



# NorVal NEWS



June 2020

## Staying Safe During Summer Storms

**N**o one knows electrical safety better than the experts who practice it every single day. NorVal Electric encourages you to practice safety with these reminders – for during and after a summer storm:

**Avoid wires and water** — When lightning strikes a home during a storm, the electrical charge can surge through pipes and utility wires. That means you can get zapped if you're touching water or any device that's plugged in, whether it's a land-line phone or toaster.

**Skip the makeshift shelter** — During a storm, it's tempting to take cover under a picnic gazebo or golf cart, but in open-sided structures with no conductors to channel strikes, a bolt's path of least resistance to the ground could be you. On top of that, these structures raise your risk of a lightning strike because of their height. Keep moving toward suitable shelter.

**Portable generators** — Take special care with portable generators, which can provide a good source of power, but if improperly installed or operated, can become deadly. Do not connect generators directly to household wiring. Power from generators can back-feed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including co-op line workers making

repairs. It's best to hire a qualified, licensed electrician to install your generator and ensure that it meets local electrical codes.

**Flooded areas** — Stay away from downed power lines and avoid walking through flooded areas. Power lines could be submerged and still be energized with electricity. Report any downed lines you see to our office by calling 406-228-9351 immediately.

**Electrical equipment** — Never use electrical equipment that is wet – especially outdoor electrical equipment, which could be a potential danger after a summer storm. Water can damage electrical equipment and parts, posing a shock or fire hazard.

NorVal Electric Co-op has been a proud member of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives for decades. Along with 750 electric cooperatives nationwide, we have partnered with Touchstone Energy to put safety as our number one concern.

For a checklist to assess safety hazards around your home or to take a quick safety quiz, go to:

<http://www.togetherwesave.com/power-of-community/safety>. 

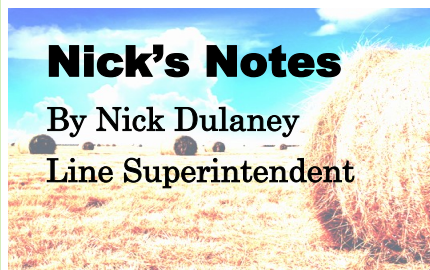


*A storm approaches South Valley County.*

### Nick's Notes

By Nick Dulaney

Line Superintendent



derground power line in the Kronebusch Substation area. Also, work North of Glasgow has started by East Hansen Road to convert the power from overhead to underground.

We are also beginning to install distribution power to the TC Energy Pump Station 11.

There are new services being installed in the Idlewild area as well.


The crews are replacing about half a mile of three phase line Southeast of Nashua, and have started converting another half mile line stretch of three phase line from overhead to underground Southwest of Nashua.

**W**ith all the moisture at the beginning of May, I hope your crops are growing up fast!

The NorVal crews have had a busy month in May! They started replacing the aged underground

As a friendly reminder, with new technology available in farm equipment, we encourage you to ensure you have plenty of clearance when moving from one field to another. If you find a low hanging wire and need a line lift, our crews will be happy to assist! Also please remember to visually inspect the field for obstructions, including power poles, which may not appear on GPS.

As you may imagine, some of our more remote areas of the system aren't visited as regularly as more well-traveled areas (unless there is a problem). As my special request, if you see something out of the ordinary like a hanging wire or insulator, a leaning pole, a tree growing into the line, or anything else that doesn't look quite right please give me a jingle! Your assistance is greatly appreciated and can save us time and hassle in the future.

With home projects on the rise this season, please be aware of where you place your ladder before climbing on the roof of your house, garage or shed. Metal ladders will conduct electricity if placed near power lines. For underground projects, remember to call 811. We'll come out to locate the primary power lines free of charge. 



## Recipe of the Month

### Slow Cooker Buffalo Ranch Wings




*In honor of dads everywhere, this month we are featuring wings!*

#### Ingredients

- 2 lbs. chicken wings
- 1 c. buffalo wing sauce
- 1 packet ranch seasoning
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Fresh chives, for serving
- Ranch dressing, for serving

#### Directions

Place chicken wings in a large slow cooker. In a large bowl, mix together buffalo sauce, ranch seasoning, and season with salt and pepper. Pour mixture over chicken wings and stir to coat. Cover and cook on high until cooked through, 2 1/2 to 3 hours. Turn on broiler. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper and pour wings onto them. Broil until crispy, 5 minutes. Garnish with chives and serve with ranch dressing. 

### PRIVATELY-OWNED LINES CAN BE LOCATED FOR A FEE

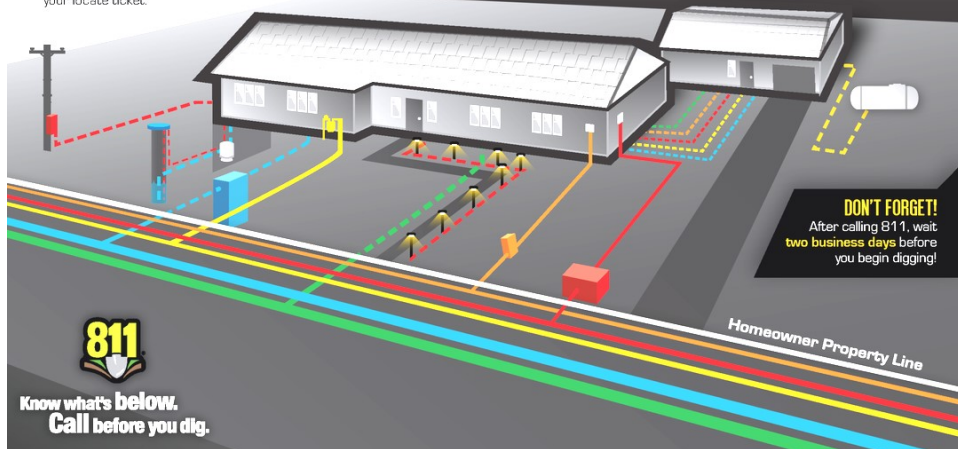
Water, natural gas, and residential electric lines are usually owned by the utility up to the meter. Some sewer districts own only the mains; others extend their ownership to laterals up to the property line. The customer typically owns everything beyond these points. **Check with your local utility provider to verify what they will be locating.** You can find their phone number on your locate ticket.

Customer-owned lines usually include propane tanks and lines, water wells, hot tubs, security lighting, pools, natural gas grills and any lines that serve outbuildings.

The free locating service available through 811 applies **ONLY** to facilities owned by utilities. The diagram below shows a variety of utilities, some owned by the utility and some by the homeowner.

Those utilities marked by dotted lines are typically owned by the homeowner. Private locating services will mark these for a fee.

**WATER** **ELECTRIC**  
**SEWER** **PHONE AND CABLE**  
**GAS AND OIL**



### Save Money This Summer

**W**ith more Americans at home in recent months, here's a quick list of tips that can help you save some money on your power bill!

**Replace light bulbs**—LED lights offer efficient lighting options over traditional bulbs and last much longer.

**Watch your thermostat**—A few degrees difference can make a big impact, up to 10%. If you have a digital thermostat or programmable thermostat that's even better!


**Be on the lookout for energy vampires**—when a device is powered off, but plugged in, it is still consuming power. While the power used is minimal, these energy vampires add up fast. If a device is not in use, unplug the charger. Or better yet, invest in a power strip!

**Wash your clothes in cold water**—this simple change can save you up to \$60 per year. Additionally, be sure to use full loads whenever possible to reduce the number of total loads.






**Clean your dryer vent**—a dirty or clogged vent is not only a fire hazard, but it also

makes your dryer work harder. Or better yet, utilize solar and wind power and place them on the line to dry.

**Keep the fridge and freezers full**—if your fridge is too empty, more warm air enters the interior, forcing your fridge's compressor to work harder to cool. In addition, check the temperature! The FDA recommends setting your refrigerator to 40 degrees and your freezer to 0 degrees Fahrenheit. The same philosophy for filling goes for your freezer. If your space is only partially filled in the freezer, utilize those empty milk jugs and add water until they're about 3/4 full and freeze. These will take up the empty space and make your freezers compressor work less to keep your contents frozen.

**Change your ceiling fan rotation**—during summer, it's important that your blades rotate counterclockwise to help pull hot air up away from you. In heating months your fan blades should be spinning clockwise to push heated air back down to the main living areas where you're spending most of your time. 

#### Connect With Us

 54091 US Hwy 2 W., Glasgow  
 PO Box 951, Glasgow, MT 59230  
 406-228-9351  
 [www.norval.coop](http://www.norval.coop)  
 [facebook.com/norvalelectric](https://facebook.com/norvalelectric)  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

#### NorVal Electric Cooperative Directors

District 1	Lee Risa	762-3247
District 2	Sam Gundermann	724-3405
District 3	Rick Molvig <b>Vice Pres.</b>	367-5328
District 4	Chris Christensen	364-2367
District 5	Kurt Breigenzer <b>S/T</b>	228-9465
District 6	Ron Reddig <b>President</b>	392-5257
District 7	Rocky Kittleson	367-5366
District 7	Gary Meyer	526-3600

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spending more time at home? Try an online energy audit to assess the overall efficiency of your home. Visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov), then enter "home energy yardstick" in the search box to get started!

