

PARK SPARKS

JUNE 2018

PARK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

 Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

Tips for keeping your power bill lower in the summer:

-Use the natural cooling of the night to your favor! Open windows at night to help cool your house and close windows and blinds in the morning to keep out the heat of the day.

-Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible. The lesser the difference between the inside and outside temperature, the less energy used.

-Avoid setting the thermostat cooler than normal to try and rapidly cool your home. It will not cool any faster and could result in unnecessary expense.

-Weather stripping not only keeps out the cold in the winter, it helps to keep out the hot in the summer too.



-Enjoy a green lawn? Remember that many people who live in rural areas have wells that require electricity to draw water.

Consider these watering tips: Your lawn needs at least 1"-1 ½" of water per week. Try watering deeply 2-3 times per week, rather than daily. Water as early in the morning as you can, when possible with the help of a hose end timer. Deeper, less frequent irrigation is best, it encourages deep roots which stay hydrated longer.

SCAM ALERT



Every few months, members call to let us know they have received a threatening phone call demanding money to keep their power on. These calls come from scam artists and can seem very real. Park Electric will never call you and demand money to keep your power on, nor will any other utility company. The people behind these schemes are preying on your fear of losing your power. Do not fall for their tactics; if you receive one of these calls, do not give them any information. Hang up and feel free to call us to verify the status of your account.

MANAGERS COMMENTS BY TIM STEPHENS

With the warmer weather comes all the chores and new projects we've been thinking of since the end of summer last year. Please keep electrical safety on your mind as you proceed. As always, don't forget to call 811 before you dig and get all underground utilities located. You need to do this two full working days before you plan to start. That means if you're going to dig on Saturday you better call before the end of business hours on Wednesday. We have already had numerous incidents where people have dug into our lines. Not only is this very dangerous but it can also be very expensive. I don't think any of the bills to the people that did the digging for those have come in under \$450 and some have been more than \$1,000. Locating the cable wouldn't have cost you a dime!

Keep an eye out for overhead power lines while working on the projects as well. If you see lines in or very close to trees, give us a call. We trim trees that are in conflict with our power lines for free. I know this sounds a little odd but be on the lookout for low hanging lines while you're out recreating.

It's not common but occasionally hikers and fisherman come across overhead power lines nowhere near roads or homes that have been pulled down by trees or come off of the insulator and are hanging very low. Obviously this is not a good situation. Stay far away from these lines when you see this and contact the utility of the line as quickly as possible. If you don't know who might be the utility, give us a call. We will do our best to figure it out and make it safe.

Another typical issue that comes up this time of year can be exposed underground lines. Raging rivers, streams and even road ditches can erode a great deal in a very short time. Occasionally this can expose buried lines of all kinds. It is very difficult for an untrained person to determine what type of line they are looking at in a trench. Don't hesitate to give us a call. If we can't make a determination over the phone we'll come and check it out. Typically this isn't an extreme emergency but we would certainly like to know about it quickly and make repairs to be sure safety and reliability are maintained.

ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW: HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY

Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and conductors to be live and dangerous.

If you are inside farm machinery that makes contact with a downed power line, know what to do!

If you can climb safely away from the power source, exit the machinery and climb down the utility pole and lines, based at least 50 feet before calling.

If you are unable to climb the machinery due to injury, obstacles or it is inoperable, do NOT exit. Call for help and wait to be rescued by PCD to approach.

If you can't safely climb away...
If you can't exit the machinery...
50 ft. safety zone distance

If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:

1. Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
2. Land with feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
3. Keep going until you are at least 50 feet away.
4. Call for help. Make sure no one comes within 50 feet of the downed line.
5. Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and Dawson PPD determine it is safe.

Avoid the Big Green Box

Please stay away from pad-mounted transformers (the big green box). While safe, they are not meant for touching, climbing or playing. Pad-mounted transformers carry high voltages of electricity that serve many homes in our communities.

Never touch, climb or play on pad-mounted transformers. Never put fingers, sticks or other objects through cracks in the transformer.

Keep areas surrounding the pad-mounted transformer clear so that workers can safely maintain transformers as needed. Keep shrubs and structures at least 10 feet away from the transformer doors and 4 feet away from the sides.

Never dig near a pad-mounted transformer. They are surrounded by underground cables. Hitting the cable could result in electrical shock or disruption of service. Always dial 8-1-1 before you dig.

Report problems. If you notice anything amiss, like an unlocked transformer or one that has been damaged, please contact us immediately.

In early June the world of leaf and blade and flowers explodes, and every sunset is different.