

# PARK SPARKS

July 2024



## Do's & Don'ts When Using Generators

By Abby Berry

If you're planning to use a portable generator in the event of an outage, Park Electric Coop reminds you to play it safe.

With proper use and maintenance, portable generators can provide great convenience during an outage. However, when generators are used incorrectly, they can be extremely hazardous. Here are some do's and don'ts to keep in mind when using portable generators:

- **DO:** Position generators at least 25 feet outside the home, away from doors, windows, and vents that can allow CO to enter the home.
- **DO:** Ensure your generator is properly grounded. Use a portable ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to prevent electric shock injuries.
- **DO:** Use three-pronged extension cords that are rated to handle the load of the generator. Inspect extension cords for cuts, frays, or other damage before use.
- **DON'T:** Operate a generator inside your home or an enclosed (or partially enclosed) space. Generators produce high levels of CO, which can be deadly.
- **DON'T:** Rely on generators as a full-time source of power. They should only be used temporarily or in emergencies to power essential equipment or appliances.
- **DON'T:** Overload generators. They should only be used to power essential equipment. Make sure your generator can handle the load of the items you plan to power.
- **DON'T:** Connect generators directly into household wiring or outlets, unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed. If a generator is connected to a home's wiring without a transfer switch, power can back feed along power lines, and electrocute utility lineworkers making repairs.

If you have questions about the proper use of generators, give us a call at 406-222-7778.

## Board of Directors 2024 Election

Each year, the Park Electric Board of Trustees conducts a trustee election during the Annual Meeting. This year, Districts 3 & 4 will have trustee elections.

**District 3** – Two miles south of Rock Creek Rd to nearly two miles Northeast of Livingston including Clyde Park, Bracket Creek, Mission Creek, and the lower Shields Valley.

**District 4** – All Park Electric services in the Gallatin Valley and services west of Livingston to the Park County line. Also the areas two miles Northeast of Livingston and extends south of Livingston to the mouth of the canyon that borders the Paradise Valley.

District 3, currently represented by Craig Yost, and District 4, currently represented by Matt Jesson, both have trustees who wish to retain their positions. The board emphasizes the importance of having two qualified candidates run for each district, if possible.

Prospective candidates must meet the following qualifications:

- Must be a member of the cooperative and reside and receive service in the district to which he/she would serve.
- They must be available to attend monthly board meetings and the annual meeting.
- They must serve a three-year term if elected.

Any candidate, whether nominated by the committee or running as a member's petitioning candidate, must have their eligibility determined by Park Electric no less than 75 days before the annual meeting date. Candidates may be recommended to the below listed nominating committee before August 1, at 8:00 AM. Petitioning members must bring their required documents to the General Manager no later than 5pm on August 7th. If you have any questions please call our office at 406-222-3100

The following members serve as the nominating committee district representatives:

District 1: John Croston

District 2: Gerald Pinder

District 3: Joe Sarrazin

District 4: Jeff Nashan

District 5: Steve VanArsdale

District 6: Kenneth Wendland

District 7: Larry Plaggemeyer

By Matt Haggerty

Let's go over some important information about changes to your bill and overall system improvements:

- **Time Stamp for Demand** - Recently a time stamp has been added to the power bill for peak demand. (See example below.) The time stamp will reflect the date and time the service hit its peak usage of kW for the month. This new information on the bill should help clarify when the peak is being reached. It will give our members a better idea of when they might want to reduce their usage.

| Service                       | From Date | To Date  | Meter Number | Previous Reading | Present Reading | Mult | Usage | Unit | \$ Amount |
|-------------------------------|-----------|----------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|------|-------|------|-----------|
| Energy                        | 05/13/24  | 05/17/24 | 10001809     | 42698            | 42746           | 1    | 48    | kWh  | \$4.13    |
| 48 kWh X \$0.0860000 = \$4.13 |           |          |              |                  |                 |      |       |      |           |
| Demand                        | 05/11/24  |          |              | 9:00 AM          |                 |      | 4.150 | kW   | \$8.30    |
| 4.150 kW X \$2.00 = \$8.30    |           |          |              |                  |                 |      |       |      |           |
| Base Charge                   |           |          |              |                  |                 |      |       |      | \$23.00   |

- **System Improvements**- Our crews are installing the first of three segments of three-phase power lines between our Dailey substation and Big Creek Rd. A larger transformer in the Dailey substation will be installed later this year. Once both of these projects are completed, it will allow us to better serve growth in the area and will improve reliability.
- **Reliable power**- We will have contracted tree crews from Asphlund working in the Clyde Park and East Boulder areas during the spring and summer of this year. While Park Electric crews also trim trees throughout our coverage area, generally they complete this work in the winter months. Each crew will be trimming trees back, to keep them clear of our lines. This work will improve reliability and reduce wildfire

hazards. A letter has been sent to members who will be impacted by this work.

- **System Maintenance**: Each year, we undertake a comprehensive maintenance plan that includes replacing sections of underground cable known for previous faults that caused outages. This process begins with planning in December, where various factors are assessed to determine which cables need to be replaced. We analyze the history of outages, their frequency, and the number of members affected. Once identified, work orders are developed, securing

necessary easements and permits while staking locations and ordering materials. Typically, we replace 20-25 underground cable sections annually, equivalent to just over 3 miles. These replacements take place during our construction season from May to October. Considering Park Electric has over 800 miles of underground line, this ongoing process is vital for maintaining reliability.

As part of our mission, we strive to bring value to our member-owners and communities by providing reliable electricity, and superior customer service, at fair and reasonable prices. These updates and improvements are aimed at enhancing both the transparency of our billing system and the reliability of our power distribution network.

## Park Electric Board of Trustees

District 1 - Alan Johnstone 406-220-2186  
 District 2 - Dan Skattum 406-223-0545  
 District 3 - Craig Yost 406-223-3008  
 District 4 - Matt Jesson 406-939-2306  
 District 5 - Bert Otis 406-333-4802  
 District 6 - William Brownlee 406-932-6210  
 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

