



Big Horn Rural Electric Company

HIGHLIGHTS

LOOK FOR US ONLINE AT WWW.BIGHORNREA.COM



Photo by Ann Lewton

ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR HUNTERS

This hunting season, we encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment and take necessary precautions while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.



Take notice of posted warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.



Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.



Know where power lines and equipment are located on the land where you hunt.



Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.



Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.



Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Any non-electrical equipment attached to a pole can pose an obstruction and serious hazards to our line crews.

★ **LABOR** ★
★★★★ **DAY** ★★★★★

INSIDE

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If you have a photo that you would like to submit for the newsletter, please email it to us at jazmin@bighornrea.com

SUMMER WRAP-UP

Summer comes and goes, and like every summer we've been busy. We had two students attend Youth Tour in Washington D.C in June, Adelle Olson and Jessica Mendez.

We did a lot of safety demos around our service territory, these included the Deaver Fire Department, the Big Horn County Fair in Basin and National Night Out in Greybull.

We sponsored Medicine Lodge Kid's Outdoor Day on August 24, 2024 which also included a safety demo presentation.



»» ENERGY EFFICIENCY: TIP OF THE MONTH

Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts for a significant portion of your home energy use. Here's an easy way to lighten the load on your clothes dryer. Before you dry a load of damp clothing, toss in a clean, dry towel. The towel will absorb excess water shortening the drying time. If your dryer does not include an autosense feature, reduce the timer to about half of what you normally would. Remove the towel about 15 minutes after the cycle begins. Shorter drying times will extend the life of your dryer and save energy.

Source: [homesandgardens.com](https://www.homesandgardens.com)

TIPS FOR A SAFE HARVEST

Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous—even deadly—when farming near electrical equipment.

Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.
- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 9-1-1 immediately 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), and hop away to safety.
- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

September 15-21 is National Farm Health and Safety Week but practicing safety on the farm year-round yields positive results. We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, we hope you'll remember these safety tips.



MANAGER'S MESSAGE

My name is Jeff Pillow, and I have been hired by Big Horn REA Board of Directors as the new General Manager. I was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, but I grew up in Cottage Grove Oregon. I lived in Cottage Grove for 27 years until I moved to Powell, Wyoming back in 2008.

I met my wife, Suzy, at Legendary Coach in 2004. At the time we met I was building cabinets, and she was doing PDI inspections on buses. We were married in August of 2007. We have two kids, Gage and Greenlee. Gage is 14 and his hobbies consist of running cross country and track, playing basketball and of course video games. Greenlee is 12 and her hobbies consist of playing softball and basketball and running cross country. We live in Lovell right now and

the kids are enjoying living in town as this is the first time we have lived in city limits. They enjoy riding their bikes to school as well as going to the grocery store to pick up a few things we might need for dinner.

I started my cooperative career with Powder River Energy in Moorcroft, Wyoming. I worked there for nine years, where I started off as an apprentice lineman and before leaving, I was a District Line Foreman. I was offered a Line Superintendent job in La Grande, Oregon for Oregon Trail Electric in 2019. The La Grande district is Oregon Trails biggest district and there I managed 7 linemen and had an area that covered 14,000 meters. When I left there in July of 2024, I was managing all four districts with over 32,000 meters and 20 linemen.

I am looking forward to the future here at Big Horn REA. Big Horn is a solid company, and its biggest asset is the employees. We are constantly searching for ways to help our communities with reliability and cost. Big Horn is very involved with the communities within its service territory doing safety demonstrations for the members it serves.

The best thing about working at Big Horn REA is that it is in Wyoming! I am so excited to be serving the members and just being here in general. Since moving here in 2008, Wyoming has always felt like home, and it is so good to be back!



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