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## OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday  
 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**406-342-5521**

# MID-YELLOWSTONE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.



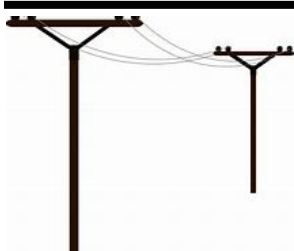
## OFFICE PERSONNEL

Jason Brothen.....CEO  
 Marj Cunningham.....Office Mgr  
 Karen Morales.....Billing Clerk  
 Jessica Welch.....Cust.Serv.Rep.

## LINE PERSONNEL

Ken Rolandson....Operations Mgr  
 Daren Reeder.....Lineman  
 Trent Perkins.....Lineman  
 John Cunningham.....Lineman  
 Brent Battenfeld.....Lineman  
 Tyler Fennern.....Appr.Lineman  
 Ryan Silvis.....Appr.Lineman

P.O. BOX 386, HYSHAM, MT 59038



ALONG THESE LINES . . .



## ***SURGE PROTECTION NEEDED ON YOUR ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT***

We all have sensitive electronic equipment in our homes. About any appliance you purchase today will have electronic circuitry. This equipment includes televisions, DVD players, satellite TV systems, wood pellet stoves, propane stoves, home heating and air conditioning equipment, etc. This equipment needs to be protected with good quality surge protectors. A surge protector has a joule rating which indicates how large of a surge it can dissipate to ground. The larger the joule rating, the larger the surge it can handle. The surge protector will likely have a "UL 1449" rating. Many of the better protectors have equipment warranties. You can install surge protection in your main disconnect box, in your home's breaker box, individually on each piece of sensitive equipment, or in all of those places. Did you know that voltage surges not only come from outside your home such as lightning strikes, but also from equipment inside your home such as vacuum cleaners, refrigerators, furnace motors, air conditioners, etc.? The bad news is that the typical surge protector is not strong enough to clamp the voltage spike from a nearby lightning strike. The best thing to do during a bad lightning storm is to unplug your sensitive electronics.

How about computers? The typical home computer (not a laptop) **needs an uninterruptible power supply (UPS)**. The UPS not only has surge protection, but also battery backup power to keep your computer running at times when the supply of electricity is briefly interrupted. If you are running your computer without a UPS and the power blinks, you will lose all your work since your last save. Also your computer will shut down and try to start back up again which could cause problems with both your computer's hardware and software.

A laptop computer naturally does not need a UPS because it already has battery backup. However, your laptop should be plugged into a good quality surge protector.

How much does a surge protector or a UPS cost? You can spend a lot of money to get top of the line protection; however, a good UPS can cost less than \$70. You can also get a good surge protector for less than \$50. ***Please note that ordinary outlet strips are not surge protectors!*** Also, surge protectors for your main disconnect to your home or in your home breaker box are different than the ones that plug into outlets. The surge protectors in your breaker boxes have long wire leads that need to be hard wired into your homes electrical conductors.

**This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**

**Rural Montana**

## KEEP KIDS SAFE AS THEY GO BACK TO SCHOOL

Kids are our future, and we want to keep them safe in everyway possible! Teaching them about the do's and don'ts of electricity is very important. As your kids are heading back to school and learning about school safety, this can be a good time to also teach them about being safe around electricity. Here are a few suggestions to discuss with your school aged children from kindergarten to college-bound.

### K-8th Grade:

- Keep fingers, writing utensils, paperclips and other objects away from electrical outlets.
- When unplugging electronics, always hold the base of the plug to pull it out—never yank from the cord.
- Stay clear of pad-mounted transformers (big green box) and other electrical equipment.
- Never throw objects (example: shoes or clothing) onto power lines. If you see objects already hanging on power lines, do not try to remove them.

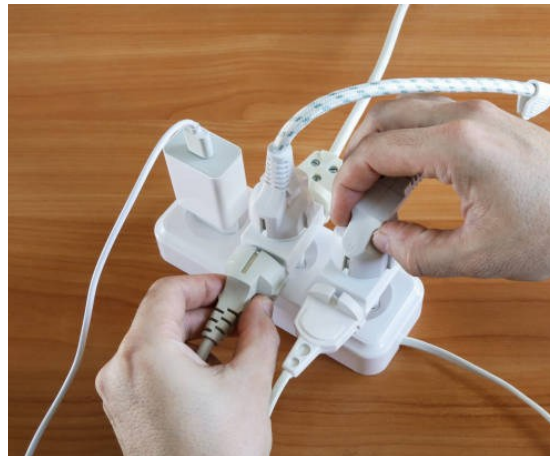
### High School:

- If you drive to school, obey all traffic laws and practice safety when driving in areas where utility crews are working.
- If you see a downed power line, assume the line is energized and stay away from it. Call 911 to report it.
- Always be cautious in science classes, specifically those with labs, as it's likely your hands, or the area near you, will get wet. Keep everything dry and use caution when plugging in equipment.

### College:

- Get in the habit of unplugging devices that are not in use.
- Don't overload electrical outlets. Many dorms and campus housing are not equipped to handle today's use of electronics.
- Keep extension cords out from under rugs or furniture as this could damage the cord and it is a fire hazard.
- Keep all electrical appliances and cords away from bedding, curtains and other flammable materials.

Source: Internet



## Heating Systems Need Health Checkup

In the heat of late summer, it's pretty easy to forget that our household heating system needs to be checked and serviced by a qualified professional. No matter what kind of system you have, a heating system check-up will ensure that it's operating efficiently and safely before the first cool days arrive.

That heating safety check should also include any portable heaters that you may be using. Make sure the cord to a portable electric heater is in good condition and that the switches and controls are all working properly.

If you use a fireplace or wood stove during the winter, have the chimney cleaned and the flues checked out. Taking these simple steps now can help you stay comfortable—and safe—this winter.

And then taking a step outside wouldn't hurt. How safe are the heat tapes and stock tank heaters you used last winter? Do they need to be replaced? How about the heating system you use in the shop? Are any portable heaters used in the shop or other outbuildings? You can see why it is smart and safe to do a complete inspection of inside and outside heating appliances. And—as that saying goes—there's no time like the present to get started.