



Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Phone Numbers: 406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516

Website: www.sunriverelectric.coop

After Hours & Weekend Dispatch:
406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516

If calling from a local number or cell phone –
please use: 406-467-2526 or 406-467-2527

Be sure to check your breakers before reporting outages.

Ripples

JULY 2024

MOTHER NATURE WON THIS TIME

THE early morning of May 7 brought wet heavy snow with horrendous high winds. The combination created system wide issues for Sun River Electric Cooperative (SREC). The distance between affected areas created a logistical nightmare for a coordinated response.

The Highwood/Armington areas were the first victims of the storm. Outages began to occur in the Highwood area, and by the time anything could be done to fix any of the problems, the Armington to the Sluice Box areas began to experience problems. Crew members attempted to work the outages, but treacherous driving conditions made it next to impossible to get around. A decision was made to wait until daylight before attempting to fix any of the damage.

The next morning brought more outages on the other side of the system. The areas west of Dupuyer, west of Pendroy, Fairfield Bench and southwest of Augusta all experienced serious damage. Wednesday was spent assessing the damage and coming up with plans to address the affected areas. It was decided this was going to be a multiple-day event versus a short

MESSAGE

FROM THE MANAGER

COLUMN BY **BRAD BAUMAN**



response.

Additional crews were pursued through Red Rock/Outback Power Company. The addition of these crews, which could be led by the SREC crews, allowed for multiple areas to be addressed simultaneously.

The membership was extremely understanding of the extent of the problems and supported our crews in their efforts toward restoration. Information was shared by way of the new Facebook page and the cooperative webpage. Updates were offered a couple of times per day to help keep the members notified.

Our employee's response could not have been expected to be any better. The faces of our organization have changed, but the commitment to excellent response has not. This group

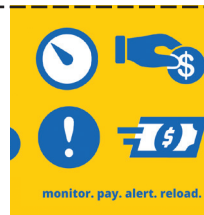


pushed (and pulled) their way through ice, mud, and snow to get poles reset, wire restrung and taps re-energized as quickly as possible. The office staff took care of all incoming calls with courtesy and empathy. Our employees do not want to see our members inconvenienced any more than the members wish that they could have a hot shower or hot cup of coffee.

REMINDER:

Bills not paid by the 10th of the month will be charged a \$10 late fee.

Pay as you go with
prePAY
electricity from SREC. It is easy!
Call SREC to get started.





The damage is extensive. The poles replaced stands at 50-plus, and approximately 15-20 miles of line was on the ground. More than 2,000 manhours were expended putting things back together, and some of the remote areas are still waiting for attention. This one was a dandy!

The moisture from the storm was a multimillion dollar positive to our farm/ranch members, but a costly one from an SREC perspective. We are happy for our ag people, and we will figure out how we will deal with the damage costs, which are somewhere in the \$730,000-plus vicinity. Once in awhile we have bumps in the road, but we will get things sorted out.

It has been a while since we had one of these events, but we know from experience that all we can do is put things back up as quickly and safely as we can. I am happy to report that no injuries or accidents occurred during this response. Kudos to everyone for their professional and safe response. Thank you outside crews, contract crews, office staff, management team and members for the response to this major event. It reminded us that whenever Mother Nature wants to win, she can! RM



OPERATION ROUND-UP

Most recent SRE donation goes to Choteau football

OPERATION Round-Up is a charitable donation fund program designed to financially help community groups within the Sun River Electric Cooperative service territory. The fund is made up by our members “rounding up” their bill to the nearest dollar – the extra change goes into the donation fund.

Recently, Sun River Electric donated \$3,000 to the Choteau High School Football Team to help purchase safety equipment. 341642.

If you are interested in rounding up your monthly bill, contact the office at 406-467-2526. The extra pennies help in a big way! RM

CHOTEAU HIGH FOOTBALL TEAM



HIDDEN NUMBER

If you find your account number hidden in this issue, it is worth a \$50 credit on your next statement. There is one number hidden in every issue. Give us a call if you are the lucky consumer.

**406-467-2526 or
1-800-452-7516**

ALWAYS | BEFORE YOU
CALL | **DIG**



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICERS

Robert Pasha, President 406-799-2292
Mitch Johnson, V.P. 406-467-2109
Chris Music, S/T 406-600-8375

TRUSTEES

Russ Bloom 406-431-0168
John Burgmaier 406-463-2522
Bryce Johns 406-289-0730
Leonard Sivumaki 406-264-5482

MANAGER

Brad Bauman 406-467-2526