

## OUTAGE RESTORATION

We do our best to avoid them, but there's no way around it: power outages occasionally happen. For most Park Electric members, outages are rare and only last a few hours. However, when major storms or accidents impact our area, extended outages are unavoidable.

So when the power goes out, how do Park Electric crews know where to start working? How do you know if your outage has been reported? We've got answers to these questions and more, and it all starts with a safe, efficient plan for power restoration.

When the lights go out and it's safe for our crews to begin the restoration process, they start by repairing power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible.

This process typically begins with repairs to the larger main distribution lines that service a great number of homes and businesses. After those repairs are made, crews work on tap lines, which deliver power to transformers, either mounted on utility poles (for above-ground service) or placed on pads (for underground service). Finally, individual service lines that run between the transformer and the meter are repaired.

We can't control the weather, but we can prepare for it. Park Electric keeps a supply of extra utility poles, transformers and other equipment on hand so we can quickly get to work in the event of an outage. When

widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be out in the field simultaneously working to repair damage at multiple locations.

A proactive approach to maintenance helps minimize the chance of prolonged outages; this is why you see Park Electric crews periodically trimming trees and clearing vegetation near rights-of-way. We love trees too, but it only takes one overgrown limb to knock out power for an entire neighborhood. Trimming improves power reliability for our entire community. In addition to managing vegetation, we regularly inspect utility poles, power lines and other critical equipment to maintain a more reliable system.

If you experience a power outage, don't assume a neighbor reported it. It's best to report the outage yourself, and we make it easy to do. The quickest way to report an outage is to call us at 406-222-7778. If you have a medical condition that requires electrical equipment, please let us know, and always have a backup plan in place. This plan could include a portable generator, extra medical supplies or moving to an alternate location until power is restored. If you plan to use a generator for backup power, read all safety information and instructions before use.

Mother Nature can be unpredictable, but as a member of Park Electric, you can feel confident knowing we're standing by, ready to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

## Congratulations to our Basin Scholarship winner!

River Smith was selected as the 2022 Park Electric/Basin \$1000 scholarship winner. River is heading to Wenatchee Valley Community College in WA to start his college coursework and play baseball, his passion. He's a Livingston native and lives to play baseball, hang with his buddies, hunt, fish and ski. He's a 3.9 GPA student and is thrilled to be given the opportunity to play at the next level and get an education. Congratulations to River!



*Happy Memorial Day!*  
*The Park Electric office will be closed Monday, May 30th in observance.*

# Managers Comments

by Matt Haggerty

PARK SPARKS  
MAY 2022

It's worth taking a moment to be grateful for all the ways electricity aids us in our daily tasks. A conversation I had recently while working with a local electrician reminded me of how many day-to-day tasks we take for granted that use it. Electricity allows us to use machinery, computers, lights, temperature control, refrigeration, and so many more things, but it can pose a risk.

May is National Electrical Safety Month. It's the time of year that we raise awareness on how to avoid potential electric hazards. These hazards can lead to shock, fire and even in some cases serious injury, or death. I hope some of the following ideas can spark your thoughts about electrical safety.

## At home, here are some ideas to consider:

- Use extension cords properly. Do not plug multiple cords into one another and always inspect the cords for damage.
- Do not overload outlets. Plugging too many items into one outlet can cause shorts or fires.
- Never use an extension cord or power strip with a heater or fan. This could cause overheating which may result in a fire.

## Ideas to talk to your kids about:

- Never fly kites near power lines
- Never put fingers or other objects in an outlet
- Never use anything with a cord or plug around water

## Consider these tips while outdoors:

- Don't trim trees with power lines nearby.
- Always carry ladders or poles horizontally, never upright.
- If you plan to dig call 811 two full days before you dig. They can tell you the location of any underground lines (electrical, water, gas, phone or cable) This will help you do your work safely, and potentially save you from costly repair bills by preventing you from hitting unknown utility lines.

## AVOID SUBSTATIONS AND TRANSFORMERS

Instruct your children to stay away from utility substation fences and pad-mounted transformers.

If you see a substation fence or transformer cabinet that has been vandalized or damaged, call Park Electric immediately.

## Park Electric Board of Trustees

District 1 - Alan Johnstone 406-220-2186  
District 2 - Dan Skattum 406-223-0545  
District 3 - Craig Yost 406-222-3008  
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District 6 - Melanie Roe 406-932-4366  
District 7 - Perry Anderson 406-537-4546  
General Manager - Matt Haggerty 406-222-3100

## 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



### Electrical Safety: Think Outside the Home

Electrical hazards are not only present indoors, but can also occur outside. Follow this guide to help prevent common outdoor electrical hazards.

#### POWER LINES

Before planting trees near a power line, conduct research or speak with a professional to ensure there's enough space for it to grow. If you suspect that a tree is too close to power lines, report it to your local utility.

Always keep yourself and equipment at least **10 Ft.** away from power lines. Electricity can jump to nearby objects!

Power lines are also underground. Call **811** before you dig.

#### OUTDOOR OUTLETS

Have **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)** installed, which automatically cut power when a plugged in item comes in contact with water or begins to "leak" electricity.

Install **weatherproof** boxes or covers on outdoor outlets.

#### GENERATORS

Between 1999 and 2012, **79%** of the **931 carbon monoxide (CO) fatalities** were associated with generators.

24% of CO fatalities involving generators occurred when used inside an attached **garage or shed**.

Make sure your home is properly equipped with carbon monoxide alarms and **test them monthly**.

When in use, position generators outside and **away from doors, windows and vents**.

Do not plug generators directly into a home outlet without a transfer switch to **prevent backfeed** which could harm utility line workers making repairs.

Make sure your generator is **properly grounded**.

#### EXTENSION CORDS

Extension cords provide a **temporary solution** and should not be used long-term or permanently.

Never use an indoor extension cord outdoors. Outdoor cords will be labeled **"For Outdoor Use"** and are often orange.

**Never attempt to extend the length** of an extension cord by connecting it to another extension cord.

Be sure the **amperage rating** for the extension cord is higher than amperage of the electrical product being used.

Only use extension cords that have the mark of a **nationally recognized testing laboratory** such as UL, Intertek or CSA.