

August 2010

HIGHLIGHTS

From Big Horn Rural Electric Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Downed Power Lines Could Be Deadly

Power Lines May Still Be Energized When Down

In recent weeks, Big Horn REA has seen many instances of severe weather which have caused our poles and lines to be affected. We would like to take this opportunity to remind our members to be safe around electricity!

With severe storms and high winds, there is always the likelihood of downed power lines. Power lines that provide safe and efficient electrical power to your home everyday can now become a silent killer. Whether the power to your house is on and

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A recent storm knocked over a tree into a power line.



From the Manager's Desk

I want to say thanks to our loyal and understanding members. During the past month, Big Horn REA has incurred numerous outages. Most of these outages have been weather related due to extreme winds and lightning. There were 6 poles that were broken due to winds, several lines damaged due to sheds/buildings blowing into them, and trees that were blown into the lines. The transmission line serving the Burlington and Emblem area was hit by lightning which caused numerous consumers to be without power. Big Horn also had scheduled planned outages for the Shell area to complete a single phase to three phase line conversion to serve a well for the Town of Greybull. Western Area Power is doing maintenance on the Meeteetse substation and an outage was required to safely perform the necessary work.

Several things to note are Big Horn generally tries to provide written notice to the customers who will be affected by a planned outage. So please take the time to read the outage notice and make a note of said planned outage on your calendar. If you are the landlord and the service is in your name, as a courtesy you

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Downed Lines

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functioning either during or after the storm passes, beware of the power lines if you venture out.

A downed power line that is not hissing, arcing and writhing violently does not look dangerous nor does it give any indication of being dangerous. It's never obvious that a power line is energized.

Even if your power is out and you see that the power lines are down, don't think that it is safe to move a downed line. These power lines could become re-energized at any time! Never assume anything when working around power lines. Instead, assume that they are live and that electrocution dangers exist.

The electricity in a power line always seeks a path to the ground. This path might include a tree, a vehicle, or a fence, all of which then become energized.

The ground, too, becomes energized once electricity reaches it. It can spread over a wide area, like ripples in a pool of water, gradually



Power lines will energize anything they touch. The fence line in this photo could potentially become a death trap to anyone that touches it.

lessening up to zero at about 33 feet from the center. If the ground is wet, the energy may spread further than 33 feet.

Big Horn REA recommends the following things:

1. Treat downed power lines, and anything in contact with them, as energized.
2. Park away from the power lines.
3. Stop traffic and keep people away, at least 33 feet from the fallen power line.
4. Don't become a victim yourself by touching a downed power line, even with a dry stick or piece of hose.
5. Call the power company immediately, to ensure the power line will not be reactivated until everyone is safely out of the way.
6. Do not approach the scene until a power company representative confirms it's safe.

During a recent storm, Big Horn REA had a pole fall. The lines were still energized. A gentleman first on the scene thought he was being helpful to our

company and placed an orange cone approximately one foot from the top of the downed pole. This could have been deadly! Line foreman Fred Sherburne would like to remind everyone, "Just because lines are down doesn't mean they are dead. People need to stay clear and call REA as soon as possible! If you are in an area with downed lines, keep others away too."



A power line on the ground emitting sparks and smoking is a sure sign the line is still energized.



2010 Upcoming Events:

August 2 - 8

Big Horn County Fair

August 2 - 7

Washakie County Fair

August 13 - 15

"Nowoodstock" Music

Festival - Ten Sleep

August 14 - 21

Wyoming State Fair

September 4-6

Labor Day Celebration

Meeteetse

September 6, 2010

**Big Horn REA offices closed
in observance of Labor Day**

Manager's Message

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can let your tenant know as the planned outage notice is sent to the name of the customer/member paying for the service.

Also, when you have an outage, your calls to our office are important so that we can track and log outage calls. This helps our crews to try to determine what areas are affected and where to start patrolling for the outage problem.

Once again, thanks for your understanding during outages. Big Horn is committed and works diligently to maintain and upgrade our system to provide quality system reliability.

I would also like to commend our entire line crew for the dedication and hours of service in restoring our members' power as quickly and safely as possible. Also, thanks to the office staff who stayed after hours to receive the calls and



provide radio communication to our line crew. I trust you will agree with me when I state your employees are truly dedicated to providing quality service to every customer.

Thanks for being a member of Big Horn REA and have a safe summer!

Your Big Horn REA line crew working hard to keep the lights on at your home. Here they are stringing new overhead lines in the Shell area.



A Grand Slam for Meeteetse

Last year, the Meeteetse Museum/Belden Museum in Meeteetse, Wyoming, received an incredible gift. Mike Crocker of Meeteetse donated his Grand Slam of North American Wild Sheep. The Grand Slam includes the Dall sheep, the Stone sheep, the Rocky Mountain bighorn and the desert sheep. They are all full mounts, and the museum hired Ray Hattfield of Nature Design Taxidermy of Cody to design a cliff wall to display them, complete with waterfall.

The museum is honored to be the keepers of the Grand Slam. This exhibit is a full donation. The Meeteetse Museum now owns it, and people can see it for free.

The display officially opened February 6th. It took the full month of January to get the display set up and functional, according to Museum Director Kate Holberg.

Crocker has decided he is retiring from hunting to start the next phase of his life - to do something new, travel, have time to be a Grandpa.

He donated the Grand Slam partly for his own family heritage, so his grandkids would have a place to come to see the mounts whenever they wanted.

The Meeteetse Museum is located at 1947 State Street in Meeteetse. Summer

hours are Monday - Sunday, 9:30am to 4:00pm. Winter and spring hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00am to 3:00pm.

Read next month's newsletter for more on this story.



Upcoming District Meetings

One of the benefits of belonging to a cooperative is local access to the Board of Directors that you have elected.

Big Horn REA would like to invite you to the district board meeting in your area!

The remaining meetings will be held as follows:

August 25th - Deaver Community Center and in **September** the meeting will be held at the Burlington Fire Hall - date to be announced.

Hamburgers will be served from 11:30a.m. to 12:30p.m. The meeting will be held from 12:30pm to 1:00pm. Two \$75 bill credits will

be drawn for from members in attendance.

Check your mail... you will be mailed an invitation to the meeting in your District.

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to visit with your board members.



HIGHLIGHTS

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For Outages or Trouble
Call the office number: **ANYTIME**
(307) 568-2419 or 1-800-564-2419
After 5 p.m., weekends and holidays
all calls will be answered by our professional answering service, who will contact the appropriate person(s).



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Use the moisture sensor feature on your clothes dryer if it has one. This option shuts down the dryer when clothes are dry. In addition, clean the lint filter after each load. This improves air circulation and increases the dryer's efficiency.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy