

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Kevan Kimball, Pres.....Myers/Big Horn
Steve Nile, V.Pres.....Howard Flat
Jim DeCock, Sec.-Treas....Hysham Rural
Joe Schiffer.....Rosebud/Cartersville
Arlo Jensen.....Town of Hysham
Tim Fulton.....Ingomar/Hammond
Richard Pinkerton.....Sarpy

OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

406-342-5521

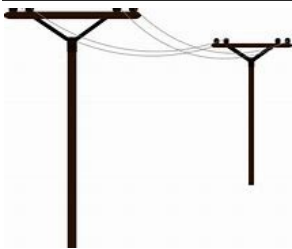
**MID-YELLOWSTONE
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**



OFFICE PERSONNEL
Jason Brothen.....Manager
Marj Cunningham.....Office Mgr
Karen Morales.....Billing Clerk
Patti Lang.....Cashier

LINE PERSONNEL
Ken Rolandson.....Foreman
Rick Lewis.....Sub Foreman
Daren Reeder.....Lineman
Trent Perkins.....Lineman
Shane Freese.....Lineman
Ilya Jankunas.....Appr.Lineman
John Cunningham...Appr.Lineman

P.O. BOX 386, HYSHAM, MT 59038



ALONG THESE LINES . . .



THE COOPERATIVE AND COVID-19

The last month has been a whirlwind for everyone, and we hope that you-our members-are doing well. MYEC is an essential business, so we are remaining open; however, changes were inevitable and have been made.

On Monday, March 23, we started having our doors locked to the public. We feel quite fortunate that with our updated computer system you are given several options of how to pay your MYEC bill. At the office we have, and have had for many years, a 'Mail Drop' slot located a bit left of the entrance door. Of course, you can put your payment in the mail. For those who are near Forsyth, we still have an account at First State Bank, so a payment may be dropped off there. Then, as shown on the bill statement, payments may be made on-line at www.myec.coop. A member may make a one-time payment here, or set up to make automatic payments each month. Another way to make a one-time payment is to call the pay-by-phone system at 1-844-344-4363 (also shown on the bill). You will need to know your account number and make up a 'Pin number' for yourself.

If you have questions, or need assistance, please call the office during the working hours. The office is in operation from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We now are in the office during the noon hour, and will continue to be even after we are able to open the doors again to the public.

SOME STEPS MEMBERS CAN TAKE TO HELP CONTROL THEIR ENERGY BILLS :

- Setting your thermostat one degree lower when heating or one degree higher when cooling can reduce energy use by up to 5%.
- Do full loads of laundry and wash with cold water. Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load's energy use in half, and using cold water will save even more.
- Air dry dishes. This step can cut your dishwasher's energy use by up to 50%.
- Unplug appliances and electronics when not in use. Small appliances and electronics use energy even when not in use. When powered on, game consoles, televisions and similar electronics are responsible for up to 12% of energy use.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Each year, people are burned and killed by contacting electric power lines. Electric lines at MYEC can be 7,200; 14,400; 34,500; or 69,000 volts, and carry large amounts of power. We realize that most of our members respect electricity; however, a few put themselves, their families, their hired hands, and their property in harm's way. Electric utilities place power lines on top of wooden poles or bury them underground to keep them away from you.

Electric lines are so common that we tend to forget they are there. Be extra careful and check for electric line locations before installing antennas, using ladders, using grain elevators, using gated metal pipe, pulling well pipe, planting trees, stacking hay or straw, erecting buildings, etc. The list is almost endless.

When you plant trees, consider how tall and how wide they can be at maturity. If you plant a tree that will grow 70 feet tall, wouldn't it be wise to plant it almost 70' away from a high voltage line to make sure that if it falls over it will not fall into the line?

When you are erecting a new building, there are many national electric safety code distance requirements from power lines depending on the building and the voltage on the line. Generally, to comply with MYEC's easements, you must build at least 15 feet from the power line; however, that distance could be further to meet safety codes. Check with us if you have any specific building project and we can check on code distance requirements. Wouldn't it make sense to build more than 15 feet away from a high voltage line?

When you are looking for a location to stack your straw or hay bales, stay away from power lines. Stay at least 15' away from a line and much further if possible. Stacking straw and hay under power lines is extremely dangerous, both for your safety, your hired hand's safety, and for the safety of your hay or straw.

Grain bins need to be far away from power lines. Grain elevators used around bins can be deadly if they touch a power line.

We have been discussing overhead power lines. MYEC also has underground power lines. Don't build on top of any underground electric line, whether it is low voltage or high voltage. Keep your building projects 15 feet away from a high voltage underground line. To be safe, let us know if you have any specific building project that is in the vicinity of underground electric lines. Call 811 if you will be doing any excavation.

MAY is Electrical safety Month—watch for our lines when moving equipment and irrigation pipe...

What do you do with refrigerated foods when the power goes out?

- Keep the refrigerator closed. Refrigerated food should be safe for about four hours, but milk, dairy products, eggs, meats and all cooked foods spoil quickly. Throw them out if the temperature rises above 40 degrees F for two hours or more. The risk of food poisoning is never worth the cost of the food.
- Remember, when in doubt, throw it out!
- Keep your freezer closed! A full, freestanding freezer will stay at freezing temperatures about two days without power, a half-full freezer about one day. If the freezer is not full, quickly move packages together to insulate them and keep them as cold as possible.
- You can safely refreeze food if it still contains ice crystals, has not exceeded 40 degrees F for two hours or more, or if it has been held at 40 degrees F no more than two days. Don't taste food with odd odor or color. Also, if it isn't safe for you, it's not safe for your pet.
- For more information, call the USDA Food Safety Hotline toll-free (800) 535-4555.

SAVE MONEY: Pay your bill before the Due Date that shows on your bill.