



FALL RIVER FLASHES

June 2024

Committed to safely and economically provide reliable energy and other services which bring value to its membership.



OFFICES TO BE CLOSED JULY 4TH

Fall River Electric Cooperative offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4, 2024, in observance of Independence Day. This has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. In June 1776, representatives of the thirteen colonies, then fighting in the revolutionary struggle, determined to declare their independence from Great Britain. On July 2, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later, on July 4, its delegates adopted the Declaration of Independence. As is the case with all holidays, our Fall River crews will be on-call to respond quickly and safely to all power outages. If you experience an outage, please call 800.632.5726.



\$2 MILLION IS WAITING TO BE CLAIMED

If you or someone you know are past members (customers) of Fall River Electric Cooperative, there may be a "pot" of money waiting to be claimed! Over the years, members move from Fall River Electric's service territory leaving behind unclaimed patronage capital, which is excess revenue collected above the cost of providing electric service. Because your Cooperative is a nonprofit, these funds are returned to our members.

Currently over 8,000 previous members have more than \$2 million dollars in patronage capital waiting to be claimed. For a list, visit www.fallriverelectric.com and click on the box below our linemen photo titled "Unclaimed Patcap".

Legislation Filed In Congress To Reverse Dam Agreement

U.S. Congressman Dan Newhouse of Washington state has filed a package of nine bills to reverse parts of a new agreement that he sees as the de facto breaching of the lower Snake River dams (LSRD) in eastern Washington.



"I have consistently reminded the administration that the authority over the lower Snake dams remains in the hands of Congress," Newhouse said. "This package is not only a staunch reinforcement of that fact, but a testament to our commitment to protect these critical pieces of infrastructure."

Is Solar Right For You?

If you are considering installing solar panels on your roof, Fall River Electric invites you to subscribe to Cooperative Solar. This program is designed to allow members of Fall River Electric to benefit from solar energy production without costly rooftop solar installation on your home. Subscribing members are guaranteed a "one-to-one" kilowatt hour exchange for the next twenty-plus years! For every kilowatt hour of solar generation from your subscription, you will receive a credit for a kilowatt hour.

Only 150 units are still available. Here are some facts that may help you make the decision:

- Save thousands of dollars from doing your own rooftop solar system.
- Your subscription is maintenance free—Fall River will ensure your units are working properly.
- No limit on the number of units you can subscribe to.

The package would prohibit breaching the four Snake River hydroelectric dams if certain power production replacement goals, including reliability and consumer costs, could not be met or if breaching would make the river less navigable for barging or increase the cost

of moving products on the river. It would also give the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) authority over changes to how much water is spilled over the dams, rather than using that water to produce electricity.

The bills are co-sponsored by several representatives from Idaho, Oregon, and Montana, including Idaho Representative Russ Fulcher.



- You can transfer your units to any other member of Fall River Electric.
- Not all home rooftops are viable options for solar. Some have too much shade, some face the wrong direction, and some are not flat enough to maximize the full potential of solar power.
- Some homeowner associations (HOAs) may not allow rooftop solar.
- Low cost—as little as \$150 to subscribe!

For more information and for a Cooperative Solar agreement, visit www.fallriverelectric.com/cooperative-solar.

Members can also go ALL GREEN by joining our Go Green Power program that allows members to purchase all power that is generated by environmentally sensitive sources to meet your future electricity demand. You can find a sign-up form at www.fallriverelectric.com/green-power.





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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Bryan Case
Fall River Electric
CEO/General Manager

Teaching The Dangers Of Electricity At School



A demonstration of how electricity can travel through a person's body, damaging organs.

Each school year, Fall River Electric Cooperative invites elementary school students to attend an electrical safety demonstration conducted by the Co-op's specially trained linemen. This year hundreds of students attended the demonstration from classes in Victor, Driggs, Alta, Ashton, Parker, St. Anthony, Rexburg, Hibbard, Ririe, and West Yellowstone. Students are taught about the dangers of electricity, downed power lines, underground and above ground lines, and electrical safety hazards around their homes. The goal is to ensure each student gains a better understanding about how to be safe around electricity and what to do in case of emergencies. They are encouraged to share the information they learn with their parents and siblings.

Cooperative Promotes Two Team Members

Following the recent retirement of Brent Gamett as Operations Manager, Randy Wakefield has been promoted to the position. Wakefield was chosen from a field of 49 highly qualified candidates and has been a staff member of Fall River Electric since 2005. He now joins the Co-op's management team and reports to CEO/GM Bryan Case.



Randy Wakefield



Jeremy Banta

Replacing Wakefield as an engineering services representative is Jeremy Banta. Previously, Banta was line foreman for the Ashton/Upper Valley crew and has been with Fall River Electric for 21 years.

FARM EQUIPMENT SAFETY TIPS



- 1 Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- 2 Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from powerlines and other equipment when doing field work.
- 3 If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed powerline, contact your co-op immediately by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- 4 Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

SOURCE: SAFE ELECTRICITY

Summer Of Fun Supported By Your Cooperative

Many of the communities Fall River Electric Cooperative serves also receive support for their community activities. Teton Valley Foundation's Music on Main live concert series kicks off June 20 at Victor City Park and continues through August 15, sponsored in-part by Fall River. The City of Driggs 4th of July fireworks show and the Downtown Driggs Association's summer arts line-up of music, theater, and art are also supported by Fall River Electric.



Our engineering and operations staff, Hank, Riley, and Tim assisted the Island Park Chamber of Commerce with their summer kick-off event at Yellowstone Playhouse, and also contributed to Friends of Harriman State Park. Friends of Harriman is a citizen support group that partners with park staff to enhance and preserve the natural and cultural resources of this state park.

Fall River's FLASHES newsletter is printed on recycled paper and is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. Products certified by FSC directly support responsible forest management.

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.