

July 2011

HIGHLIGHTS

From Big Horn Rural Electric Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Your cooperative is a proud member of
WREA
Western Rural Electric Association



Downed Power Lines

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

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 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.

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



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June Outage

On Monday, June 6, 2011, at approximately 8:30pm, a storm which appeared to be a microburst went through Big Horn REA's service territory near Manderson and caused severe damage and destroyed equipment which included transmission poles, cross arms and insulators. Big Horn REA had a crew out quickly after the storm. The crew found two downed

transmission poles and were able to get them back standing. The crew then coordinated with Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) who tried to re-energize the lines but the breaker operated, which indicated there were still problems with the lines or equipment. Big Horn REA then called in more crews to help. Additional problems were found, which included a bro-

ken cross arm and broken insulators, which cause "floaters" - lines no longer attached to the poles. Rough terrain hampered quick access to the areas with damage. The power was restored at approximately 5:00am. Approximately 895 services were without power. Big Horn REA wants to thank its members for their patience and understanding during this outage.



Outage Reporting

Big Horn does its best to provide excellent service and reliable power to our members. There are times, however, when your service may be interrupted due to unforeseen circumstances such as: weather, animals, trees or unknown causes. Some outages are "public caused" by car accidents, equipment in our lines or lines that are dug into.

The following procedures will be helpful to you should you experience an outage.

- First, check all the breakers in your home and out at the meter pole in your yard. These breakers may trip due to overloading or for unknown reasons sometimes. These breakers are considered "past the meter" or on the member's side and employees of Big Horn are not allowed

to work on the member's side of the meter.

- If you find all your breakers are on, please contact your neighbor or look to see if you can tell if they have power. This will help the linemen decide if they have an individual outage or a larger line outage.
- Next call 568-2419 or 1-800-564-2419 anytime day or night, and report your outage. Please have the following information available:
 - o Your name and account number,
 - o Phone number,
 - o Service address,
 - o Time when power went out, and
 - o The cause of the outage if known.

We ask you to call and report

the outage, even if you think someone else may have already. This will give us a better idea of the area we have out of power, and will get the lights on faster. Big Horn is charged a flat rate by our after hours answering service and they also welcome all your calls.

Members that have service on the mountain may experience longer outages than normal, as it takes longer for the crews to patrol the line and locate the problem. Many times the linemen will have to walk into the forest to clear the trees from the line with chainsaws. We will make every effort to restore the power as quick as possible though. However, safety of our members and employees is paramount.

We appreciate the patience of our members and apologize for any inconveniences during these times.

Part of Our Communities

Big Horn REA is proud to be a part of the communities we serve. We will once again be holding District Meetings this summer, to allow our members the chance to visit

with their Board of Directors and have lunch on us! Also, Big Horn REA will be participating in local parades. Be sure to come out for both events! Watch your mailbox

for your invite to the District Meeting in your area. And, attend your parades...we'll have an ice cream sandwich or granola bar for you!



Board President Tom Delaney speaks to members at a District Meeting in Meeteetse last summer.



Caden Hunt, son of Big Horn REA accountant Carrie Hunt, “cowboy’d up” for the Days of 49 parade in Greynull.



Big Horn REA employees Warren Adams and Todd Herman hand out ice cream sandwiches to people along the parade route.

2011 Upcoming Events:

July 1-4
Cody Stampede, Cody

July 3-4
Ten Sleep Rodeo, Ten Sleep

July 4
Ten Sleep Parade, Ten Sleep

July 4
"Old Fashioned 4th of July",
Greybull

July 9
Byron Day, Byron

July 14
Hyart Film Festival, Lovell

July 18
Carson & Barnes BIG TOP
Circus, Worland

July 21
Shakespeare In The Park,
Much Ado About Nothing,
Worland

July 22
Shakespeare In The Park,
The Merchant of Venice,
Greybull

July 23
Pioneer Days, Cowley

July 29
Big Horn County Relay for
Life, Lovell

July 26-30
Park County Fair, Powell

July 31 - August 7
Big Horn Co. Fair, Basin

August 1-6
Washakie Co. Fair, Worland

August 12-14
Nowoodstock, Ten Sleep

August 13
Hands Across the Saddle,
Wilford Brimley Arena,
Greybull

August 13-20
Wyoming State Fair,
Douglas

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...
Upcoming District Board Meetings

July 20 - Hyattville Community Center
or Ten Sleep Senior Center, TBA

August 31 - Shell Community Hall

Lunch
11:30am - 12:30pm.

Meeting
12:30pm - 1:00pm.

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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 pro-
fessional answering service, who will
contact the appropriate person(s).



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

One of the easiest ways to make your home more energy efficient is to add insulation in the attic. To see if you need insulation, look across an uncovered attic floor. If the insulation is level with or below the floor joists, you probably need to add more.

Source: Energy Star