

# Sun River Electric Cooperative

## Ripples



**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](http://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.**

**JANUARY 2022**

## Caution is key when using space heaters

**M**ONTANA weather can be fickle at times. We can enjoy 60-degree days into the late part of November, then switch to single-digit temperatures in the blink of an eye. Montana weather has caught us shoveling snow off the sidewalk and trying to put away our sprinklers and hoses at the same time.

One thing that we need to prepare for during cold weather is proper use of electric space heaters. Space heaters, when not used properly, can take their toll on our monthly power bill. Space heaters can also be dangerous if you are not cautious about how to use them. How many times is improper use of space heaters to blame for houses and buildings catching fire?

Let me share a few words of advice when using space heaters. Space heaters are designed to heat small spaces. They should NOT be considered a permanent fix when your furnace is

### MESSAGE

FROM MEMBER SERVICES

COLUMN BY **CHRIS CHRISTENSEN**



not working.

If you find the need to use one of these heaters, you might want to consider a new model and not the one your grandpa used in the calving shed 40 years ago. Newer space heaters are more efficient and come with more safety features. Choose one with a

thermostat to avoid wasting energy.

Some heaters will automatically shut off if tipped over, but you should always make sure it is sitting on a level surface. Try to keep at least three feet of clearance from anything flammable. It is smart to keep space heaters on the floor and not on a table or shelf. You may not think of falling objects, but a teetering pillow on the edge of a bed can easily roll off into a space heater. 258577

Space heaters should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Manufacturers recommend against plugging space heaters into surge protectors, extension cords or plug-in timers.

Some space heaters come with remotes, scheduled timers and smart apps. There are companies that sell a plug-in smart outlet as well, but I recommend some research before you purchase one. Most smart outlets should not be used with space heaters

### 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  
**CALL** | BEFORE YOU  
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# HAPPY NEW YEAR

January | 2022

FROM EVERYONE AT SUN RIVER ELECTRIC



LINEMEN



CEO AND TRUSTEES



MEMBER SERVICES



OUTPOST LINEMEN



OFFICE

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that are greater than 15 amps or 1,800 watts.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, an estimated 25,000 residential fires are associated with the use of space heaters every year, causing more than 300 deaths and 6,000 trips to the emer-

gency room. Despite these frightening statistics, space heaters are actually much safer than they used to be.

The best way to keep things safe is to never leave a space heater unattended. Children or pets could knock over a heater or lay something on it that might start a fire. Besides the risk of a fire, remember a space heater is a 15-amp appliance that draws consid-

erable current. The plug and cord can pose a risk to a curious child who won't be anticipating an electric shock.

Like most modern conveniences, space heaters are wonderful when used properly. Montana winters can be cold, but we need to remember to be safe and efficient when we choose a space heater to keep away the winter chill. RM

## 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.

