



OFFICES TO BE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

Fall River Electric offices will close at noon, MST, on Wednesday, December 24, and will be closed all day on Thursday, December 25, for the Christmas holiday. Additionally, our offices will close early on December 31 and all day on New Year's Day, January 1, as well as on Monday, January 19, for the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday.



In case of an unexpected power outage during these holiday times, our crews will be on stand-by to respond as quickly and safely as possible. Call 800.632.5726 to report power outages day or night, weekends, and holidays.

NEED HELP PAYING YOUR ENERGY BILL?

Winter weather is fast approaching and with it comes higher energy bills. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has begun processing applications for 2025-2026 heating season.

To receive further information, call the numbers for the state you reside in:

IDAHO – 208.522.5391
MONTANA – 406.587.4486
WYOMING – 800.246.4221

Be Prepared For Winter Power Outages & Hazardous Driving Conditions

A recent study conducted by Energy + Environmental Economics (E3) indicates there is the potential for a power reliability gap in 2026, which could cause power blackouts in the Pacific Northwest. The gap is a result of higher demand for electricity brought on by population growth, more EVs on the highways, and industrial users like data centers locating throughout the Northwest.

The greatest chance of blackouts impacting our region could occur if a cold snap lasts for several days. Fall River Electric wants its members to be prepared in the rare instance of a power interruption during the winter season that lasts more than a few hours. The Co-op's website, www.fallriverelectric.com, has added a section under the tab "My Safety" to aid members with their preparation efforts. This section also addresses preparation for members who have Airbnb short-term rental properties.

Co-op members can register for local alerts to stay aware of emergencies at any time of the year. **Click these links based on the county you reside in:**

- **Teton County, ID Teton Sheriff:** teton-countysheriff.com/community_resource/codered_emergency_notification_signup/index.php
- **Teton County, WY:** (Alta area) www.tcincident.org
- **Fremont County Public Sign Up:** public.alertsense.com/SignUp/?RegionId=1089



- **Madison County Integrated Public Alert & Warning System:** www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/integrated-public-alert-warning-system
- **Jefferson County CodeRED:** by Crisis24 www.jcgov.us/219/Emergency-Management
- **West Yellowstone area (Gallatin Co.) Community Notification System:** www.readygallatin.com/public-warning/community-notification-system/

Winter driving conditions are also upon us. It is time to plan ahead, slow down, and buckle up. The best source for current road conditions in Idaho is 511.idaho.gov, for Montana www.511mt.net, and in Wyoming www.wyoro-ad.info.

Many of our members, especially those residing in Teton Valley, commute to the Jackson area for work and play. Traveling Teton Pass can be challenging and often times hazardous. Use this link to check current conditions: www.wy-oroad.info/pls/Browse/WRR.RoutesResults?Select edRoute=WY22.

Stay safe this winter season, whether at home or on the road!

Helping Hands Board Members Honored



The November issue of our *FLASHES* newsletter outlined the Fall River Helping Hands organization and how it helps Fall River Electric Cooperative owner-members who are struggling with unforeseen hardships during the winter months. Helping Hands features a volunteer board that meets monthly to review applications from members seeking assistance.

Recently, Fall River Electric CEO/General Manager Bryan Case honored four Helping Hands board members as their service on the board ended. Pictured left to right is Missy Olson, Clint Washburn, Roz Preston, Kaylene Schultz, and CEO Case.

HAPPY 87th BIRTHDAY FALL RIVER ELECTRIC!

Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative, your nonprofit trusted energy partner, was born in Ashton, Idaho, on December 15, 1938.

800-632-5726
208-652-7431

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

All Our Offices Are Open
Monday - Friday
8:00am - 4:30pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Husk Crowther
District 1
Rexburg/Rigby
Board President



Travis Markegard
District 2
West Victor



Georg Behrens
District 3
East Victor



Anna Lindstedt
District 4
East Driggs



Brent Robson
District 5
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South Island Park
Vice President



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District 8
North Island Park
Secretary/Treasurer



Doug Schmier
District 9
West Yellowstone



Bryan Case
Fall River Electric
CEO/General Manager



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Keep up to date, including on power outage information, by "liking" Fall River Electric on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fallriverrec.

Holiday Lighting Tips

This year is rapidly drawing to a close. That means the holiday lighting season is back! If your home space needs a decorative refresh, here are some tips to take your artistic stylings to the next level. **There are two areas to cover:**

Safety is up first. If your lights are ground mounted or can be installed standing on the floor or ground, you can skip ahead. However, since most decorations involve some installation at height, you need to do the following:

1. **Have a ground crew** (one or two people) to steady your ladder and pass up the decorations ... an invaluable part of safety and for keeping you supplied with untangled light strings, fasteners, and encouragement.
2. **Remember to keep a safe distance from all overhead electric wires.**
3. **Do not overreach.** If you cannot get to a point with your body completely centered between the sides of the ladder, get down and relocate it.
4. **Do not overload circuits** by stringing more light sets together than the manufacturer recommends.
5. **Check your wires for breaks and cracks** in the insulation that can lead to shorts.



Most of these tips apply to outside decorating activities but several apply to the inside, too.

Light selection is a key to your holiday success. LED lights provide longevity, brilliant color, and cost savings. A reasonable estimate of power consumption is 7 watts per 100 lights. Old incandescent bulbs use 12 watts. A string of 100 devours 1200 watts. Want to invest in even greater savings operating holiday lights? Invest in timers to turn the lights on and off automatically. Enjoy the holiday and lights while saving money!

Auto Pay Reminder

Mark January 26, 2026, on your calendar if you are a Fall River Electric member that utilizes Auto Pay to pay your monthly bill with a credit or debit card. Fall River Electric will be switching to a new software system for managing member accounts called SmartHub. For security reasons, federal law prohibits the automatic transfer of credit card or debit card numbers to this new system. Members will need to re-register for Auto Pay on January 26, 2026. Watch for details in our January FLASHES newsletter.

Fall River Highway Clean Up



Fall River Electric staff members cleaned trash along a two-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 20 in Island Park near Ponds Lodge and the U.S. Forest Service office. This is part of the Co-op's Adopt-A-Highway efforts.

Thanks to (left to right) Missy, John, Leland, Riley, and Traven. Together, they collected thirteen thirty-gallon bags of trash and other miscellaneous items.

TAKE SAFETY HOME: Circuit Breakers

It is time to inspect your circuit breaker panel. Look for burn marks and loose wires. Then contact a licensed electrician before attempting to make repairs yourself. Here are some things you can do yourself:

1. Ensure your panel is clear of clutter.
2. See that your panel's individual breakers are properly labeled.
3. Be cautious around your panel and never work on the panel yourself.

If you have a breaker that "trips" frequently, contact a licensed electrician to inspect and make any necessary repairs. Inspecting your panel and its breakers can help prevent electrical fires.

