line along Wildrose Road, South of Opheim.

If you've got projects planned for this year, please give me a call so we can get your work scheduled. The sooner the better!



Left: a broken pole, a reminder of Mother Nature's wrath. Middle: The Poplar River ice dam lets loose and takes out a pole. Right: The arrow shows where a power line is submerged in the current.



Barnett



Billingsley



Boucher



Brown



Christensen



Eggar

Congrats Graduates!

NorVal Electric is proud to offer post-secondary educational assistance to graduates throughout the service territory. This year, NorVal has awarded over \$8,100 in scholarships to area graduates. Congratulations to Merlin McKean, the recipient of the Basin Electric Power Cooperative \$1,000 Scholarship. A job well done to Benjamin Miller, the recipient of the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association Memorial \$500 Scholarship. His application was scored against students in 5 other cooperatives and he was selected as the winning applicant. Congratulations to all area graduates and best wishes for your future endeavors!

Glasgow High School

Bridger Barnett. Parents Russ and Carin. Bismarck State College.

Rachel Billingsley. Parents Scott and Suzanne. Miles Community College.

Kaden Fossum. Parents Steve and Janel. Bismarck State College.

Garrett Lloyd. Parents Duane and Ellen. MSU-Bozeman.

Ellis McKean. Parents Andrew McKean and Lih-An Yang. U of M or Gonzaga.

Merlin McKean. Parents Andrew McKean and Lih-An Yang. U of Notre Dame or U of Michigan.

Benjamin Miller. Parents Matthew & Lynn. MSU-Bozeman.

Cordelia Nickels. Parents Brady Dale and Jennifer Nickels. MSU-Billings

Alexandra Pehlke. Parents Michael & Jessica. U of M-Western.

Natosha Sand. Parents Josh & Ronica. Dickinson State University.

Micah Tweten. Parents Paul and Tana. MSU-Northern.

Brook Westby. Parents Todd and Lori. Carroll College.

Hinsdale High School

Sarah Boucher. Parents Gregg and Renae. Flathead Valley Community College.

Chaykota Christensen. Parents Chris and Carol. MSU-Bozeman.

Lustre Christian High School

Zach Brown. Parents Darin and Sarah. MSU-Northern.

Emily Eggar. Parents Shawn & Christine. York College.

Kassandra Kirkaldie. Parents Dave and Taja. Williston State College.

Nashua High School

Daniel Parpart. Parents Ned and Linda. Northwest College.

Opheim High School

Joni Pankratz. Parents Kenneth and Lori. Miles Community College.

Savage High School

Tyler Lien. Parents Ross and Brandi. MSU-Billings.

Wolf Point High School

Paisley Ferdina. Parents Jay and Shelly Ferdina. MSU-Bozeman.



Ellis McKean



Merlin McKean



Miller



Nickels



Pankratz



Parpart



Pehlke



Sand



Tweten



Westby



Ferdina



Fossum



Kirkaldie



Lien



Lloyd



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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the A/C to run longer than necessary.

Source: energy.gov

