



Ryan Schilreff
General Manager



CO-OP NEWS

JULY 2018



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GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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Summer hours in effect

May through September
Office hrs: 6:30–5:00, Mon.-Fri.

October through April
Office hrs: 7:30–4:00, Mon.-Fri.

Board of Directors

Clay Peterson
President

Kenda Knudsen
Vice President

Julie Kilty
Secretary

Jack Preston
Treasurer

Dewey Hageman
Assistant Secretary

General Manager
Ryan Schilreff

Senior Staff
Joe Kinnan
Operations Manager

Tiphanie Fuss
Office Manager

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Your cooperative is a proud member of these fine organizations



Storms keeping crews busy

It's storm season and we have been feeling the effects on the electric system. We've had several outages due to lightning and wind and, given the size of our territory, it seems we chase storms from one side of our system to the other. We have outage crews on standby 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Most of the time we can restore power quickly; however, if our outage crew is already working in one area and several more outages are reported throughout the service territory, restoration can be delayed. Depending on the number of outages and the locations, we may have to call out additional help, but we will restore power as quickly and safely as possible.



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Wyrulec employees DJ Duffield, Deaver Arrants, and Travis Gaukel work on switching substation equipment.

If you happen to see or experience a lightning strike on our system please call us. *Jerry Towle* Whether the power goes out or not, we would like to make sure everything is operating normally.

Installation starting on new metering system

I'm excited to report that we should be testing our new metering system by the time you receive this article. The employees have been working hard doing site surveys and receiving new inventory into the warehouse.

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Storms keeping crews busy

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We will start with a small test set of meters and hope to expand the deployment late into July. We have set a very lofty goal and will try and get one full substation deployed by the end of the year, which would be around 600 meters. For every new meter deployed, that's one possible meter we don't have to manually read.

Farm Bill includes changes to RUS program

I submitted comments to Senators Barrasso and Enzi from Wyoming, and Senator Fisher from Nebraska on the proposed Senate Farm Bill, specifically about the RUS Electric Loan Program.

Under the RUS Electric Loan Program, cooperatives can utilize what's called a "Cushion of Credit". The Cushion of Credit is basically like an escrow account that accrues interest at a rate of 5%. Once you place funds in this account, the money can only be used to pay debt back to the Rural Utilities Service (RUS).

The program is very good for the cooperative because of the interest rate. It's good for RUS as it guarantees payment of their outstanding loans. The farm bill proposes the following:

- No future deposits will be allowed after October 1, 2018 (ending the program)
- Interest on current Cushion of

Credit deposits will be reduced from 5% to the interest rate paid on 5-year treasury notes (much lower than the current).

The cushion of credit has been a valuable tool for your cooperative. I will keep you posted on how the program ends up. *JR Buckhaults*

Discuss your co-op

If you have questions or comments or just want to talk about Wyrulec Company, please don't hesitate to contact me. To reach me at the office, call (307) 837-2225, toll free at (800) 628-5266, on my cell at (307) 575-2435 or via email at rschilreff@wyrulec.com.

Thanks for Your Service!

Wyrulec would like to recognize the following members of our Board of Directors for their service. Clay Peterson has served as the Director from District # 1 for 5 years. Jack



Clay Peterson

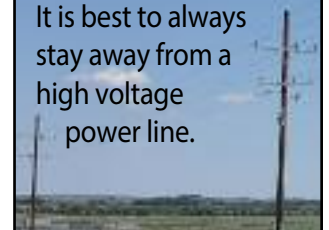
Preston has been serving as the director from District #4 for the past 40 years. We would like to thank them both for their service and dedication to Wyrulec Company!



Jack Preston

How far can electricity arc off a high voltage line?

Although it depends on the voltage and what's in the air, ten feet is possible on a clear, dry day. Electricity can arc farther in humid, smoggy, or smoky conditions. Under the right conditions, electricity will spontaneously arc. It is best to always stay away from a high voltage power line.



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Boat and Dock Safety

★ Water is a powerful conductor of electricity. *K Patrick Mooney* It is especially important to be aware of electrical hazards around water. *Michael Ice*

★ Watch the forecast and make sure you are inside when a thunderstorm approaches.

Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the area in which it is raining.



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Wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder or lightning before returning outdoors.

★ When boating or fishing, be aware of your surroundings and potential electrical hazards. *Donna Charron* Always check the location of nearby power lines before boating or fishing.



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★ Maintain a distance of at least 10 feet between your boat and nearby power lines.

★ If fishing, make sure you are casting the line away from power lines to avoid potential contact.

★ Always lower masts of sail boats before using boat ramps to exit the water.



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★ If your boat does

come in contact with a power line, never jump out of the boat into the water — the water could be energized. Instead, stay in the boat until help arrives and warn others to stay away.

★ Ensure proper installation and maintenance of electrical equipment on docks and boats. All electrical installations should be done by a professional electrical contractor familiar with marine codes and standards and should be inspected at least once a year.

★ Have a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) breaker installed on the circuit(s) feeding electricity to the dock. A GFCI will trip the circuit and cut off power quickly if there is a problem.

★ The metal frame of docks should be bonded to connect all metal to the AC safety ground at the power source.

★ Neighboring docks can also present a shock hazard. Make your neighbor aware of the need for safety inspections and maintenance. Marinas and docks should comply with the National Electrical Code (NEC) and NFPA standards.

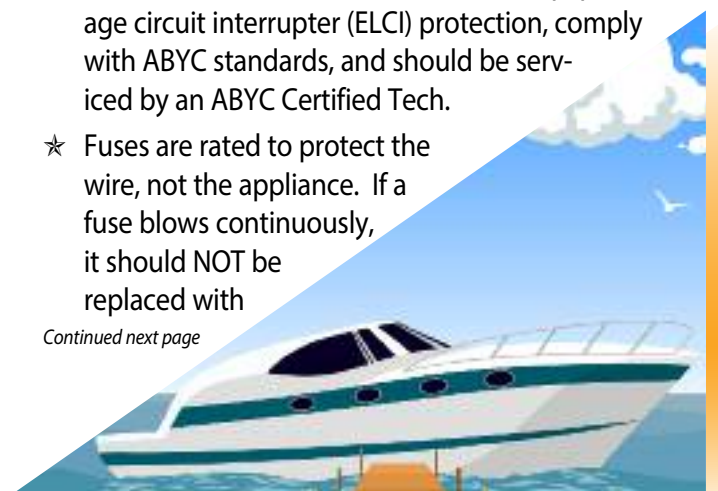
★ Check cords that are plugged into docks to make sure there is no broken casing or exposed wires.

★ Regardless of the size of boat, maintenance of the electrical system should be done by a professional familiar with marine electrical codes.

★ Boats with alternating current (AC) electrical systems should have isolation transformers or equipment leakage circuit interrupter (ELCI) protection, comply with ABYC standards, and should be serviced by an ABYC Certified Tech.

★ Fuses are rated to protect the wire, not the appliance. If a fuse blows continuously, it should NOT be replaced with

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Boat and Dock Safety

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a larger one just to keep it from blowing again — something else is wrong. It needs to be checked out.

- ★ Have your boat's electrical system checked at least once a year. Boats should also be checked when something is added to or removed from their systems.



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- ★ If you are swimming and feel a tingle, get out of

the water as soon as possible. It may be



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electricity leaking into the water. Swim away from

potential sources of electricity.

- ★ If someone is suffering from an electric shock, do not enter the water to rescue him or her. The water may be energized, and you could be shocked or electrocuted yourself. Shut off power at the source, then use a fiberglass shepherd's hook to pull the victim out of the water.
- ★ If you are still wet when you are back on shore, do not touch electronics, including radios and lights. Wait until you are dry.

— Information courtesy of
SafeElectricity.org

The Energy Education Council is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to promoting electrical safety and energy efficiency. Established in 1952, the Council serves as a forum for diverse utility and energy organizations to collaborate on the mutually vital issues of efficiency and safety. Learn more at:

EnergyEdCouncil.org ★ SafeElectricity.org,
EfficiencyResource.org

Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!



NO-COST TIPS

Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.



Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.



Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.



LOW-COST TIPS

Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.



Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.



Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance and provide free electricity.