



OFFICE CLOSURE FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY

Fall River Electric offices will be closed Monday, January 16, to commemorate the federal holiday of Martin Luther King's birthday, which is also known as Idaho Human Rights Day.

During this holiday, if you experience an unexpected power outage, our crews will be on stand-by to respond as quickly and safely as possible. If you experience an outage during a holiday, weekend, or any time after normal business hours, call 1.800.632.5726.

NEED HELP PAYING YOUR ENERGY BILL?

Winter has officially arrived and colder weather is here, which usually means higher monthly energy bills, but help is available. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) program can be utilized by Fall River Electric members. To inquire, call the office in your state:,

IDAHO 208.522.5391

MONTANA 406.587.4486

WYOMING 800.246.4221



June 17, 2023: Fall River Electric Cooperative's Energy Expo & Annual Business Meeting at North Fremont High School in Ashton

tric's residential electric energy rates are the lowest in the U.S. when compared to the average rates in other states. At just 9.3 cents per kilowatt hour, including the Access Fee and Demand for an average home using 1,500 kWhs monthly, Fall River's rates are lower than the average rate in Idaho and our surrounding states.

This is great news considering that heating bills are about to "deliver an unpleasant jolt to American households" as stated in a November 30th *Wall Street Journal* article. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), retail natural gas heating will increase by 25%, electricity by 11%, and heating oil will see an even larger rise by 45% this winter compared to last. Because Fall River Electric provided a retail rate decrease in January 2022, Fall River Electric rates will not increase this winter.

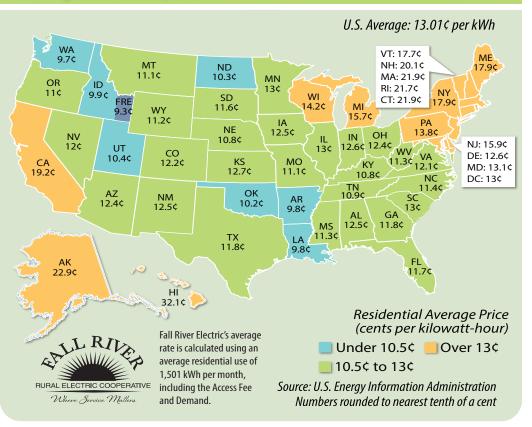
New data from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) show Fall River Elec-

Providing reliable, low-cost power is at the heart of what your cooperative's board and staff are focused on for members.

Average Prices for Residential Electricity

Members Benefit from Low Rates

2019 figures, in cents per kWh



Idaho Senator Risch Blocks Dam Breaching



Due to direct opposition by U.S. Senator Jim Risch, the congressional attempt to breach the four lower Snake River dams was removed from the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which was to be included in the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act.

As the Senate and U.S. House conferenced in early December for their respective WRDA bills, Risch worked with negotiators to remove all Snake River dam language.

"I fought to remove language aimed at dam breaching from the WRDA and remain flatly opposed to removal of the lower Snake River dams," Risch said.

www.fallriverelectric.com



RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Where Service Matters

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

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Fall River's FLASHES newsletter is printed on recycled paper and is certified by the

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Want your Fall River *FLASHES* faster? Click *www.fallriverelectric.com* and then select the tab "My Cooperative" followed by the drop-down menu "Fall River Electric Newsletter."

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

Be Ready For Winter

Winter weather can cause power outages—it is important to be prepared! Storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days. Some winter storms are large enough to affect several states, while others affect only a single community. Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet, and freezing rain. Regardless of the severity of a winter storm, you should be prepared to remain safe during these events.

Know the difference between different storm warnings broadcast on TV or radio:

Winter Weather Advisory: Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. When caution is used, these situations should not be life threatening.

Winter Storm Watch: Winter storm conditions are possible within the next 36 to 48 hours. People in a watch area should review their winter storm plans and stay informed about weather conditions.

Winter Storm Warning: Life-threatening, severe winter conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours. People in a warning area should take precautions immediately.

Here are a few tips for preparations you can make to stay safe during a winter storm or extended power outage, courtesy of the American Red Cross and *www.ready.gov*:

Prepare a winter survival kit

When a power outage occurs in winter, you can depend on Fall River Electric crews to brave the cold conditions and work hard to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. But having a winter survival kit on hand is a smart and important safety measure to be prepared. The below are helpful items to have in your winter survival kit:

•Food: Store food that does not require cooking, such as canned goods, crackers, dehydrated meats, and dried fruit. Keep a large supply of water on hand. *Ready.gov* recommends five gallons per person.



- **Medication:** Be sure to have an adequate supply of all prescriptions in the event of a major power outage.
- •Other items: First Aid Kit, blankets, winter boots, heavy winter coat, hat and gloves, flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries.

Stay warm and safe

Before an outage occurs, you should plan for an alternate heating source. A fireplace, propane heater, or wood-burning stove would be sufficient. Fuel and wood-burning heating sources should always be vented, and make sure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly. Always practice extreme caution when using alternate heating sources.

If you decide to use a portable generator during an outage, make sure it is placed outside the home for proper ventilation. Be careful not to overload the generator. Use appropriate extension cords that can handle the electric load and never attempt to plug a portable generator into your home's electrical panel.

Keep your vehicle's gas tank full. Gas stations rely on electricity to power their pumps. If you use your car to re-charge devices, such as cell phones, do NOT keep the car running in a garage or partially enclosed space as this can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.

If you or a family member rely on anything that is battery-operated or power dependent like a medical device, determine a back-up plan.

Extended power outages caused by winter storms that affect a large number of Fall River members are reported and updated regularly on Fall River Electric's Facebook page at *www. facebook.com/FallRiverREC/.* Like us on Facebook to stay up to date.

Fall River Will Help Pay For Your Child's Education



More than \$70,000 in scholarships are being made available to current high school seniors who are planning to attend college or receive vocational training this fall. Scholarships totaling \$2,400 over four years are available through Fall River Electric's college and continuing education scholarship program. All applicants (students) must have parents or guardians who are owner-members (customers) of Fall River Electric, have a high school GPA of 2.0 or greater, and are in need of financial assistance.

Students who have previously received a scholarship from Fall River Electric are reminded that they need to re-apply each year to continue to receive scholarship assistance.

Scholarship applications are available at Fall River's website at *fallriverelectric.com/scholarships*. The deadline to apply is March 24, 2023. Scholarships will be presented at Fall River Electric's annual business meeting in June in Ashton and are funded by unclaimed Patronage Capital.

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