

PARK SPARKS

MAY 2020

PARK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

 Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

Help is available!



The Coronavirus has taken a toll on our lives and the economy. Park Electric understands that our members and renters may need some help getting back on track. We are encouraging members to be proactive in reaching out to us about your situation. Please don't wait until your bills are over your heads. If you or someone you know needs help, please call the office at 222-3100 or email info@parkelectric.coop. We have grant programs available that may be able to help out.

OFFICE INFORMATION

During the COVID-19 “stay at home” orders from the Governor, the Park Electric office is closed to the public. As our staff has reduced its office hours to meet the Governor’s directive our available phone time is also limited. If we are unable to answer your call personally, please leave a message and we will do our best to get back to you as soon as possible. If you need to make a payment, we have drop boxes located at Albertsons in Livingston and outside our office. Payments online or over the phone are also available for a \$3.95 fee. You can call 877-260-7787 or go to www.parkelectric.coop and click on “Pay My Bill Online”.

Remember, if you have an emergency or need to report an outage, our after hours number is 855-999-9492. Our line crew is at the ready to respond to outages and emergencies.



As seen on the cover of last month’s Rural Montana, Josh Fatouros traveled with a contingent of linemen from across Montana to a small village in Bolivia as part of the Bolivia to Big Sky initiative sponsored by the Montana Electric Cooperatives Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association. Here is a bit of what he personally experienced while he was there:

Josh emphasized what an amazing group of guys he traveled with from across the state. Despite the fact that they had never met before, they had an instant bond of near brotherhood from the beginning. Being in a uncertain place and with daunting tasks facing them, they were able to overcome them by being flexible and working together. He said the village was

very friendly and welcoming. He was impressed that they were able to complete the job and the village was overjoyed that they were able to complete it. Despite the obstacles, Josh would absolutely do it all over again. After 9 days of working 14-15 hours a day, it was worth it. The gratitude he experienced from the local population and the fulfillment of a job well done were better than any of the hardships and difficulties they faced.



Managers Comments *by* Matt Haggerty

May is National Electric Safety Month, and this is a great time to raise awareness of how to avoid potential safety hazards. I would like to cover three scenarios today that I feel most members could experience.

Scenario one is you come across an overhead power line that is hanging low or laying on the ground. The first thing you want to do is stay back 30 feet or more. Then notify anyone in the area of the danger and tell them stay back 30 feet. Next call 911. They will then dispatch out a first responder, and call Park Electric to send out a line crew to de-energize and fix the downed lines.

Scenario two is when you're completing work around the house that may bring you close power lines. Like trimming trees, or working on your roof. Step one is to look up, and assess the situation by evaluating potential hazards. Then when it is time for your work to begin always maintain a safe distance of 10 feet or more away from power lines. This distance includes any materials you are holding; ladders, or tools you are handling. The reason to stay 10 feet or more away, is electricity can arch or jump across the gap to ladders or tools. By maintaining this distance, you will safeguard yourself against electrical hazards. After all, the goal is to safely complete your work. If it seems that the scope of your work would draw you closer than 10 feet call Park Electric before you plan starting the

work. We generally can come by within a few days to help advise how to safely do the work, or in some situations the lines could be de-energized.

Scenario three is if you plan on doing any digging over 12 inches deep. This could be for planting large trees, or building an addition to your house. The first step in this situation is to outline the area that you plan to dig, then give yourself a buffer of extra space. This area can be marked by painting the outside perimeter of your project with white paint. Next, call 811, which is the call before you dig number. Before making this call be prepared to provide them with the address of the work site, the nearest intersecting street, and a description of where the digging site is located at the address. Being very specific of where the digging will take place is very helpful for the locator to find the area that needs to be marked. Locators often complete 30 + locates a day. By making sure you give accurate information to 811 will help the locator stay on schedule. Please call a minimum of three business days before the work will start.

I hope you find these scenarios helpful, but if you ever have an electrical safety question please free to contact our office for further assistance. Remember safety first, because electricity generally does not give you a second chance.





MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER
AND
HONOR

THE PARK ELECTRIC
OFFICE WILL
BE CLOSED IN
OBSERVANCE OF
MEMORIAL DAY ON
MONDAY, MAY 25TH.