

PARK SPARKS

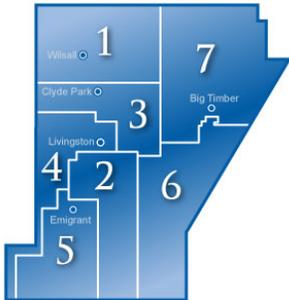
Park Electric Cooperative, Inc.

May 2017

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

www.parkelectric.coop

District 6



District 6 includes member services that lie in the Boulder River drainage and north to approximately 2 miles south of Big Timber. This district spans portions of Park and Sweet Grass Counties and includes the East Boulder side of the Stillwater Mine. There are a total of 427 services in District 6 and are fed from either the

McLeod or Big Timber substation.

The town of McLeod is named after the original resident of the area, W.F. McLeod, who drove cattle and horses to the area from Oregon in the late 1880's. The first Post Office was established in 1886 and still operates today. The history of the area is rich with tales of mining exploration. Early prospectors found copper, nickel and chromium in the area and the mining community of Independence was settled high in the Beartooth mountains. As exploration grew, platinum and palladium were discovered in the East Boulder valley and in the mid 1980's, Stillwater Mining Company began underground mining operations in the area.



This district also has many incredible outdoor recreation opportunities. One of the most scenic areas to explore



is the Natural Bridge Falls on the upper Boulder river. During spring runoff, this unique waterfall cascades over a 100' precipice and surges from tunnels in the limestone below. During summer and fall months, the water level drops and the river emerges exclusively from the rocks at the base of the falls. It's a great spot to explore any time of the year.

Melanie Roe is the Board



Trustee for District 6. She and her family have been in the construction business for over 40 years. Melanie represents Park Electric on the Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative Board and is honored to be a Trustee for Park Electric. As a board trustee, Melanie has learned a lot about the electric industry and is excited about future opportunities for the co-op. She looks forward to the ongoing challenge of keeping electricity affordable and reliable for our members while also addressing environmental concerns.

"Sparking Conversations"

Would you like to learn more about your Cooperative?

Park Electric would like to visit with you and address your questions and concerns.

General Manager, Tim Stephens and District 6 Trustee, Melanie Roe

will be at the

Big Timber Library

Friday, May 12th @ 12 pm

Big Timber and McLeod members are encouraged to join us for a lunch snack and some good conversation.

We hope to see you there!

Managers Comments By Tim Stephens

Spring time is here! That means it is time for spring cleaning, yard work, planting, clearing irrigation ditches and getting outside. In the spirit of National Electric Safety Month it's a great time to review some of the basics. **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!** I know you've all heard this before, but don't forget it. Simply dial 811 and start the process. Much of the process is automated. However, near the end of the call a live person will ask specific questions. Be prepared to provide contact information, address for the locate, the nearest intersection and township, range, section and quarter section. If you don't know this information you can look it up on the Montana cadastral map at <http://svc.mt.gov/msl/mtcadastral/>. They will need instructions for the locate and would like the area marked with white paint or flags. Please think ahead if a digging project is planned. It can take up to two full business days for the locate to be completed. That means if you call in on Friday afternoon, they have until the end of the day Tuesday to get it done. Underground utility

lines including water, sewer, power, phone, natural gas and fiber optic will be marked at no cost. The locate will not include consumer/private owned lines.

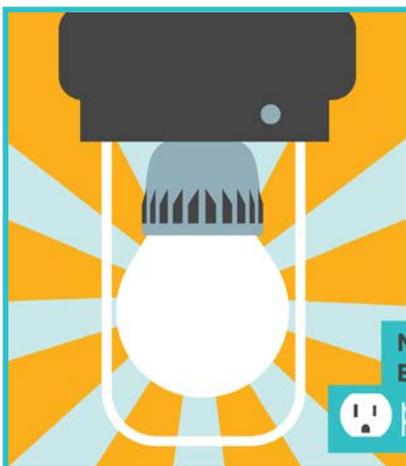
Spring also heralds lightning storms. If you don't already have lightning protection at your place, now is a great time to consider it. There are several types of surge protection available. There are devices that can be connected at your main panel that will help protect all circuits, as well as smaller devices intended to protect individual pieces of equipment or outlets, like your television or computer. Electronics are built-in to almost everything now, including appliances. They are very sensitive to voltage fluctuations and can be very expensive to repair or replace. Safeguarding your electronics with surge protection is a smart, relatively inexpensive Spring chore.

While you're out enjoying the eagerly anticipated mild weather, please be mindful of power

lines. It seems like every year we hear about another freak electrical contact accident somewhere in the country. NorthWestern Energy and Park Electric have underground and overhead power lines in areas that you may not expect to find them. Heavy snow, fallen trees, leaning poles and other winter hazards may have affected clearance on overhead lines. Run-off and natural erosion may have resulted in exposure of underground lines. While these lines are insulated, nicks in the insulation may be difficult to spot. Please stay away from power lines you are unsure of and contact the appropriate utility to make them aware of potential issues. If you don't know which utility to inform, give us a call. With your help we can make sure to get someone out to take a look at it. I hope you all find the time to get outside and enjoy a safe and happy spring.



The Park Electric office will be closed, Monday, May 29th in observance of Memorial Day.



NEVER use light bulbs that **EXCEED THE RECOMMENDED WATTAGE** for any lighting unit or fixture.

May is National Electrical Safety Month

plug into safety

GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS



Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment.

Stationary Generator:

An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a professional.

Portable Generator:

Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.

Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is **deadly**.

Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.

Start the generator first **before** connecting appliances.

Source: SafeElectricity.org