



Phone: (406) 434-5575 • Fax: (406) 434-2531  
P.O. Box 729, Shelby, MT 59474  
E-mail: mrec@mariasriverec.com  
Web site: www.mariasriverec.com  
Incorporated In 1945  
Serving 3,700  
A Locally-Owned Utility

## Safety is Key to Cooperative Success

By Jennifer Hagood,  
Member Service Specialist

Every May, Marias River Electric Cooperative (MRE) celebrates Electrical Safety Month by taking time to place an important spotlight on the many steps we take all year long to keep our members and employees safe.

There are times in life when we may be unable to control what happens around us. Events such as a sudden spring storm, unforeseen accident or simple mistake can create an emergency situation for you, your family and the co-op. Safety hazards and lack of preparedness can sometimes be the difference between life and death. The best way to minimize the damage is to be prepared.

Working around high-voltage electricity and equipment can become a life-or-death situation. So, it's not hard to understand why safety remains a top priority for us here at MRE. Linemen put their lives at risk each day to provide all of us with the most reliable electric service possible, oftentimes, being called to action in hazardous weather conditions and late at night. For the co-op, disaster preparedness and planning is essential. We are vigilant about being safety focused. One of the many ways we honor our commitment to safety is through regular training for all MRE staff members. We include topics such as medical emergency response protocols, pole-top rescue and regularly practiced emergency drills just to name a few. The best way for you and the co-op to stay prepared is by keeping an updated and regularly practiced emergency action plan in place.

We hope that you never have to face an emergency situation. However, being prepared ahead of time is the first step toward keeping you and your family safe. If you don't have an updated emergency action plan in place for your home, farm or business, what better time to start than now? Be sure to include important phone numbers, meeting locations, medication lists and evacuation plans, and don't forget about adding a plan for your pet.

Working together, we can be prepared to answer the call in the event of a safety emergency. Pledge to honor Electrical Safety Month by creating your emergency action plan today.

**ELECTRIC CO-OPS  
are committed to  
keeping members  
and employees SAFE.**

**May is National  
Electrical Safety Month**

plug into safety

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES

**In memory of many,  
In honor of all,  
We thank you.**

**Marias River Electric  
will be closed  
Memorial Day, May 29.**

## Director's Corner

### Terry Peters

Representing  
District #3  
Ledger area and  
south of the  
Marias River



Shared legacy is important to me both in regard to my family and volunteer work. For the past 72 years, Marias River Electric Cooperative (MRE) has had a long and proud history of electing directors and entrusting volunteer members who've been passionate about providing life-changing and reliable electricity to Toole, Pondera and Liberty counties. The dedication of these men and woman throughout MRE's many years of service have given me the humbling opportunity to serve as your MRE director the past six years.

In addition to serving as a board director, my full-time occupation is farming, which wouldn't be possible without my wife Julene on our family homestead east of Ledger. My grandparents established the land nearly 110 years ago, and we have tirelessly worked to overcome low grain prices, drought and weather to keep the land that we love in our family.

We are the proud parents of three kids who, with the opening of recent opportunities, have all decided to come back and continue the family business of farming, while following their own careers on the side.

Cassie, a landscape project architect, has worked in Bozeman for the past five years, and most recently moved home to be a main addition to the farm. She is getting married to Mack Andrews in June. Steven, a civil engineer, graduated with honors from Montana State University in December. Brett, obtaining

a degree in Accounting from MSU, and keeps busy running home to work on the farm during weekends and summer breaks. Julene packs her schedule full with gardening, Bible studies and cooking for the family. She is always running somewhere to lend a helping hand to our friends and family in the area.

Growing up, my dad, Bud and I shared a passion for both farming and Model T Fords. Each June we would participate in the Montana 500, a three-day timed endurance race crossing 500 miles and involving over 20 participants, all driving their restored Model T's. To this day, my dad still holds the record for most wins in his lifetime, and I hold the record for most top-three finishes. I stopped racing in 1994 when my family began to grow, however I've



continued to restore old cars during the winter months. Steven and I are currently working on his 1927 Model T yellow roadster, which we have rolled away for the year to begin farming once again.

At Marias River Electric we work to improve and maintain financial stability to allow the lowest electric rates possible for all co-op members. We also ensure we are meeting ever-changing environmental regulations, making provisions for safe and reliable electric service, and supporting successful member service programs that make MRE a thriving rural electric cooperative. Each of us has an opportunity to invest in our cooperative, both financially and voluntarily, so that we all profit from our ownership.

## Bulbs Available



Please contact the warehouse at 406-434-5575 if you are interested in purchasing a 150-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) light bulb. Bulbs are \$25 each.

## Welcome to our new members

Jessica Bull Calf  
Les Childers  
Matthew Dundas  
Jonathan Griwac  
IDI Dist. Inc.  
Mikayla McDonald  
Shyanne Morton  
Praedia Holdings, LLC  
Jayden Trujillo

## BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.

### ■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.

### ■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.

### ■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)



Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.