



LIGHT LINES

"THE POWER TO BRING YOU THE BEST"

NATIONAL & LOCAL EVENTS

April 2025

Cancer Control Month
Keep America Beautiful Month
Donate Life Month
Physical Wellness Month
Volunteer Month

DATE

- 21 Creativity & Innovation Day
- 22 Earth Day
- 23 Administrative Professionals' Day
- 23 Army Reserve Day
- 23 Picnic Day
- 23 Book Day
- 24 **BVEA Annual Meeting at 6:00pm**
- 24 Take Your Kids to Work Day
- 25 Arbor Day
- 25 Women's Wellness Day
- 26 Get Organized Day
- 26 Healing Day
- 28 Pay It Forward Day
- 28 Safety Day at Work
- 30 Healthy Kids' Day
- 30 Honesty Day

May 2025

Community Action Month
Family Wellness Month
Heritage Month
Mental Health Awareness Month
Military Appreciation Month
Walking Month
Women's Health Month

DATE

- 1 Agriculture & Labor Day
- 1 Day of Prayer
- 2 Fitness Day
- 4 Firefighters' Day
- 4 Laughter Day
- 6 Teachers' Day
- 7 Skilled Trades Day
- 9 Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- 10 Golf Day
- 11 **Mothers' Day**
- 16 BBQ Day
- 17 Armed Forces Day
- 18 Rural Life Sunday
- 20 Flower Day



CEO'S VIEWPOINT: LEGISLATIVE WIN!

New Law Strengthens Wildfire Protection and Limits Liability for Electric Utilities

We're proud to share some great news for rural electric cooperatives across Wyoming. The Wyoming Legislature recently passed **House Bill 0192 (HB0192)** – a significant step forward in protecting electric utilities, such as Bridger Valley Electric Association (BVEA), from the growing risks posed by wildfires.

Wildfire Risk in Wyoming's Rural Communities

As we are all aware, wildfires pose a significant and growing threat to our way of life in Wyoming. With longer dry seasons and unpredictable wind events, electric infrastructure in remote areas faces an increased risk of sparking or being damaged by fire. For rural electric cooperatives like BVEA, this is not just an environmental risk. It's a financial one.

What HB0192 Does for Us

HB0192 requires all electric utilities in Wyoming to develop and follow a **Wildfire Mitigation Plan**. These plans must include:

- Identification of areas at heightened wildfire risk
- Regular inspection standards for power lines and equipment
- Vegetation management strategies to reduce fuel near lines
- Protocols for safely de-energizing lines during high-fire danger
- Steps for restoring service after a wildfire

Every plan must be submitted to the **Wyoming Public Service Commission** for approval, ensuring it is cost-effective and in the public interest. Once approved, the plan must be updated every five years and accompanied by annual compliance reports. In 2022, BVEA proactively developed a comprehensive fire mitigation plan to ensure full compliance with the State of Utah's regulatory requirements.

Limited Liability for Cooperatives Doing the Right Thing

Here's where the bill helps protect our members and the system: as long as a utility substantially complies with its approved wildfire mitigation plan, it's protected from broad liability for wildfire damages. **Legal action against a utility is now limited to cases of gross negligence, malice, or criminal intent** – a high standard that shields responsible utilities, such as BVEA, from unfair lawsuits.

Additionally, claims must be filed within four years and are limited in terms of the types of damages that can be recovered.

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BRIDGER VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 399
Mountain View, WY 82939
Phone: 307-289-0776

www.bvea.coop

Office Hours

November thru February

8:00am - 4:00pm

Monday - Friday

March thru October

7:00am - 5:30pm

Monday - Thursday

CEO/General Manager

Andy Hewitt

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1

Gary Nix, Vice President

Lacey Bernard

Mountain View, Robertson, Uintalands, Manor Lands

District 2

Jason Haycock

Rick Maxfield

Lyman Area

District 3

Ruth Rees, Secretary/Treasurer

Ft. Bridger, Milburne, Carter, Piedmont, Bear River Area (excluding Uintalands & Manor Lands)

District 4

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District 5

Trip Applequist, President

Farson, Eden, Granger Areas

To Report Outages Call:

307-289-0776

24 Hours a Day

Underground Cable Locates:

Call 48 Hours in Advance

800-849-2476

or dial 811

Publication of Bridger Valley Electric Association, Inc.

FROM THE BOARD ROOM

The Board met on March 4, 2025, and took the following actions:

- Approved minutes from the February 11, 2025 meeting;
- Received Wyoming state legislative update from Andy Hewitt, CEO/General Manager;
- Reviewed rate changes for 2025 in accordance to budget;
- Finalized plans for upcoming BVEA Annual Meeting set for April 24, 2025 at the Lyman Intermediate School;
- Approved financial report, estate refunds, new memberships, and safety report (no write-offs);
- Received updates from representatives of Deseret G&T, URECA, WREA, and Federated Rural Utility Exchange;
- Heard reports from the CEO and department managers;
- Scheduled next regular board meeting for May 20, 2025.



Bridger Valley Electric Association invites you to attend our **Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 24th at 6:00 p.m.** at the **Lyman Middle School**. Join us for complimentary hamburgers and hot dogs before the meeting!

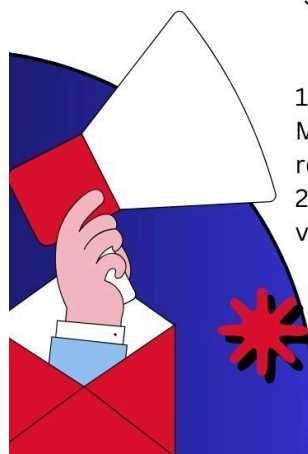
New This Year:

1. Online meeting registration opens April 1st. Members who register for the meeting will receive a **\$25 credit** toward their electric bill.
2. Voting members will be able to cast their votes online.

Please watch our website (bvea.coop) or Facebook page for more details as the meeting date approaches.

We look forward to seeing you there!

www.bvea.coop



**ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS
CALL AT LEAST 48 HOURS
BEFORE YOU DIG!**



CEO VIEWPOINT: LEGISLATIVE WIN (cont.)

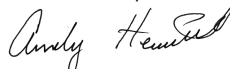
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A Win for Common Sense and Cooperation

This legislation strikes a thoughtful balance between risk mitigation and operational reality. It encourages responsible action while limiting exposure to devastating litigation that could impact reliability and raise costs for our members.

We thank the Wyoming Legislature for its support of this important measure. We also appreciate your continued trust as we work to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity for our coop members.

All the best,



Andy Hewitt, CEO/General Manager

BE READY FOR STORM SEASON

Spring is on our doorstep and like many of you, we're looking forward to more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy warmer weather. Springtime brings many of our favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, time spent working in the garden and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

Unfortunately, spring and summer can also create the perfect conditions for severe storms.

Your BVEA crews are always prepared and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area. When severe storms cause power disruptions, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines.

We would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, including canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from potential power surges and will also help prevent overloading circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored.

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TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Don't fall for a power restoration rip off. Some scammers will contact you and offer to restore power quickly or in a preferential order if you make an immediate payment. These scams typically occur after major storms or disasters that cause widespread outages. We will never request or require payment to restore power after a natural disaster or storm. If post-storm repairs to customer-owned equipment are necessary, we will advise you to work with a licensed contractor. If any charges are applicable, you will be billed through your account.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams



BE READY FOR STORM SEASON (cont.)

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If you plan to use a portable generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check BVEA's Facebook page for restoration updates.

Severe storms can occasionally bring down power lines. If you see a downed line, always assume it's energized and never approach it. If flooding occurs, never walk through areas where power lines could be submerged.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and lessen the impact of the storm's effects.

Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings and follow us on Facebook for the latest power restoration updates. If you experience an outage, please don't report it on Facebook. Call our outage reporting number at 307-786-2800--this is the fastest way to let us know if your power is out.

We hope we don't experience severe storms over the spring and summer months, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At BVEA, we recommend that you make a plan today--because storm preparedness is always our best defense.

ARE YOU STORM READY?

Follow these safety and preparation tips during spring and summer storm season.

Be Prepared.

- Create an emergency kit with power outage essentials: batteries, power banks, flashlights, non-perishable foods, water, medical supplies and prescriptions.
- Develop an emergency family plan with meeting points, communication methods and evacuation routes. Share your plan with all family members.
- Monitor weather for important updates that could impact your emergency plan.

Stay Safe.

- Ensure a safe shelter. Stay away from windows and doors. In tornadoes, move to a basement or an interior room without windows.
- Use portable generators safely: operate outdoors in well-ventilated areas, place on a flat, dry surface, do not overload and always read the operating manual before use.
- Severe storms can bring down tree limbs and power lines. If you encounter a downed line, stay back. Always assume a downed line is live and dangerous.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Turn your suds into savings. Lower your energy use in the laundry room by washing clothes with cold water whenever possible, as heating water accounts for most of the energy used in a laundry cycle. Wash full loads to make the most of energy savings, and use high-efficiency detergent designed for cold washes. For drying cycles, clean the lint filter before each load to improve airflow and use dryer balls to reduce drying time.

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service with its competitive wireless
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consultation with our trained installers.

