



November 2011

FALL RIVER FLASHES

Providing safe, reliable and renewable power at the lowest possible cost to members.



Fall River Propane puts service and safety first. For your convenience, we offer several options for tank refills. Visit us online at www.fallriverpropane.com or give us a call at 208-652-7431.

Member Survey

Our service to you is the cornerstone of the cooperative governance model. To find out how we are doing, we have commissioned our third annual member satisfaction survey. You may receive a phone call on our behalf sometime during November or December. We appreciate your participation and your honesty. Your answers will help us serve you better.

Helping Hands

Fall River Helping Hands relies on donations from members like you to provide energy assistance to other members who have an immediate and urgent need. To join Fall River Helping Hands, give us a call at 208-652-7431/800-632-5726 or sign up at www.fallriverelectric.com.

Save More

With a rate change on the horizon and winter on its way, we know you are looking for ways to save more energy and money. Visit www.fallriverelectric.com and click on togetherwesave.com to learn more about saving energy in your home or business. You can access how-to videos and an online home energy audit.

Rates to Change in January

Fall River's management team and board of directors held member meetings throughout the Cooperative's service area during the week of October 17 to discuss an upcoming rate change. At the September board meeting, it was proposed to pass on a recent wholesale power rate increase by raising Fall River Electric rates by 3.2 percent on average.

The Bonneville Power Administration, the quasi-governmental agency charged with managing power from large Northwest hydropower projects, raised wholesale rates for consumer-owned utilities by 7.8 percent last month. Fall River has cut controllable expenses dramatically over the last few years, leaving us with no option but to pass through this rate increase BPA to our members.

As of press time, the board had not yet met to make their final decision on the rate change, but this decision was scheduled for their October 24 meeting. Visit www.fallriverelectric.com, or call our offices at 208-652-7431/800-632-5726 for up to date information. You can also get up to date information by joining us on facebook at www.facebook.com/FallRiverREC.



Help with Energy Bills

If you think you will have trouble paying winter heating bills, the local Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) and the Weatherization Assistance Program could help.

The energy assistance program provides a one time payment to help qualifying applicants. The weatherization program provides long term savings of up to 30 percent on energy costs. For more information, please call the number for your state:

Idaho: 208-522-5391/800-632-4813; 935 Lincoln Rd., Idaho Falls

Montana: 406-587-4486/800-332-2796; 200 Yellowstone Ave., West Yellowstone

Wyoming: 307-875-1890/800-246-4221; 115 W. Snow King Ave., Jackson

Helping you save

Your membership in Fall River qualifies you for a free Co-op Connections® membership card. This card helps you save at 111 local business that have joined the program. You can also save nationally. If you don't have prescription health insurance, you can also save 10-60% off your prescriptions by using your card.

Visit www.fallriverelectric.com, and look under "Quick Links" or give us a call at 208-652-7431/800-632-5726.





Invite Safety for the Holidays

It is easy to get caught up in the hectic pace of holiday entertaining when you have cookies to bake, decorations to hang, presents to wrap. But the winter holiday period marks peak time for home fires and preventable injuries. Remember these safety tips:

First, test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms should be installed on every level of the home, outside each sleeping area, and inside each bedroom.

Arrange your holiday decorations to avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many lights, cords, or appliances. Inspect all decorations, cords, and outlets for damage before use, and keep electrical cords out of high traffic areas where they pose a tripping hazard. Do not damage cords by pinching them or attaching them with staples or nails. If you have small children, install tamper resistant receptacles or use safety covers on all unused electrical outlets.

Keep decorations, gifts, and other combustibles at least 3 feet from heat sources or open flame. Make sure children are supervised at all times in the kitchen and anywhere space heaters, candles, or fireplaces are being used.

Lastly, turn off and unplug all decorations before leaving home or turning in for the night. Remember that a safe and happy holiday remains the best gift you can give friends and family. For more information about home safety, visit www.fallriverelectric.com.

Source: *Electrical Safety Foundation International*



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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1150 North 3400 East
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Ashton, Driggs &
West Yellowstone Offices
Open Monday - Friday
8:00 am to 4:30 pm

ASHTON
1150 North 3400 East
Ashton, ID 83420

DRIGGS
1605 N Highway 33
Driggs, ID 83422

WEST YELLOWSTONE
436 Madison Ave
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Stay Safe During Winter Storms

Staying safe during winter power outages requires planning ahead. Severe winter weather can cause power outages. If you experience an outage, follow these steps:

1. Check your breakers or fuses to make sure the power loss did not originate within your home.
2. Call or take a look at neighboring homes to see if other homes in your area have power.
3. Call our outage hotline: 866-887- 8442. Make sure you have the name on your account, your account number or meter number and the correct service address for faster service.
4. Turn off major appliances. Unplug any voltage-sensitive equipment, like computers or televisions.
5. Switch on an outside light to help our crews in determining whether or not your power has been restored.
6. Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Food in a refrigerator will last 12 to 24 hours if the doors are kept closed. A full freezer can last 24 to 48 hours.
7. If an extended outage occurs, listen to radio reports or check our facebook page (www.facebook.com/FallRiverREC) on your smart phone. Keep either a battery operated or battery free (hand crank) radio on hand for emergencies.
8. NEVER GO NEAR OR TOUCH A DOWNED POWER LINE.



Visit FEMA's website, www.fema.gov, to learn more about safety during winter storms.

