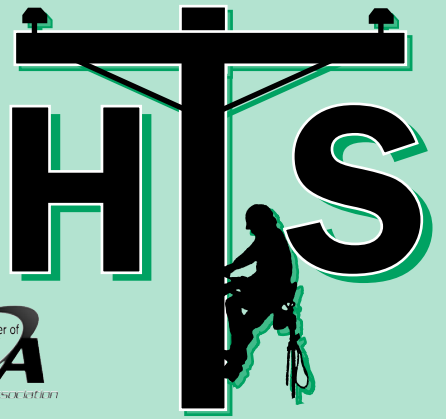


May 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

From Big Horn Rural Electric Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Manager's Message

Thanks to all members who attended and those who executed their proxy at the March 10, 2012 annual meeting. As a member/owner of Big Horn REA, a member's right to participate and vote on matters affecting Big Horn REA is a value in receiving power from your local electric cooperative. Our 75th Anniversary Annual Meeting was a success and thanks

to everyone who participated.

Spring seems to have arrived and everyone is busy. Whether you're doing projects such as: yard work, ranching, farming, or operating equipment, Big Horn would like everyone to be safe.

Big Horn REA's Culture of Safety involves providing a safe environment for our employees and members. Our employees are

trained to assess and plan for each job and to recognize any safety hazards. Big Horn would like to remind each member to make safety a part of their job planning and activity. We value the safety of our employees, members and the public.

Take time to plan, be safe and thanks for being a member/owner of Big Horn REA.

Power Lines

With spring and summer come storms - both snow storms and electrical storms here in Wyoming. With that in mind, we at Big Horn REA would like to take the opportunity to remind you to be safe around power lines that can be torn down in these storm situations. Below are some frequently asked questions - please take the time to read and share the answers with your loved ones. Please help us help you avoid a tragedy.

What should I do if I encounter a downed power line?

If you see a downed power line, move at least 10 feet away from the line and anything touching it. The human body is a ready conductor of electricity.

The proper way to move away from the line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock. Electricity wants to move from a

high voltage zone to a low voltage zone—and it could do that through your body.

What can I do to help someone who has come in contact with a downed power line?

If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. Call 911 instead.

Can I use something that is not metal to try to move a downed power line myself?

Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or stick. Even non-conductive materials like wood or cloth, if slightly wet, can conduct electricity and then electrocute you.

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What should I do if I see a downed power line in the street while I am driving my car?

Do not drive over downed power lines.

What if a power line comes down onto my car or I didn't see it until I've driven into it?

If you are in your car and it is in contact with the downed line, stay in your car. Tell others to stay away from your vehicle.

If you must leave your car because it's on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together and avoid contact with the live car and the ground at the same time. This way you avoid being the path of electricity from the car to the earth. Shuffle away from the car.

Is a downed power line still dangerous if it has come down in water, like a pool or pond?

Water is a good conductor of electricity. Any amount of water—even a puddle—could become energized. Be careful not to touch water—or anything in contact with the water—near where there is a downed power line.



Downed power lines in the Big Horn REA service area.



Stay Clear!

A downed power line may not be a dead line. It could cause serious injury or death.

If someone is injured by contact with a power line, call 911 and keep others away until help arrives.

If a power line falls across or near your vehicle while you are in it, stay inside until help arrives. If you must exit, jump clear so that no part of your body is touching the car when you land. **KEEP BOTH FEET TOGETHER**, and shuffle or hop at least 30 feet away from the vehicle.

BIG HORN REA 75 YEAR HISTORY QUIZ

At the Annual Meeting, which was held March 10, 2012, Big Horn REA handed out a quiz to the members in attendance. From those members who answered the most questions correctly, one winner was drawn for a \$150 Energy Credit. The answers and the winner's name will be published in next month's issue.



Big Horn Rural Electric Company

May is National Electrical Safety Month

Honor Electrical Safety Month

Every May we celebrate Electrical Safety Month. It's a time when we place a spotlight on ways we keep you, our members, safe.

It's not hard to understand why safety remains a top priority for Big Horn REA—working around electricity is a life-or-death situation every day for many of our employees. As a result, we work hard to instill a culture of safety that our folks can take home with them and live 24/7.

“Using electricity has become such a part of our children's daily lives that we may tend to take the safety of their electrical toys and appliances for granted,” claims Jeff Stocklin, Line Superintendent at Big Horn REA. “By teaching kids about how electricity works and where it is found, we can each do our part to educate our children and prevent electrical accidents.”

Help keep your children safe from indoor and outdoor electrical dangers by making sure they are familiar with these important electrical and fire safety tips for kids:

- Keep liquids, including drinks, away from electrical items such as TVs, video game consoles, and computers. They could spill and cause dangerous shocks or fires.
- Never play with electrical cords, light sockets, or electrical outlets.
 - Do not overload outlets with too many plugs.
 - Never yank on the cord to unplug an appliance. Hold on to the plug itself.
 - Never play near substations or power transformers.
 - Do not play or fly kites near power lines. If your kite gets caught in a power line, let go of the kite.
 - When there is lightning, stay away from trees and get inside.



Big Horn is available to provide electrical safety awareness classes to businesses, first responders, Scout troops or Senior Citizen groups. We will educate any company or organization that would like to educate their employees or members about the danger of electricity. We use visual aids to help bring the safety message alive. We have a tabletop display that illustrates what happens when a kite or ladder comes into contact with an electrical line. We also use a high-voltage display that emphasizes the importance of knowing where overhead and underground lines are located.

If your school, community group or other organization is interested in Big Horn presenting an electrical safety program, please contact us at 800-564-2419 or 568-2419.

Safety education is another service that enhances the quality of life for you, our members, by enabling you to work and play safely while enjoying the comfort and convenience that electricity brings to your lives.

For more safety tips, visit www.safetyathome.com.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety in the home and the workplace. ESFI proudly sponsors National Electrical Safety Month each May, and engages in public education campaigns throughout the year to prevent electrical fires, injuries, and fatalities. For more information about ESFI and National Electrical Safety Month, visit www.electrical-safety.org.

Committed to our Youth

At Big Horn Rural Electric Company, we are proud to offer programs to our youth that will further their education, encourage leadership and give them opportunities to learn about cooperatives and the history of our country. Congratulations to the following youth that have been awarded scholarships and opportunities from Big Horn.

2012 Scholarship Winners

Basin Electric: Sadie Neves, Burlington

Big Horn: Janet Davidson, Burlington; Caitlyn Sorenson, Rocky Mountain; Tia Williams, Burlington; Kelly Newkirk, Meeteetse; Halli Stocklin, Ten Sleep; Jodi Walker, Lovell; Amelia Whitlock, Ten Sleep; Bryla Jones, Burlington; Kimberly Cook, Burlington; Michael Miller, Riverside; Kirbi Anderson, Greybull; Ashley Bridges, Rocky Mountain; Julie Davidson, Burlington; Camaron Wambeke, Rocky Mountain; Alex Powers, Greybull; Jessica Stanworth, Burlington; Nathan Hetzel, Greybull

2012 Colorado Leadership Camp Winners

Sarah Stanworth, Burlington; Nate Davidson, Burlington; Kassi Renner, Lovell

All of the above students will be eligible to apply for the 2013 Washington D.C. Youth Tour sponsored by Wyoming Rural Electric Association and Big Horn Rural Electric Company.

2012 Washington, D.C. Youth Tour Winners

Sadie Neves, Burlington; Saren Rasmussen, Burlington; Lance Schatz, Burlington

2012 Annual Meeting Poster Winners

Sarah Stanworth, Burlington; Daniel Stanworth, Burlington

HIGHLIGHTS

is an official publication of
BIG HORN RURAL
ELECTRIC COMPANY



Touchstone Energy®

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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

Smart home landscaping can lower your electric bills. Trees on the east and west sides of your home provide shade—and reduce your cooling costs—during hot summer months. Shade for your air conditioner can save 10 percent of your cooling costs. And by adding vegetation to the north side of your home, you can reduce winter winds that trigger higher heating costs. Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives