



PRECorp News

APRIL 2020

May is Electrical Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month. But at PRECorp, safety is a daily emphasis, throughout our system, all year long - at work and at home.

Because we are looking out for the best interests of our members, we raise awareness about safety and ways to avoid accidents, keep our employees safe, and provide reliable service for our members.

Although you don't see the actual electricity flowing through the line, you would certainly feel it if you had an encounter with electricity. Touching lines or equipment with high voltages can not only cause injury, it can take a life.

However, safety concerns stretch beyond the immediate tasks of climbing poles and restoring power. We must consider safety in all aspects of our day.

People have accidentally driven vehicles and large equipment into power poles. Sometimes drivers underestimate the height of their vehicle and become tangled in power lines. Diggers sometimes discover too late they have hit power cables buried underground.

Animals and even tiny insects are also in the picture. These creatures find ideal hangouts on our power lines, cross arms, insulators, and other attachments. Bugs hide in the tight spaces in the guards and insulators, and birds daringly try to root them out. The resulting electrocutions for the predators can knock out power or cause a fire.



Vines, trees, and bushes tend to grow quickly into our lines. Keeping vegetation trimmed and away from the poles, power lines, and other electrical equipment takes regular maintenance. Fires can start when lightning hits a pole, or wind slaps power lines together. It doesn't take much of a spark on dry grass or timber for high winds to push a fire several miles across open Wyoming countryside.

Are there some hazards around power services to your residence, ranch, or business that could result in a tragedy? If you notice potential hazards involving PRECorp facilities, call 1-800-442-3630, to report the facility location and nature of the problem.

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Regular business: 1-800-442-3630 • Report an outage: 1-888-391-6220

www.precorp.coop

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MIKE EASLEY,
CEO

Last month I sent this message via Facebook video to the PRECorp membership and our friends with the hopes that it might inspire us all to make the choice that our lives and our world after COVID-19 will be better than what we had before. The message is intended to create a positive vision for a 30-day period beginning on April 20, 2020. As of presstime the message had 500 views. You can find it on the PRECorp FaceBook page. Hopefully it helped.

An open letter to the PRECorp Membership and our Friends:

Over my 37-year career in the electric cooperative industry I have experienced first-hand some great and not-so-great times. These not so great experiences include things such as the Exxon Valdez oil spill, 9-11 terror attacks, and avalanches, and storm events of epic proportions. All these events, and many more, have one thing in common for me. They all created a “before and after” shift in the way I looked at the world.

What we have all experienced in the last two weeks is most definitely one of those “before and after” events. The COVID-19 situation has, and will, change everything. Our ability to come through horrible events like these is very much connected to how we chose to see our future. Whether you think the future is bright, or whether you think the future is dismal: you will be right.

Our present thoughts and mindset have a significant impact on the future each one of us gets to experience and live.

If you don’t mind, I would like to invite you to travel with me to a point in time, just a month or so in our future, let’s say mid-April 2020. Join me in looking back from that point as we think about what happened...

Looking back over the past month since Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon declared a State of Emergency for the state and issued a closure of public spaces, it is heartening to see how our communities have pulled together. Everyone assumed it would be the beginning of the end for many small businesses, but somehow, people across Wyoming realized how important it was to help each other out. Service businesses banded together to meet the needs of the communities, while people went out of their way to help these small businesses. Ordering take-out and shopping local became a way that we could help our neighbors.

You would have thought the shelter in place order would have created complete mayhem, but it actually brought communities closer together. There have been so many people working from home while at the same

time taking care of kids that “Take Your Kid to Work Day” took on an entirely new meaning. People who could work from home needed some extra help. Many people who were stuck at home, and could not work, did some work for those who had work.

When more people started getting sick and entire families were quarantined, people expected isolation and fear. Instead of fear ruling the day, compassion and concern ruled the day. There were so many stories of groceries and other foodstuffs, just showing up on people’s doorsteps.

There were some tough times as the first responders (fire, police, EMS, medical folks, utilities, and public services) responded to the needs of their communities, sometimes even when they were tired and ill themselves. People received the help with a renewed gratitude and caring for each other.

It was amazing to see how government at all levels began to serve, truly serve, the people who voted them into their respective offices. People saw their hard work and dedication as true service for the common good. One victim of COVID-19 was the partisan politics that had infected our system. It is hard to hate when you are close. Amazingly though, our social distancing did not make us farther apart, it drew us closer.

Although the victims of COVID-19, the loss of friends and family continued, somehow the pain of loss became a shared loss. Grief somehow became a load that people learned how to share like never before.

Compassion, empathy, and grace changed from words to deeds over the course of the past month.

Before COVID-19, our world was very different. So many people assumed that we would let fear and scarcity make our “after COVID-19” a dystopian nightmare. We saw that fear, we let it wash over us but refused to let it sink in. Instead, we all dug deep. We realized that we are not alone. We have a long way to go, but the future we want to live is the one we chose to make.

We leaned on each other and instead of growing apart, we grew together.

Mike

PRECorp responds to COVID-19 national, state emergency

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic response hit the world, United States, and Wyoming very quickly in March.

The contagious respiratory disease threatened the health of many, especially those who have pre-existing medical issues.

Ensuring safe and reliable electric service to the cooperative membership depends upon keeping the PRECorp operations and support team well and healthy.

In order to protect the PRECorp membership and employees from the spread of the virus, PRECorp took the following actions:

- Office lobbies were closed.
- Non-pay disconnects were suspended until mid-May on residential accounts and critical services impacting life, health, or public safety.
- PRECorp employees are separated at the offices, or set-up to work from home.

In light of the ongoing national recommendations for avoiding contact with others, and not gathering in large groups, PRECorp also implemented the following actions:

- The PRECorp Board of Directors met telephonically for its regular meeting Tuesday, March 17.
- The April 18 Lineman Scholar-

ship Banquet was postponed to a later date.

- PRECorp is reviewing other scheduled events and in-person meetings for alternatives or postponements. Stay tuned to PRECorp’s website and Facebook page for updates.

Members are reminded that this is a time that scammers are searching for victims.

If you receive a call about a disconnect for non-payment, please hang up and call 1-800-442-3630.

- Do not assume the name and number on your caller ID are legitimate. Caller IDs can be spoofed.
- Never share your personal identity information, including birthdate, social security number, or bank account.
- Do not click links or call numbers in unexpected emails or texts – especially those asking for your account information.
- If you receive a call that sounds like it may be a scam, or if you believe the call is a scam, hang up, call law enforcement and report the incident to PRECorp.

Call Member Service at 1-800-442-3630 to verify any electric service phone call that seems suspicious. Alert family members and friends and share the scammers’ tactics described in this article.

Events calendar

The PRECorp Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at rotating locations in Sundance, Gillette, and Sheridan. Meetings might be moved to avoid conflicts with state or national cooperative events. The tentative dates for 2020 are as follows:

- April 21 - Sundance**
- May 19 - Gillette**
- June 16 - Sheridan**
- July 21 - Sundance**
- August 18 - Gillette**
- September 15 - Sheridan**
- October 20 - Sundance**
- November 17 - Gillette**
- December 15- Sheridan**

Other events to remember:

- **POSTPONED:** Apprentice Lineman Scholarship banquet, Gillette Cam-Plex Frontier Hall.
- **Tuesday, April 21:** Telephone town hall on current events related to the cooperative, 4:30 p.m.; call 1-844-881-1317.
- **Wednesday, May 20:** Telephone town hall, 6:30 p.m., call 1-844-881-1317.
- **Saturday, June 6:** Durham Ranch Buffalo Stampede 5k/10k run-walk; fundraiser for the PRECorp Foundation.
- **Wednesday, August 12:** Telephone town hall, 6:30 p.m., call 1-844-881-1317.
- **Saturday, August 22:** 75th Annual Meeting, Sundance High School.
- **Friday, August 28:** Foundation Golf Tournament, Golf Club at Devils Tower.



Use

smart hub

Manage your account

View and pay your bill

Monitor usage 24/7

Report service issues

Receive important notices

PRECorp vehicles up for sale on eBay May 22

Retired PRECorp vehicles are on the auction block in special surplus equipment auctions on eBay May 22 - June 1. The online bidding starts at 8 p.m. MST on May 22, and closes at 8 p.m. MST on June 1.

The items below will be listed in the vehicle auction May 22 - June 1:

(All decals will be removed prior to sale, trucks will be cleaned.)

- 2006 Chevy pickup, half ton, 8-foot box
- 2012 Buick Lacrosse CXL
- 1995 Keife reel trailer
- 2001 Keife reel trailer

Note to bidders:

Prior to the opening of the sale on May 22, please obtain more information via e-mail at fleet@precorp.coop. This is the only source of information on these items prior to the opening of the sale. Please do not inquire with our offices or outposts because they do not have information on these vehicles. Details of each unit along with pictures will be on eBay at the start of sale.

How to access PRECorp unit information on eBay:

1. On May 22, go to www.ebay.com
2. At top of page to the far right click on "Advanced"
3. On the "Advanced Search Page", scroll down the page to "Sellers"
4. Check the box titled "Only items show from:"
5. In the blank box, type in: *vehiclesinwyoming*
6. Click on "Search", or hit "Enter"
7. The PRECorp vehicles for auction will appear on the start date and time of the sale.

Once the auction ends, eBay will send out a notification to the winning buyer and PRECorp. At that point, PRECorp will e-mail the buyer with information on how to make contact, payment, and where to pick up the unit.



2006 Chevy pickup half ton 8' box



2012 Buick Lacrosse CXL



1995 Keife reel trailer



2001 Keife reel trailer

Nominations are being accepted for the Powder River Energy Corporation Board of Directors

The 2020 PRECorp Annual Meeting and Board elections will be Saturday, August 22, at Sundance High School.

The Board of Directors has appointed the following members to the Nominating Committee: Jamie Tarver and Mike Shober of Campbell County; Rick Good and Dave Reid of Crook County; Mike Latham and Shawn Ankney of Sheridan County, and, Pat Townsend and Jerry Phillips of Weston County. This committee is responsible for nominating qualified candidates for election to the Board of Directors.

Following are ways members can stand for election to the Board:

How you can get on the ballot:

- Be nominated by the committee appointed by the PRECorp Board of Directors.
- Return a nominating petition, signed by at least 25 PRECorp members, by June 12.

Are you qualified?

Any PRECorp member from the aforementioned director districts can run for a three-year term on the Board, providing the member meets the following qualifications:

1. Must reside within the service territory of the county from which he/she is elected. However, members taking service

outside the counties of Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan or Weston shall be deemed to be a member of and within the area served by the county closest to the nearest meter serving the members' residence;

2. Must be a member receiving electric energy from the Corporation;
3. May not be in any way employed by, or have a substantial financial interest in, a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Corporation.

If you have specific questions regarding eligibility, please contact PRECorp at 1-800-442-3630.

Election process dates:

Friday, May 22: Deadline for nominating committees to post their list of candidates.

Friday, June 12: Deadline for candidates to file nominating petitions at a PRECorp business office.

Thursday, July 16: Publication of director candidates, notice of Annual Meeting, mail-in ballot, and Annual Report.

Friday, August 21: Deadline to submit mail-in ballots to a PRECorp business office.

2020 Nominating Committee Members:

CAMPBELL COUNTY:

Jamie Tarver
PO Box 2080
Gillette, WY 82717
307-682-4929

Mike Shober
173 Brunsen Road
Rozet, WY 82727
307-299-6796

CROOK COUNTY:

Rick Good
PO Box 381
Moorcroft, WY 82721
307-756-9724

Dave Reed
445 Goldie Divide Rd.
Hulett, WY, 82720
307-467-5389

SHERIDAN COUNTY:

Mike Latham
PO Box 215
Clearmont, WY 82835
307-737-2219

Shawn Ankney
PO Box 54
Decker, MT 59025
307-750-2565

WESTON COUNTY:

Pat Townsend
PO Box 364
Osage, WY 82723
307-465-2342

Jerry Phillips
667 Mush Creek Rd.
Newcastle, WY 82701
307-746-3387

Incumbent Board members up for election this year are:

Campbell County:

Alison Gee

Crook County:

Philip Habeck

Sheridan County:

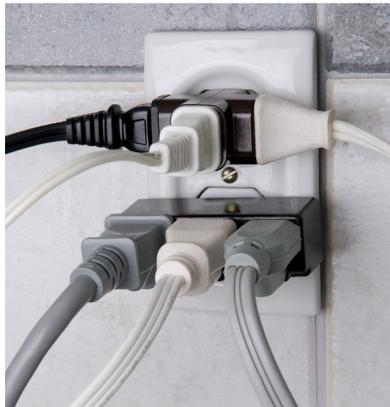
Mike Helvey

Weston County:

Walt Christensen

Electrical Safety Month...

from page 1.



Overloaded electrical circuits are a major cause of residential fires. Lower your risk of electrical fires by not overloading your home's electrical system.

Safety starts with you.

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Here are a few things to keep in mind regarding hazards on your property:

- Do not attach anything to a power pole. Nails, tacks, staples, wires, satellite dishes, deer stands, basketball hoops, signs, and other items create immediate hazards for you and our crews if they need to respond to an outage.
- Be aware of clearances with your vehicles, equipment, or roof work. Look up. Look all around you to make sure you are at least 15-feet from a pole or overhead line. A few seconds to look can save you the aggravation of an accident or power outage.
- Do not pile or stack items beneath power lines.
- Look up. Carefully check the location of all overhead wires before using a ladder. All ladders that touch power lines - even ladders made of wood - can shock or electrocute people touching them.
- Call 811 or 1-800-849-2476 (One-Call of Wyoming) at least two days before you dig. Make sure locates are completed. Large construction projects that dig deep into the ground are commonly thought of as the occasions when underground line locates are necessary. Because of landscaping or erosion, lines could be close enough to the surface that you could hit them with that first plunge of the shovel. The service is free. Repairs are not.
- Heed the warning signs posted on PRECorp electrical facilities.
- Check for weather damage around your home, ranch, or business.
- If you encounter a damaged power pole or line, always assume it is energized. Do not touch or try to move downed power lines. Stay in your vehicle if you

hit a power pole or power line. If you must get out of the vehicle, keep both feet together and jump clear. Do not step onto the ground.

- If you happen upon an accident involving a pad-mount transformer (that green box), power pole, or line, call 911 immediately. Do not approach the scene because electricity from energized lines can kill you, even if you are a few yards away.

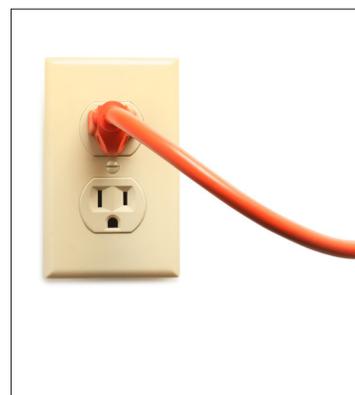
In the home

Because of the higher loads of the newer electric devices, demand for energy can overburden an older home's electrical system.

Some tips:

- Make sure entertainment centers and computer equipment have plenty of space around them for ventilation.
- Use extension cords as a temporary solution, and never as a permanent power supply.
- Do not place extension cords in high traffic areas, under carpets, or across walkways, where they pose a potential tripping hazard. Heat can also be trapped and cause a fire.
- Use a surge protector to protect your computer and other electronic equipment from damage caused by voltage changes. This equipment has a limited life expectancy.
- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.
- Keep all liquids away from electrical items such as televisions and computers.

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Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. Contact a licensed electrician to install additional outlets.

Safety starts with you.

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

PRECorp updating member email, phone number information

When Powder River Energy needs to contact members about service problems, billing questions, or safety issues, the information can be delivered more quickly when members have a current email address and phone number on file.

As people change residences, or abandon land-line telephones for cellular phones, their contact information may need to be updated. PRECorp relies on email addresses and primary numbers, especially during emergencies.

As PRECorp members take more control over their accounts with on-line services, an accurate email address is critical for two-way communications. Members are also encouraged to provide their primary contact phone number. See if the one printed on monthly bill is accurate. This number can be a home phone, a cell phone, a business phone - or all three. Please provide the correct telephone numbers you would like PRECorp to use.

Powder River Energy DOES NOT sell or share these email addresses and phone numbers with other organizations for any purpose not related to cooperative business.

Our automated notification system will send a recorded message to affected members' phones about planned

outages or outage restorations. Other updates could also be sent via e-mail to keep you informed about PRECorp's operations.

PRECorp understands that our email in-boxes are already busy places for incoming messaging. We will not inundate you with frequent communications. We will only communicate about important service or billing information, or other information that is critical to your membership.



When you provide your email address and other contact information by July 1, you will be entered in a drawing for \$50 cash.



Please complete and return Member Information update below:

You can return this form with your bill payment; drop it off at any PRECorp office; email the information to: customerservice@precorp.coop; or call it in during business hours.

Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Is this your primary phone? Yes ___ No ___

Work Phone (daytime) _____

Mailing Address: _____

Electrical Safety Month...

from page 6.

- Heavy reliance on power strips is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed by a qualified, licensed electrician.
- Check refrigerator coils quarterly to eliminate dirt buildup. This can increase efficiency and remove fire hazards.
- Ensure all countertop appliances are located away from the sink. GFCI outlets are required in kitchens, bathrooms, and outdoors.
- All appliance cords should be placed away from hot surfaces. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens and ranges. Cords can be damaged by excess heat.

And remember fire safety:

- The top and the area above the cooking range should be free of combustibles, such as potholders and plastic utensils. Storing these items on or near the range may result in fires or burns.
- Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
- Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries should be replaced every six months, and be aware that smoke alarms have a limited life expectancy.
- Consider installing a carbon monoxide detector.
- Clean your dryer filter with each use, and check the dryer vent periodically for lint buildup. It can be a fire hazard.
- Talk to your family - including small children - on planning an emergency escape route - they are more likely to remember a plan they help create.



Smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home. Remember to test them once a month!

Safety starts with you.

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH



Frequently tripped circuit breakers and blown fuses are clear warning signs of faulty electrical wiring. Contact a licensed electrician for an inspection.

Safety starts with you.

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH



Only use light bulbs that meet (or are below) the maximum wattage listed on the lamp or fixture. Exceeding the maximum wattage can cause overheating and potential fire hazards.

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To report an outage call 1-888-391-6220.

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Powder River Energy Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.