

Sun River Electric Cooperative *Ripples*

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Phone Numbers: 406-467-2527 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: 467-2526 or 467-2527

Be sure to check your breakers before reporting outages.

JANUARY 2018

By Scott Odegard, General Manager

Rates to stay stable in 2018

Thanks in part to a slight decrease in our wholesale rate, we are once again holding the line on rates in 2018. At the November board meeting, Sun River Electric Cooperative trustees voted to change our residential demand charge from \$3 per kW to \$4 per kW, but correspondingly decreased the distribution and purchased power charges. In addition, the board decreased the residential

base charge by \$2 per month. These actions mean that the average residential consumer should see little, if any, change in their total bill in the coming year.

Other customer classes rates were changed as well, but again the purchased power charges were reduced to offset the \$1 increase in the demand component. A full listing of the new tariffs is available on Sun River's

website.

With these changes, how efficiently you use electricity becomes even more important. Look for tips in future *Ripples* and *Rural Montana* magazine for how you can better manage usage and save money.

If you have questions or concerns about these changes, please give me a call or drop by the office.

My Power Is Out

IF YOU HAVE AN OUTAGE:

You will need to check to see if you have blown a fuse or tripped a breaker in your electrical panel. If this is the problem, please replace the fuse or reset the breaker. You should note that a blown fuse or tripped breaker is a warning that you have either a defective appliance or have overloaded the electrical circuit. For repair, you will need to call a licensed electrician or an appliance repairman.

If everything is out of power and the problem is not in your electrical panel or fuse box, check the main breaker, which is usually located beside or below the meter in the meter base. If this main breaker is tripped, you can reset it. It also signals that something is wrong on your electrical system. If this does not restore your power, please call us. Before you call us, please check to see if your neighbors have power. This will help us determine how widespread the outage is.

WHEN YOU CALL US:

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

You will be asked for your information: service address, meter number, Account

number, and primary phone number. Please keep this information in an easy to find place. If you know what caused the outage, please describe it (a car hit a pole, tree fell on the line, etc.) This can save us a great deal of time in restoring your power.

If you get a busy signal, please keep trying. We will answer the phones as soon as possible. Once you've called in, please do not call back unless your neighbor's power comes back on and yours does not. In this case, please check your breakers again before calling us back. We will work to restore your service as quickly as possible.

WHO YOU CALL:

During normal business hours the numbers listed to the left, ring into SREC's main office in Fairfield. However, after hours, holidays and weekends these numbers ring through to our after-hours dispatch center. Rest assured the information will be dispatched to our linemen, who will respond as quickly as possible.

WHILE THE POWER IS OFF:

- Keep refrigerators and freezers closed as much as possible. Food can keep for at least 24 hours. If an outage should last longer than that, please

make arrangements to store your food at another location.

- If someone in your home is on life support or oxygen, please don't wait for an outage to notify us. Call us now at the above numbers and we can note this in your file. These accounts will get priority if possible when services are reconnected. We do suggest that you have a generator available as a precautionary measure.

SCHEDULED OUTAGES:

There are times when we need to do work and we have to turn the power off for the safety of our personnel. We will make every effort to notify you in advance of these outages. This is one reason it is very important for you to keep our information on file up to date, such as your phone number and mailing address.



RURAL MONTANA

WE DO REBATES!

Don't forget that Sun River Electric Cooperative (SREC) has rebates for household appliances. SREC offers \$25 rebates on clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators and freezers that are Energy Star compliant. Just download the rebate form from SREC's website, www.sunriverelectric.coop, fill it out, attach a copy of the receipt and send it to SREC. SREC will then review the rebate form and credit your account \$25 per compliant appliance. Energy-Star-rated appliances can be found

at www.energystar.gov.

Also remember that SREC offers a \$100 rebate on electric water heaters. To be eligible, the water heater has to be at least 90-percent efficient. The water heater rebate form is also on SREC's website, download it and fill it out, send it in with a copy of the receipt and get the \$100 credit. The water heater must be at least 40-gallon capacity. 363929 All rebates must be submitted within 90 days of purchase.

If you have any questions about rebates, call Sun River Electric at 467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516.

Don't forget to stop by Sun River Electric Cooperative's booth!



Thursday- Saturday • January 18-20, 2018

Montana ExpoPark, Great Falls

Stop by the office to get free tickets.

Space Heater Safety Tips

Space heaters are a great way to warm specific rooms in your home without having to crank up the thermostat, but using space heaters doesn't come without risk! Use the tips below to keep your house safe.

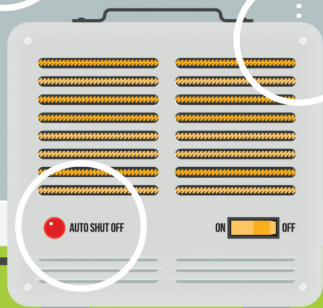
DO: Plug your space heater directly into the wall outlet.



DO: Keep your space heater in low-moisture rooms.

DO: Keep your space heater at a safe distance (at least 3 feet) from kids, pets and flammable items.

DO: Buy a unit with an automatic shutoff in case the unit tips over, or you forget to shut it off.



DO: Always follow the directions and take a broken space heater to a qualified appliance service center.



DON'T: Leave your space heater unattended. Always unplug it before you leave the house or go to bed.



DON'T: Use an extension cord to plug in your space heater. It can cause the heater to overheat, and can be a tripping hazard.

DON'T: Place your space heater near curtains, clothing, furniture or bedding.



DON'T: Try to repair a broken space heater yourself.



DON'T: Put your space heater in your bathroom. The moisture can damage the unit, which could cause it to malfunction.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Looking for an easy way to make your home cozier? Try using an area rug to increase the insulation levels of your floors. Area rugs are stylish and can keep cool air from entering through your floors. Your toes will thank you!

Hidden numbers

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.

406-467-2527 or 1-800-452-7516

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

Board of Trustees

Officers

John Burgmaier, President406-463-2522
Randy Parker, Vice President406-467-2974
Roberta Rohrer,
Secretary/Treasurer406-278-5673

Trustees

Russ Bloom406-431-0168
Mitch Johnson406-467-2109
Leonard Sivumaki406-264-5482
Robert Pasha406-733-2028
Scott Odegard, Manager.....406-467-2527

**ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG**

