

## LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY APRIL 11TH



Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions. Being a lineworker requires technical skills and years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know that in order to become a journeyman lineworker, it can take an apprentice more than 7,000 hours of training?



Our crew (L to R) Sawyer Moser, Ryan Harms, David Hanisch, Josh Wood, Josh Fatouros, Brady Zachman, Cole Boss, Dane Bondurant, Cole Kimball

Despite the many challenges, Park Electric's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Remember to thank a lineworker today!



Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking people, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.



April is safe digging month. Keep yourself safe by calling 811 before starting a digging project. Need lines marked between a building and your meter? Call a private locator for that area. Having a locate done can save you time and money in the long run.

### 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

#### 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



#### 2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



#### 3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



#### 4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



#### 5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



## 2022 YOUTH TOUR WINNER



Congratulations to Caroline Devoto, our winner of the 2022 Youth Tour contest. Caroline will be traveling to Washington DC this summer with delegates from across Montana. In DC, the Montana delegation will merge with coop winners from across the country for an amazing week

of sightseeing and experiences.

Caroline is a home-schooled student who hales from the Shields Valley. Her grandparents told stories of when electricity first came to the area. She is excited to expand her love of history and knowledge while visiting museums and historical sites on her trip to Washington DC.

# Managers Comments

by Matt Haggerty

PARK SPARKS  
APRIL 2022

The safety of our linemen is of utmost importance. Recently, we had a dangerous situation on our lines that our foremen brought to my attention. While responding to a power outage during subzero temperatures, they encountered backfeed. Backfeed is a term that is defined as a source of energy coming from the member's side of the meter. This occurs when power from a generator travels backward through the meter, out to the transformer, and back onto our lines at a voltage of 7,200 or more. When backfeed occurs, it is a very dangerous situation for our lineman that could lead to severe injury or even death. This is the situation they encountered during the outage and thankfully, no one was injured.

A backup generator is a smart choice for keeping the lights on during an outage. If you decide to have a backup generator at your residence, a properly installed transfer switch or GenerLink system will protect our crews and ensure that the electricity from your generator will stay in your home. If you plan to use a generator at your home make sure that it has a properly installed transfer switch that complies with the National Electric Code. (Transfer switches are generally installed by a licensed electrician and paid for by the member. This is not a service Park Electric provides.) These switches prevent backfeed during normal and emergency use of a generator. The GenerLink device is a safe way for homeowners to use a portable generator during an outage. This device is installed at the meter and functions as a backfeed prevention tool. Either of these

options is a safe way to run backup generators at your home when needed. If we find that a generator has been installed without proper protection, we will be notifying the members immediately. Please call our operations department if you have any questions or would like more information about generators and backfeed protection at 406-222-7778.



*Graphic courtesy of esfi.org*

## Park Electric Board of Trustees

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## Connect with Park Electric

Billing and general information: 406-222-3100  
Outage and project information: 406-222-7778  
Online: [www.parkedelectric.coop](http://www.parkedelectric.coop)  
Email: [info@parkedelectric.coop](mailto:info@parkedelectric.coop)  
Office hours: 8-5 Monday - Friday  
Location: 5706 US Hwy 89 S  
Livingston, Montana

