



BRIDGER  
VALLEY  
ELECTRIC  
ASSOCIATION

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
The power of human connections®



Bridger Valley Electric's

# LIGHT LINES

Your Electric Cooperative Newsletter

***"The Power to Bring You the Best"***

**May 2017**

## Updates

**Viewpoint by Jud Redden, General Manager**

### Ready for Summer? Don't Forget to Call 811

There are lots of things to plan as you head into summer, especially when you think about doing home projects which will require excavation such as building a new fence or planting some trees.

First of all, if you are going to be doing any kind of excavating, we urge you to call the line locate number 811. 811 will contact all possible utilities (electric, phone, gas, etc.) so that when you begin to dig you know you are safe. You won't dig up a gas or electric line which would put you at risk physically, but also you won't incur a bill for the damage you have done if you hit a line.

Calling 811 is the smart thing to do. And remember to call them 48 hours in advance. Don't start digging to plant all those trees on Saturday morning and expect them to show up 10 minutes after your call. You have to plan ahead. Call 811. It's a "no brainer"!

### New Service Needed? Plan Ahead

If you are planning on building a new service, now would be the time to contact Bridger Valley Electric and get everything set up so that the service is ready when you need it.

The process of planning, estimating costs and actually installing a new service takes time and if you start now, BVEA will have you taken care of in a timely manner.

## Electrical Safety Month

May is electrical safety month. Electrical energy is an essential piece of our everyday living but it must be used properly or it can be deadly. I would like to describe what we try to do to keep you safe and to keep our employees safe. Recently I read a story about a young man in shop class that was badly burned from an electrical contact. He accidentally touched two exposed wires that allowed current to flow through his body. Luckily, he will recover and lead a normal life but it doesn't always turn out so well. At a meeting of the general managers of the 11 Wyoming cooperatives, I learned of another nearly disastrous electric outage this winter. A bus with a load of high school students came upon a car accident. The car had hit an electric pole causing the pole to break and fall. The power lines were lying on the snow-covered ground. Because snow is an insulator the breaker didn't trip off the power so the lines were still energized. Many of the students exited the bus to see what was happening. Quickly a crew from the power company was on the scene and was able to de-energize the lines. However, foot tracks in the snow showed that several students had nearly touched the lines which would almost certainly have been fatal. We are trying to educate our students about electrical safety to avoid this type of incident. Two of our linemen have gone to nearly all the grade schools with our safety demonstration. This gives the linemen an opportunity to show the young people the power of electricity. They teach them how to avoid contact with power lines and to always assume the lines are energized. We are borrowing a large safety trailer from our sister cooperative, Moon Lake Electric in Roosevelt, UT and will be using it this spring to bring our story to the middle schools and high schools. We also give safety demonstrations at the annual meeting. All of this is an effort to communicate safe ways to use electricity and how to avoid unsafe contacts with electricity.

Our workers are exposed to serious electrical hazards as part of their daily activities. At BVEA we take safety seriously. We want each of our employees to go home to their families every night. We have monthly safety meetings with all employees. At the beginning of each job the outside crews hold a safety session called a tail gate briefing. At that time they review the plan for the job, discuss potential dangers, and make sure everyone knows exactly how to complete the work safely. We have an excellent safety record here but it is only because our employees make a concerted effort to make it a priority. In our monthly safety meetings, we cover topics such as pole top and bucket rescue, winter driving precautions, equipotential grounding (look that one up), CPR, proper use of fire retardant (FR) clothing, and many others. Since our crews must be prepared for any contingency, they practice how to lower an injured worker from the top of a pole. It is very interesting to watch. They also practice bringing in emergency services. Last fall we had a life flight helicopter land at BVEA so they could teach us what services they provide and how to get them to the injured person. Electrical safety is something we all need to take seriously.

## From the Board Room:

The board met on March 14, 2017 and took the following action:



- Approved the minutes of the February 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting.
- The board approved donations to the Huntsman Cancer Hospital and to Primary Children's Hospital.
- Approved a resolution to apply for a grant to improve BVEA cybersecurity protocols.
- Appointed 9 members to serve on the Credentials and Election Committee for the annual meeting.
- Made some changes to the policy covering tools and equipment provided to employees for safety and protection as required by OSHA.
- The board accepted the financial report, the safety report, and approved the estate refunds and write offs for February.
- Reports were given for operations at Deseret Power and for attendance at the NRECA annual meeting.
- Heard department reports.

## Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

Keep warm summer air outside where it belongs! Add caulk and weather stripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.



## Bridger Valley Electric Association, Inc.

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P.O. Box 399, Mtn. View, WY 82939

Phone: (800) 276-3481  
Or (307) 786-2800

Jud Redden, General Manager  
Naomi Stone, Editor

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Website: [www.bvea.coop](http://www.bvea.coop)

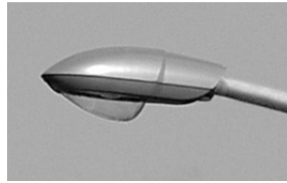
To Report Outages Call  
(307) 786-2802  
(800) 276-3481  
24 hours a day

Underground Cable Locates  
Call 48 hours in advance  
(800) 849-2476  
**OR JUST DIAL 811**

## Security Lighting

### Can BVEA help you with this?

Security lights can be a real help in several ways in this part of the country. Bridger Valley Electric offers security lighting to its members. How much it will cost you depends on what your situation is.



The responsibility of providing the security lighting falls on the property owner, business operator, or resident as it is not only assisting the surrounding area but also their own sense of self security.

Installing security lighting is beneficial to both personal home owners and business owners in different ways. To a personal home owner the why is simple. Not only does it drastically lower the chance of a break in or theft of outside property it also, in the case of theft or trespassing, gives a much better chance at being able to identify the perpetrator or catching them on camera. This gives the homeowner a greater sense of control and safety should such a thing occur.

For the business owner the same sense of safety and control would apply but for them it also brings a sense of safety and security to the surrounding area and the people and employees who frequent the business. Night employees would undoubtedly feel much better about leaving their work if there were safety lights to light up their parked car. Customers who shop at night are also much more likely to shop at a business who has taken the time and care to set up security lights to brighten up their area rather than a dimly lit, shady looking store. As you can see the benefit of security lighting for businesses is not only for the safety of the business's property but also the people who use it.

As you can see the benefit of security lighting far outweighs the initial cost or hesitation of buying the lights. Nothing is worth more than the peace of mind and sense of safety that such a simple thing as lighting can bring to both the property owner and the business operator.

If you are interested in installing security lighting through your co-op, give Bridger Valley Electric a call. The most used light is a 250 watt high pressure sodium light which costs \$21.50 per month. A service man will need to look at your location to determine what a light installation will take in equipment and cost.

## May – Electrical Safety Month

### Spring Safety Tips

Warmer weather stimulates an increase in outdoor work in many parts of the country, both on the job and at home. A focus on electrical safety awareness can help ensure these activities do not result in injuries and deaths.

Following a few simple safety rules can help reduce the number of electrical deaths and injuries:

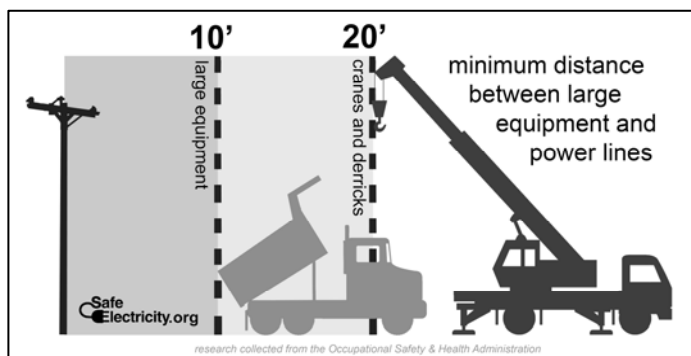
- Ladders—even those made of wood—that come into contact with a power line can prove fatal. Keep all ladders at least 10 feet away from overhead power line.
- Unplug outdoor tools and appliances when not in use.
- Inspect power tools and appliances for frayed cords, broken plugs and cracked or broken housing. Repair or replace damaged items.
- Water and electricity do not mix. Avoid damp conditions — including wet grass — when using electricity.
- Use wooden or fiberglass ladders outdoors. Metal ladders conduct electricity.
- Contact your utility company immediately to report downed power lines outside your home.
- Always assume fallen power lines are energized. Stay at least ten feet away from a downed power line and any nearby objects it may be touching, such as a fence or a tree limb.
- Never touch a person who is in contact with a downed power line. Call 911 immediately.
- Downed power lines can carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or even death. Electricity wants to move from a high voltage zone to a low voltage zone – and it could do that through your body.



## Contractors Beware: Notify BVEA of Work Around Power Lines

For your safety, it is necessary for you to notify BVEA if you are going to be working within 10 feet of overhead power lines. Not only will notifying BVEA of your intended work keep you safe, it will also prevent outages for unsuspecting members, and prevent you from causing damage to your equipment and ours which could be costly.

- Avoid direct and indirect contact with power lines.
- Stay a minimum of 10 feet away from all unprotected lines. The law requires that 10 foot minimum, known as the “danger zone”.
- Always assume that a power line is live or energized. Only BVEA can verify that an electrical line has been de-energized.
- Ladders, scaffold, or any other equipment that places a person near a power line create special hazards.
- Never extend a tool within 10 feet of a power line.
- Keep vehicles and heavy machinery out of the danger zone.
- Call BVEA if you experience a power line related emergency: 800-276-3481 or 307-786-2802.



## Utility Flag Markings

Ever wonder what all those colored flags mean? You’ve seen them along the road marking some kind of utility line. Here is the key: Red-Electric, Orange-Telephone, Blue-Potable Water, Green-Sewer, Yellow-Gas/Petroleum, Purple-Reclaimed Water, and White-Pre-mark site where digging/excavation is planned. Now you know.

## Efficiency Tips for Outdoor Shops and Barns *By Meghaan Evans*

There are many benefits to having an energy efficient outdoor shop or barn. Aside from saving energy, an efficient outdoor building can keep the environment around your structure healthy and safe; save money on your water bill; keep your animals happier and healthier; and save you from costly structural repairs.

Here are some ways you can make your new outdoor shop or barn more energy efficient.

- Location matters. If possible, carefully consider where you build your shop or barn. Consider drainage, sun exposure and how the building may affect your neighbors.
- Start with a sustainable design plan. A sustainable design plan, according to the U.S. General Services Administration, includes the ability to use environmentally preferable products; protect and conserve water; enhance indoor environmental quality; and optimize operational and maintenance practices.
- If you are hiring a contractor to help build your structure, make sure you look for companies who specialize in “green” buildings and energy efficient practices.
- Choose efficient building methods. Pole barns offer reliable shelter without costly excavation, concrete foundations or general site disruption.

Follow these tips to make energy efficient upgrades to an existing structure:

- Replace indoor lighting with energy efficient LED bulbs.
- Ensure your existing structure has adequate insulation levels.
- Choose outdoor lighting designed to be energy efficient, and install motion detectors to reduce energy consumption when not in use.
- Plant trees around your metal shed or barn. In colder climates, trees act as a windbreak, and in warmer climates, trees have a natural cooling effect that can reduce temperatures in your metal building 3 to 6 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Consider adding a ceiling fan to circulate air. Typically, there is a 2 degree Fahrenheit temperature increase for every one-foot increase in ceiling height. A ceiling fan can help keep warm air close to the ground in the winter, and circulate fresher, cooler air in the summer. Not only will this help with energy costs, it will also help keep the air in the building from becoming hot and stagnant, which will keep harmful bacteria from building and will keep insects at bay.

To learn more about how to make your outdoor shop or barn more energy efficient, contact Bridger Valley Electric.