



HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS & VIEWS



Touchstone Energy®



1.877.394.7804 • hillcountyelectric.coop
2121 US Hwy 2 NW • PO Box 2330 • Havre, MT 59501

TIP OF THE MONTH



Inspect Your Dryer Vent!

Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using rigid venting material – not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages.

Source:
energy.gov



Manager's Message

by Rick Stevens, General Manager

In my column this month I am providing the following message from the Boards of Hill County Electric Cooperative and Triangle Communications.

To: Our Members

Due to the upcoming retirement of our General Manager, the Hill County Electric Cooperative and Triangle Communications Boards have contracted with the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (NRECA) Executive Search Department to facilitate the new General Manager/CEO search process. Tammy Lehman has been appointed as our facilitator by NRECA.

Hiring a new General Manager/CEO is the most important decision that a board will make. We take this responsibility as a challenge to ensure the good reputation of Hill County Electric and Triangle Communications will continue well into the future. We will work to find the right individual who will use the foundation that has been laid to enhance the future performance of our companies for the benefit of our members and our employees.

We would like to assure the community, employees, and membership that we are doing everything in our power to identify not only the best technically capable individual, but the best "person" to lead the two cooperatives and represent them in the community and respective industries. As an integral part of that process the following schedule will be used:

September 28th – Boards will meet with Tammy Lehman to screen prospective candidates' applications – a selection of those to be interviewed will be made at this time.

November 8th – 11th – Interviews will be conducted at an offsite location yet to be determined – a new Manager will be selected immediately after this process is concluded.

A start date will be negotiated with the successful candidate – current Manager will work with the new Manager on a timeframe to transition to new Management.

continued on next page...

We understand this time of change can bring feelings of concern. We ask that you trust us as we work to exceed your expectations in the selection of a new Manager. That is our goal and our responsibility to you.

**Hill County Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees
Triangle Communications Board of Trustees**

Stay Safe Exploring the Great Outdoors this Summer

by Abby Berry

Summer is in full swing, and that means it is time for fun in the sun! As you find yourself spending more time outdoors, Hill County Electric Cooperative reminds you to stay safe.

Planning a home improvement project? When working outdoors, you may be using tools, such as ladders, power tools, shovels – or even paintbrushes with extendable arms. These items help you get the job done but have the potential to be dangerous if used improperly.

Pay attention to where you place metal ladders or dig for fence posts. Before you start any project, always look up and avoid overhead power lines. Keep a minimum of 10 feet between you and overhead lines.

If you are planning a project that requires digging, remember to dial “811” first to find out if the area you will be working in is clear of underground power lines. Power tools should be kept away from wet surfaces, and outlets should not be overloaded.

Exploring the great outdoors is a great way to spend time with the family, but keep these safety tips in mind.



Children should never climb trees near power lines – always assume a wire is live. Fly kites and remote controlled-airplanes in large open areas like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines.

Planning to take a dip in the pool? Electrical devices, such as stereos, should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources, and outdoor electrical outlets should always be covered. If you hear a rumble of thunder, exit the pool right away.

Speaking of thunder, summer storms can be dangerous if you're caught in the wrong place at the wrong time. If you find yourself outdoors during a storm, move toward suitable shelter with covered

sides, and stick to low-lying ground if possible.

These are just a few tips to remember when you are spending time outdoors this summer with your family. Have some fun out there, and always keep safety in mind!

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

*This article appeared in the HCE
Newsletter August 1979.*



Practical Alternatives to Air Conditioning

Attic fans which are generally installed in the ceiling of a hallway are considered by those in the ventilation trade to be first choice for cooling homes not having air conditioning. These fans draw air through opened windows, draw the air through the home, providing air circulation, and finally exhaust the hotter air into the attic. Even hotter air, already in the attic, is displaced by the air from within the home, thereby reducing attic temperatures. Cooler attic temperatures reduce the ceiling temperature slightly, which further increases comfort in the home.

The Home Ventilating Institute recommends an air exchange every 2½ minutes. Since fans are sized by the air moved per minute, the number of cubic feet of air in the home (floor area x ceiling height) should be divided by 2½ to determine the fan size needed.

Attic fans require one-fourth to one-fifth the energy required by central air conditioning, assuming 88° F. outside temperature and the air conditioner operating 10 hours per day.

The area of the home to receive the greatest air movement can be determined by the openings provided for air entrance into the home. If the bedrooms are to be cooled, for example, open the windows in the bedrooms and close other windows.

The economics of home air conditioning has caused many to seek less expensive means to beat the heat. As energy costs rise, more people will seek other means of providing home comfort rather than paying the price of central air conditioning.

Window fans can also provide comfort if installed and used properly. To be effective, the window fan should be installed to make a seal in the window so air can move through the area where the blade operates and not around the fan housing.

To be effective, windows should be opened to allow air movement through the house, not through an opening near the fan and then out at the fan.

Floor fans provide air movement within a room and can be placed in a window to bring in cool night air. When using fans of any type, short cycling should be prevented.

How Does Air Movement Help?

Air movement does more than replace hot air with cooler air. Air moving over the skin causes moisture on the skin to evaporate, giving a cooling effect. To get an idea of the effectiveness of evaporative cooling, place a little rubbing alcohol on the top side of your hand and then blow air over the hand. The cooling effect is very noticeable. Air containing high humidity will not feel as comfortable as dry air because of the evaporative cooling effect. For this reason fans seem to have reduced effectiveness in warm, humid weather.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Call 811 or visit montana811.org



Solar panels were installed on the HCE/Triangle Campus. More information on these panels will be available soon.

HCE HAPPENINGS



During May, Hill County Electric had approximately 1,046 account hours affected by outages. Of these hours:

Primary UG Faults: 71

Equipment Or Material Failure: 50

Weather Related: 23

Planned Maintenance: 696

Miscellaneous, Public Or Unknown Causes: 49

This compares to 2,026 hours one year ago. HCE crews worked on locates, work orders and maintenance across the service area. Outback continues to work in a 5 mile area south of the PN Bridge changing out 68 poles.

SWAP & SHOP



SWAP & SHOP is a classified advertising section of the Hill County Electric and Triangle Communications websites and newsletters. It is maintained as a service to customers and communities wanting to buy, sell and announce non-commercial items. To include an ad, go to itstriangle.com/swap-and-shop and complete the online form. Administrators will review the information within two business days and if approved, the ad will appear on the website. It will stay online for 60 days unless you notify us to remove or change it. It will also appear in any of the HCE & Triangle newsletters printed during that 60 day window. HCE and Triangle reserve the right to abbreviate ads and if the section is full, we will display ads on a first come, first-served basis.

NO ITEMS AT THIS TIME. CHECK THE SWAP & SHOP TAB ON HILLCOUNTYELECTRIC.COOP TO PLACE OR VIEW ADS.