

HIGHLIGHTS

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SURGE PROTECTION MORE THAN AN ACCESSORY



Have you ever

noticed your power cut out for a moment and then it returns during a storm? But when you try to turn on the TV or microwave, it doesn't work.

Typically referred to as a power surge, these momentary periods of high or low voltage on the home's electrical system are caused by lightning or other disturbances. The brief jolts of electrical voltage range from minor to severe.

Minor surges are common with the daily operation of an electric power system. Most equipment is built to withstand these minor variances. However, major surges can damage your computer, microwave, or TV.

Electronics and appliances are especially susceptible to a power

surge, but spikes in voltage can also damage outlets or start electrical fires. However, major surges can damage your

computer, microwave, TV and other electrical appliances.

Power surges can result from normal use of your appliances and electronics. Devices that require a lot of power to switch on or off—such as air conditioners, refrigerators, and space heaters—call for sudden, brief draws on power.

These power demands upset the steady voltage in an electrical system. While surges caused by these items are far less intense than a storm, they add to the continuous wear on equipment over time.

Faulty wiring and overloaded outlets or circuits also can cause power surges and be a fire hazard.

Big Horn REA wants to remind its member-owners they are responsible for protecting the electric equipment in their homes and buildings. Despite its best efforts, Big Horn cannot prevent acts of God—such as a storm—or other faults and disturbances that naturally occur outside the normal operation of an electrical system.

Big Horn is generally not liable for damages to equipment caused by storms and other incidents not controlled or caused by Big Horn.

Big Horn suggests its members to consider these options:

 Use surge protectors to protect your appliances and electronics. Most surge protectors are no match for a storm's wallop. During severe storms, unplug your computer, TVs, and other electronics.

 Consider investing in the surge protector's big brother: uninterruptible power supplies. They work like a surge protector but have battery backups to keep them running during surges, power reductions or brief outages.

 Consider having a qualified electrician install a whole-house surge protector. Typically installed to the electric service box, it offers greater protection for your appliances than individual surge protection devices. However, a whole-house surge protector cannot protect against lightning that enters the home from other sources other than the electrical system, such as through metal gas, water or sewer pipes.

 If you do not have them already, consider updating outlets to those that have ground-fault circuit interrupters. Electrical code requires GFCIs near a water source for new or remodeled homes. They help prevent electrical shock and fire and are reset with the push of a button after they have been tripped.

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It's YOUR company!

One of the benefits of belonging to a cooperative is local access to the Board of Directors that you have elected. Big Horn REA would like to invite you to the next district meeting in your district.

Times are still to be determined, but this is the schedule for the meetings in each district.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



We look forward to talking to you!!

- May 4: Burlington Fire Hall
- May 5: Meeteetse School Cafeteria
- May 10: Lovell Community Center
- May 11: Ten Sleep School Cafeteria
- May 12: Shell Community Hall

Board members and prospective candidates for 2022 elections will be in attendance. Everyone will have time to meet with the board and we will be providing meals at each meeting. We encourage you all to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about Big Horn REA!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip all windows to seal air leaks.

When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.



Source: Dept. of Energy

How to **STAY WARM & SAVE ENERGY** in the Winter

Stay Comfortable Without Raising Your Energy Bill

Dress for the Season
The first thing you can do is put on warm and comfortable clothing or snuggle under a blanket.

Reverse your Ceiling Fan
Ceiling fans aren't just for cooling. Running your ceiling fan clockwise will recirculate the warm air above you and help you feel warmer.

Let Your Windows Work for You
Open your curtains during the day to let natural light warm your home. Close them at night to improve insulation and keep warm air inside.

Don't Heat Unused Rooms
Close off the vents in rooms that are not often used so that you don't waste energy heating them.*

*Contact your HVAC system manufacturer to make sure this is ok for your system.

Have Some Soup or a Warm Beverage
Simply drink some warm tea or coffee or have some soup to feel warmer in no time.

Monthly Billing and Penalty for Late Payment.



- The bills on all monthly electric accounts will be computed and mailed to the address furnished by the member generally no later than the 9th day of the month. All bills are due and payable by the due date shown on the bill and are delinquent the following day.
- A charge of 1.5% per month will be added to any outstanding balance remaining as of the day after the due date. Notice of this charge will be printed on each statement.
- Delinquent notices will be mailed the day after the due date that is on your bill on **ALL** delinquent accounts, giving notice that if payment is not received or arrangements for payments are not made, service may be discontinued.
- To ensure your payment is received on time every month, Big Horn has flexible payment options. Please check our website for the ACH Form, for our online payment options or give us a call and we can help set you up.

Rebate Changes? Yes, you heard that right!

As part of our commitment to our members, Big Horn REA along with our power supplier Tri-State Generation & Transmission, is proud to offer rebates! There will be a few changes when it comes to rebates.

Starting with a timeframe change the 120-day period will be shortened to 90 days for any consumer-member applications.

Air source heat pumps

- 1st tier--standard air source heat pumps must have HSPF greater than or equal to 9.0 and SEER greater than or equal to 15. If it is 2 tons or less the incentive will be \$675. If it is greater than 2 tons, the incentive will be \$1,800.
- 2nd tier--cold climate must have a HSPF that is greater than or equal to 10.0 and SEER greater than or equal to 16. If it is 2 tons or less the incentive will be \$1,000. If it is greater than 2 tons, the incentive will be \$2,400. Cold climate definition--minimum of 3 stages or variable speed.
- Air-to-Water and GSHPs are staying at per ton
- The size is based on considering unit only. Indoor cassettes or air handlers do not count towards total size.

Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE)

- There will be an increase Level 2 residential rebate to \$1,000 total for Managed chargers. A managed program can include TOU rate enrollment or direct control. All residential single-family L2 rebates cap at 50% of combined equipment and installation cost.

Realign DCFC incentives goes as follows:

- 50-75 kW maximum output \$3,000
- 76-149 kW maximum output \$5,000
- 150 kW+ maximum output \$7,000

Commercial Lighting

- LED eligibility/approval with Design Lights Consortium (DCL) listing is required. DLC logo must be on the spec sheet or present in the DCL database. There will be a removal of T-12 upgrade *bonus* incentives.

Other changes

- We've added riding mower specific rebates and the incentive will be 25% of cost up to \$1,000. If there is an additional battery it will be 50% of cost up to \$1,000. The batteries must be submitted with original, equipment rebate application within the 90-day time frame from equipment purchase. Battery-only applications will not be accepted.
- The electric forklift incentive will increase to \$5,000. While the electric pallet jacks qualify at \$1,500.

Removal of Rebate Products

- Sometimes we must get rid of products to try rebates for something else. Products to be removed:
 - All electric resistance water heaters will be removed except for fuel switching and managed programs. Air conditioners, terminal heat pumps, dishwashers, refrigerated case or cooler ECM motors, employee education reimbursements and truck stop electrifications.

New Pilot Programs

- Smart thermostats are something new. The incentive will be \$25 and may be increased to \$50 if part of an active managed program. It includes line-voltage thermostats, limit of 2/5 (standard/line-voltage) per member account.
- Whole house fans are new as well! The incentive for these is \$100 and replacement or new installations qualify.



**Big Horn REA
offices will be closed
Monday, February
21st in observance
of Presidents' Day.**



Watt's Cookin'

— At Big Horn REA —

Recipe

DIRECTIONS

“Dotti’s Jalapeño Popper Dip”

Ingredients:

2 pkgs (8 oz each) cream cheese softened	1 can (4 oz) chopped green chilis
1 C mayo	½ C shredded parmesan cheese (divided)
½ C shredded cheese	½ C seasoned breadcrumbs
1 can (4 oz) diced jalapeño peppers	1 Tbsp olive oil
Corn chips, tortilla chips or crackers	

Directions

1. In a large bowl beat the cream cheese, mayo, cheddar cheese, chilis, peppers and ¼ cup parmesan until blended. Spoon into ungreased 1 ½ qt. baking dish.
2. In a small bowl combine breadcrumbs, oil, and remaining parmesan. Sprinkle over cheese mixture.
3. Bake uncovered at 350° for 20-25 minutes or until a golden brown.

DOTTI BROWN



Whether you've made a payment, made arrangements, or called the office, you've probably spoken to Dotti. Dotti oversees

billing and has worked for Big Horn REA for almost 6 years.

What do you bring to your co-op?

Positive attitude, I am a people person and enjoy talking to our members, growing up in the area has helped, and I am willing to learn new tasks to help do my job better.

What is the best thing about working at Big Horn?

The crew is fantastic! Our goal is to make sure we are communicating well with our members.

What is your favorite meal from childhood?

Basically, anything my mama made, but especially her chicken fried steak and mashed potatoes.

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BIG HORN RURAL
ELECTRIC COMPANY

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For Outages or Trouble

Call the office number: **ANYTIME**
(307) 568-2419 or 1-800-564-2419

After 5 p.m., weekends and holidays all calls will be answered by our professional answering service, who will contact the appropriate person(s).

Big Horn Rural Electric Company is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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