



**54091 US Hwy 2 W., Glasgow  
P.O. Box 951, Glasgow, MT 59230  
406-228-9351**

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www.norval.coop**

## NorVal Electric Cooperative Directors

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

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## Welcome to NorVal!

Ole Borge, our newest first year Apprentice Lineman, is from Colstrip, MT. He completed the Montana Tech Pre-Apprentice Lineman program in November 2020. His hobbies include anything outdoors: hunting, fishing, shooting. His favorite place to travel is anywhere in Montana. He is most looking forward to having a successful career in the line trade. Welcome to the co-op family, Ole!

## Tips for a Safe Harvest

**Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S.**




*Lance Cheung, USDA*

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous—even deadly—when farming near electrical equipment.

Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

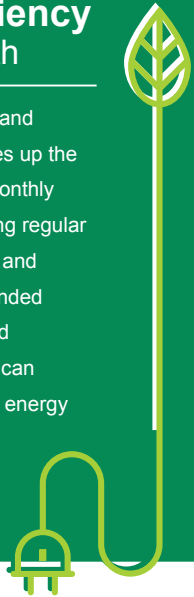
- **Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.**
- **Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.**
- **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 9-1-1 immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away to safety.**
- **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.**

September 19-25 is National Farm Health and Safety Week but practicing safety on the farm year-round yields positive results. We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, we hope you'll remember these safety tips. 

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Energy used for cooling and heating your home makes up the largest portion of your monthly energy bills. By combining regular equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30% on your energy bills while helping our environment.

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)



NorVal Electric's  
**Annual Meeting**  
**October 27, 2021**  
Glasgow Civic Center

## Let's Beat the Peak Together

As a member of NorVal Electric, you know how to make smart energy choices that help you save money. But did you know that when you use electricity can be just as important as how much you use?

Throughout the day, energy use fluctuates based on consumer demand. Typically, most households use larger amounts of electricity in the morning when most people are getting ready for their day, and in the evenings when people return from work, cook dinner, wash clothes and watch television. These times when people in our community are using more electricity at the same time are called "peak" hours.

By shifting some of your energy use to hours when demand is lower, also known as off-peak hours, you can save money on your energy bills and help keep rates lower for our community.

**Here are a few easy ways you can shift energy use to off-peak hours:**

- **Adjust your thermostat.** During summer months, raise the thermostat a few degrees during peak hours.
- **Wash full loads of clothes in cold water during off-peak hours.**
- **Run the dishwasher right before you go to bed, or air-dry dishes by opening the dishwasher instead of using the heated dry cycle.**
- **Turn off lights and electronics when not in use. (Try to make this a daily habit, whether during peak or off-peak hours.)**

There are many ways to save energy and money by making a few minor adjustments to your daily routine.

We're here to help. Contact us if you have questions about your energy bill or for additional energy-saving tips. 📞



## Nick's Notes

By Nick Dulaney  
Line Superintendent

The last month has been very busy at NorVal Electric. The crew finished the Fuhrman Road overhead to underground conversion. All the services have been changed over and the old overhead line has been retired. They are now working on the Baylor Road three phase underground conversion.

In July we had all the substations power transformers oil sampled. This is a requirement from our insurance company. They look for certain levels of contamination for water, insulation breakdown and different gases. By doing these tests we can keep an eye on what is happening inside these vital pieces of equipment.

Altec Truck company was here to inspect each of the vehicles in our fleet. This is a requirement for D.O.T. and OSHA. They perform dielectric tests on all the vehicles that are used for performing energized work on the power lines. They also inspect everything for mechanical wear and D.O.T. requirements.

Lastly, the crew completed some of their annual trainings as required by OSHA, the State, Federal and NorVal's insurance company. One of these trainings covered bucket truck rescue. During this safety training, the crew sets up a bucket truck with the boom in the air and simulates a rescue where the second person on the ground uses the lower controls to get the man out of the air and out of the bucket once it is on the ground. The other method is a self-rescue where the person in the air uses a device attached to the boom that allows him to repel to the ground slowly and safe. 📞



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**