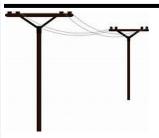


P.O. BOX 386, HYSHAM, MT 59038



ALONG THESE LINES . . .



OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL SAFETY

We all become so accustomed to power lines that we easily forget they are there; however, they are deadly if touched. It seems elementary to say this, but electric lines are placed upon power poles and buried underground to help keep them away from you. To give you some perspective about the danger of contacting a wire, each hot wire on an electric line has enough power to supply electricity to 30-70 homes.

Summer is a time of severe weather with strong winds, hail, lightning, micro-bursts, and numerous other maladies. With Mother Nature continually battering your Cooperative's lines, **you members** are our eyes and ears. Your Cooperative has about 1,040 miles of electric line. With numerous storms during the year, your Cooperative's employees cannot possibly be aware of every unsafe condition that exists. You members are vital in reporting unsafe conditions to us. If you notice broken or sagging wire, broken poles, broken or loose guy wires, eroding river banks getting close to poles, trees in power lines, or anything else you think may be a hazard, please call us. If you are long distance, call us toll-free at 1-888-392-5521.

Your assistance could save many hours of outage time, injury or damage, or perhaps even a life. Upon receiving notice from you, we will document the hazard and schedule it for repair, either immediately or at some future time, depending on our assessment of the severity of the hazard.

Our thanks to many of you members who do not hesitate to call when you see a line hazard!

2021 ALLOCATION OF CAPITAL CREDITS

For most of our active members who were members in 2021 you should have seen this message on your May bill statement: *****SAVE THIS BILL*****YOUR 2021 ALLOCATION INFORMATION IS ON THIS BILL. PLEASE RETAIN THIS BILL FOR YOUR PERMANENT RECORDS. Then in the 'Billing Messages' was an explanation of Allocations as well as the amount that was allocated from 2021 to your capital credit account. REMEMBER: 1. You do not owe these amounts. 2. These amounts are not now payable and do not represent cash but rather your equity in your Cooperative. 3. You cannot apply these amounts to your electric bill.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Lightning Awareness

Knowing where to go when thunderstorms approach is the best defense against lightning.

Steps to take:

- 1. Follow the 30/30 rule. Count the seconds after a lightning flash. If you hear thunder within 30 seconds, seek safe shelter (see step 2). Do not go outside again until 30 minutes after the last lightning strike. More than half of lightning-related deaths happen after the thunderstorm has passed. The danger exists whenever thunderstorms are in the area, even when clear skies are directly overhead.
- 2. Only use safe shelters. Full-size buildings, such as houses or businesses, work best. Stay away from sheds or open shelters (picnic awnings or baseball dugouts). Hard-top cars, vans, and trucks work well, but not golf carts, soft-top convertibles (even with the tops up), bicycles, or motorcycles. Whether in a building or a car, keep all windows and doors closed.
- 3. While inside, avoid anything that conducts electricity and is plugged into a wall socket phones, electrical outlets, lights, desktop computers, televisions, stereos, and water faucets (metal plumbing conducts electricity) are just some of the items to avoid. Portable devices such as wireless phones (stay away from the base station that's plugged into the wall), flashlights, unplugged laptop computers, and personal MP3 players are all fine. Avoid metal door or window frames.
- 4. If you're caught outside, go inside immediately. No safe options exist outside. Run to your car or a safe building as soon as you hear thunder.
- 5. Lightning can and does strike in the same place twice hundreds of times, really. Conditions that draw lightning aren't likely to change. If lightning strikes close to you, do not assume you are safe until the storm passes. See Step 1.
- 6. If you are struck by lightning, <u>call 911</u> immediately. If you see someone struck by lightning, call 911 and treat any injuries as appropriate. Follow the same basic first aid steps as for any other victim. Expect to see burns, and if the victim is not breathing, begin CPR immediately. There's no reason to avoid treating the victim; victims are not charged with electricity and are completely safe to touch.

Source: Internet

Lightning Facts from the National Weather Service

- Lightning can heat its path five times hotter than the surface of the sun
- About 20 million cloud-to-ground lightning strikes occur in the United States each year
- There are about 100 lightning strikes around the world in any given second
- One ground lightning strike can generate between 100 million and 1 billion volts of electricity
- One lightning strike could light a 100 watt light bulb for 3 months

Source: Internet



The Cooperative would like to wish all of it's members a safe and joyful 4th of July!

Remember to obtain an electrical permit!

You can go online or stop by our office to pick up a form.
Until our office receives a copy of your permit, we are not allowed to energize the service.

Manage Your Account



Use SmartHub to...
-Pay Your Bill
-Check Your Energy Usage
-Set Up Auto Bank Drafts
-Update Account Info
-Contact Member Services

Safe, secure & fast!