
POLICY BULLETIN NO. 707

SUBJECT:

Fire Mitigation

OBJECTIVES:

Outline LYREC's plan to mitigate the chances of wildfire that could be caused by its Transmission and Distribution system.

POLICY:

A. Right of Way Maintenance, (ROW):

Tree trimming/removal will be done on a regular basis. Limbs, branches, and/or trunks will be removed from site, by chipping or hauling away. Exception to this would be upon landowner request.

Any tree or branches that are reported to be in close proximity to a power line, by either a member of the public or an employee, will be checked out by the Operations department to decide the most effective course of action.

A record will be kept of locations of trees trimmed, to what extent, and individuals involved in the work.

B. Transmission Line Maintenance:

Transmission lines are thoroughly patrolled at a minimum of once a year. If there is a report of any operations on a transmission line, the section of line affected generally is patrolled as soon as possible regardless of when it was patrolled last.

C. Substation Maintenance: Substations will be inspected on a monthly basis. Records of these inspections will include:

1. Overall visual inspection.
2. Fence, Gates, Warning signs, and all grounds.
3. Pertinent equipment locked.
4. Operation counter readings.
5. Fluid levels of batteries and oil filled equipment.
6. Temperature and pressure gauge readings recorded.
7. Need for vegetation control.

D. Distribution Line Maintenance:

1. Pole testing: Typically, 10% or more of the total pole inventory will be inspected each year. A thorough line inspection, including pole assemblies, wire sag, and any ROW issues are documented by crew testing poles.
2. Poles reported as failing by pole testers are replaced as soon as possible.
3. Any other issues reported as needing repair will be repaired in a timely manner. Severity of the problem will dictate the urgency of the needed repair.



**LOWER YELLOWSTONE
RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Date Adopted: 09/07/2022

Date Revised:

Date Reviewed:

E. Random Line Patrol:

1. Operations staff are trained to patrol line on a daily basis. This consists of paying attention to all of LYREC's electric facilities when they are driving anywhere. Any problems noted will be documented, turned into the Operations Manager, and repaired in a timely fashion. Severity of the problem will dictate the urgency of the needed repair.

F. Preventive Measures:

1. All Operations department vehicles are equipped with "Fire Swatters" and fire extinguishers. Service trucks including bucket trucks and digger trucks are equipped with "Water Cannon" fire extinguishers in addition to the above.
2. All employees are trained yearly in "use and care of fire extinguishers".
3. LYREC continues to replace older style sectionalizing equipment with new electronic sectionalizing equipment that is extremely sensitive to low impedance faults. The newer style of equipment interrupts faults in a vacuum chamber versus open air or under oil resulting in less chance of random sparks that could start a fire.
4. LYREC operates a SCADA system, per policy 806, that gives the operations department real-time information for electrical equipment in its substations and numerous sectionalizing devices out in the field. This allows staff to set devices to "Non-Reclose", or to open or close devices remotely.
5. Public Communication/Education Plan – LYREC will utilize its safety demonstration trailer for Fire Departments, First Responders, schools, construction companies and general public to teach electrical safety and fire mitigation.
6. LYREC may utilize a power shut off procedure in conjunction with the Emergency Response Plan at the cooperative during an active fire.
7. LYREC will communicate with landowners and applicable Fire Departments and officials as needed for restoration of service after a fire.