

Safety comes first



Eide illustrates the power of electricity.

Why are the ambulances and all those people at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC)? This was a hot topic on Facebook the evening of Nov. 17 as the Valley Med Flight helicopter circled Lower Yellowstone Electric. There wasn't an

emergency, but area EMTs, fire departments, the Valley Med Flight crew, law enforcement and LYREC staff had joined together for safety training.

In the event of an accident, we all want to be prepared. By collaborating with other professionals, those involved can give the victim the best chance of a positive outcome. The Valley Med Flight crew was able to give pertinent information to the attendees, so they would know how to assist the crew for landing and get the victim loaded as quickly as possible.

Bryan Franck, LYREC journeyman lineworker, executed a mock pole-top rescue. Once the victim was on the ground, the EMTs took over. The EMTs educated the departments on what steps to take to aid a burn victim and showed the attendees how to use the automated external defibrillator (AED). Rich Gorde, foreman, and Aaron Eide, journeyman lineworker, gave a safety demonstration displaying the power of electricity and how to stay safe. Thank you to all of the volunteers and rescue personnel who joined us for the training. ■

Jan. 30 scholarship deadline nearing!



Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) scholarship applications are available!

- The applicant's parents or guardians must be members of Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative.
- The applicant must enroll in a two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.
- Contact your school counselor, Lower Yellowstone Electric or download the application at www.lyrec.com.
- Drop off applications at Lower Yellowstone Electric's office or mail to: LYREC, P.O. Box 1047, Sidney MT 59270.
- The application deadline is **Jan. 30, 2016**. ■

Valuable rebates

If you are a Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) member, we have several rebates available.

Electric water heaters:

- At least a 40-gallon tank.
- \$4 per gallon rebate, not to exceed \$300.
- Insulation factor of R12-13, EER (at least) 0.9.
- At least a 10-year warranty.
- The water heater must remain in the service location specified at the time of rebate.

You may buy a water heater at any business of your choice, as long as the water heater meets the criteria stated above. The member must provide LYREC with a receipt of the purchase, with the qualifications stated on the receipt. The member will need to sign a contract and provide the office with the meter number with which this water heater correlates.

Electric heat:

- Rebate amount of \$25 per kilowatt of installed load of electric heat.
- It can be electric baseboard, electric plenum heaters or heat pump.
- Space heating is the only use for the heater.
- The member may put the heaters under the electric heat rate program. (Contact LYREC's office for more information about the electric heat rate program.)
- The heater must remain in the service location specified at the time of the rebate.

You may buy the electric heater from any business of your choice, as long as the electric heater meets the above criteria. The member must provide LYREC with a receipt of the sale. The member will need to sign a contract and provide the office with the meter with which the electric heater will correlate.

Heat pump:

- Rebate amount of \$150 per ton of installed heat pump.
- The heat pump can be either air to air or geothermal.
- The heat pump must remain at the service location specified at the time of the rebate.

You may buy and have the heat pump installed by any company of your choice. After installation, the member must provide LYREC with a receipt with the number of tons installed and sign a contract.



Service upgrade:

- LYREC agrees to rebate its member up to and not exceeding \$200 for upgrading a member's electric service.
- The upgrade must be on Lower Yellowstone Electric's service territory and remain there.
- Once completed, the member must sign a contract to receive the rebate.

Double-throw switch:

- LYREC agrees to rebate its member up to and not exceeding \$200 for installing a double-throw switch on the member's service.
- The upgrade must be on Lower Yellowstone Electric's service territory and remain there.
- Once installed, the member must provide LYREC with a receipt and sign a contract to receive the rebate.

Grain drying:

- LYREC agrees to rebate its member \$30/horsepower for an electric air grain drying setup on a grain bin.
- The electric grain dryer must be on Lower Yellowstone Electric's service area and remain there. ■

Generator safety: lives on the line



Backup generators can turn into lethal hazards for lineworkers if they are not connected properly.

When a storm knocks out power for extended periods of time, many of those affected turn to backup generators to help keep food safe, lights on, and safety and medical equipment operating. Several million generators are now in homes and small businesses across the nation. However, only a small percentage of generators are hooked up or used correctly.

Generators can be a lifesaver for

some and can improve the quality of life after a natural disaster such as an ice or wind storm when power is knocked out for an extended period of time. However, it's critical that proper safety precautions be taken to prevent accidents that could affect you, a family member, a neighbor or a lineworker.

Generators can be temporarily or permanently installed. A permanent generator is wired into a house by a qualified electrician using a transfer switch. This protects the owner, neighbors and repair crews from electricity back feeding onto power lines. Back feeding can seriously injure anyone near those lines, especially co-op crews working to restore power. A temporary generator fired by gasoline or diesel fuel should not be attached to a circuit breaker, fuse or outlet.

The improper use of a standby generator can lead to injury or death. Always notify Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative when installing a permanent generator and always install a double-throw switch. ■



Help is available

If you or someone you know needs help this heating season, funds are available. If you reside in Montana, you can contact Energy Share at 800-227-0703. If you reside in North Dakota, contact Community Action at 701-572-8191. Montana residents may pick up an application at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) or Energy Share.

Once you submit your application, it can take up to two months before receiving assistance. If you are finding yourself in a financial bind, please pick up an application today. ■



LYREC decorates "A Christmas Story" float for Sidney's Parade of Lights.



Facebook

If you would like to stay updated on what is happening at your cooperative, join us on Facebook. Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative will report on power outages, give energy efficiency tips, keep you updated on all the important news and much more.

Billing changes implemented

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) will be changing the billing cycle in 2016. The goal of this change is to have the current bill reflect the previous month's usage. For example, the bill that comes out in March will be for the entire month of February. To get this accomplished, LYREC has been adding a couple extra days to the bill each month since the November billing. The benefit of adding a couple days on each month's bill is to avoid such a significant jump in the number of days billed on the March billing.

Beginning in March, the bills will be processed around the 10th of the month; this may vary depending on how the weekends fall. The payments will be due on the 20th of the month. If you are set up for ACH or automatic payments, the funds will be debited from your account on the 15th of the

month rather than the 4th or the 5th.

LYREC offers several payment options for your convenience. If you would like to sign up for ACH, LYREC will need you to sign a form and provide a voided check. You will still get your bill in the mail every month, but the amount will automatically be debited from your checking account on the 15th of each month. This is fast, easy and secure!

Another option is e-bill. To access e-bill, log onto www.lyrec.com, and click on the "Online Bill Pay" tab. To sign up for e-bill, you will need your account number and an email address. E-bill will send out an email as soon as your bill is available. At that time, you can either pay your bill online or you can call LYREC's office and make a payment over the phone using your credit or debit card or your checking account. You will be able to

view your current/past bills and usage information through e-bill.

LYREC also has two drop boxes for your convenience. One drop box is located at the LYREC office and the other is located on Second Ave. N.W. across the road from Reese and Ray's IGA.

If you have any questions regarding the billing changes or payment options, please call LYREC's office during regular business hours at 406-488-1602. (Meter 23253) ■

HIDDEN NUMBERS

If you find your meter number hidden in this issue, it is worth a \$25 credit on your next statement. The meter number will appear within the four Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative pages. Give us a call during the month your meter is listed, and claim your \$25 bill credit.

Operating report

Year to date:	September 2014	September 2015
Total miles energized	2,142	2,146
Total number of meters	5,952	6,096
Kilowatt-hours sold	184,415,295	202,219,519
Revenue	\$17,549,227	\$19,446,757
Total expenses	\$14,555,798	\$15,972,083
Operating margins	\$3,346,344	\$4,119,309



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Phone: 406-488-1602

Fax: 406-488-6524

Website: www.lyrec.com

TRUSTEES

Allen Thiessen	President
Greg Rauschendorfer	Vice President
John Redman	Secretary/Treasurer
Colin Gartner	Trustee
Dennis Schmierer	Trustee
Dennis Nelson	Trustee
Jim Vitt	Trustee

EMPLOYEES

Jason Brothen	General Manager
Brenda Bond	Office Manager
Jami Propp	Member Services Coordinator
Kyle Kavanagh	Technology Coordinator
Cassie Parker	Office Administrator
Margo Zadow	Billing Administrator
Pam Wilcoxon	Staff Accountant
Tiffani Hentges	Customer Service Representative
Chris Hillesland	Operations Manager
Doug K. Hettich	Asst. Mgr. of Operations
Rich Gorde	Foreman
Eric McPherson	Sub-Foreman
Kevin Goff	Engineer Assistant/Materials Mgr.
Kelly Keysor	Engineering Staking Technician
Lee Alvstad	Journeyman Lineman
Richard Tremblay	Journeyman Lineman
Aaron Eide	Journeyman Lineman
Bryan Franck	Journeyman Lineman
Jesse Obergfell	Journeyman Lineman
Dan Gieser	Journeyman Lineman/Meter Tech.
Blade Jankovsky	Apprentice Lineman
Ryder Peterson	Apprentice Lineman
Tanner Roth	Apprentice Lineman
Mike Eberling	Mechanic
Bodrey Kindopp	Staking Technician
Corey Candee	Electrical/IT Tech.
Edwin Gatzke	Line Locator/Meter Reader
Justin King	Warehouse Worker

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative