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RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

Manager's Message *Happy Holiday*

by Darick Eisenbraun



Inside:

- High Plains Power Gives Back 2
- Story Behind the Switch. 3
- Holiday Tips 3
- Understanding Power Surges..... 4

From all of us at High Plains Power, Happy Holidays and we wish you a safe and happy New Year!

High Plains Power offices will be closed December 26th as well as January 2nd.



Happy Holiday's to all our members!

I hope this find you well and looking forward to a holiday season surrounded by loved ones, good food and the spirit of Christmas! At High Plains Power we are reflecting on 2022 and looking forward to the opportunity to serve your needs in 2023.

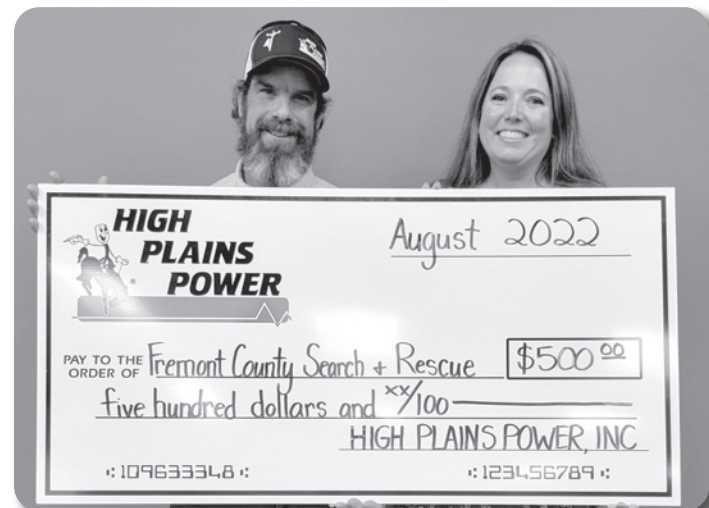
I want to take this opportunity to share with the membership a strategic change that the HPP Board of Directors took in 2022. In a time when we are seeing costs of mission critical materials increasing anywhere from 10 to 70 percent, our business model is under unprecedented costs pressures. And as most of you know without raising rates to our members to cover those costs, we are forced to make tough cuts to our budget. One of those cuts that our members will see directly is the WREN magazine. In an effort to improve our communications and messaging, the Board has chosen to bring our newsletter and other marketing efforts in-house at High Plains. While members will no longer receive the monthly WREN magazine, we will share our messaging through a variety

of different platforms in an effort to reach more of our membership.

Starting in February 2023, we will be including our newsletter in all physical copies of our bill, electronic bills, the SmartHub app, social media channels, and our website. Our business model is changing at a faster pace than any time in our history. With these increased changes we want to communicate with our members in the most transparent and easily accessible manner possible. While change is never easy, we must continue to evolve for the benefit of our members.

We thank you for your continued support during these challenging times and we will continue to do everything possible to serve our members in the safest, most reliable, and most affordable way.





Riverton lineman Bobby LaMar makes a donation to Fremont County Search and Rescue

Dubois foreman Doug Cooley and Customer Service Rep Janna Finley make a donation to Dubois Volunteer Fire Department



Dubois lineman Dean Eulberg donates money to Dubois Boys and Girls Club

Casper foreman Gabe Bouse makes a donation to Wyoming Foundation for Cancer Care



STORY BEHIND THE SWITCH

Michelle Pastor presents Story Behind the Switch to elementary students.



In November, High Plains Power sent a group of linemen and administrators to visit Wheatland REA to observe Story Behind the Switch, a class taught by Michelle Pastor from Tri State G&T. Our team

had the opportunity to observe both Michelle's class and a class put on by Becky Condie and Al Teel from Wheatland REA at Libbey Elementary School. We are building a curriculum to offer in our schools. Stay tuned!



COOK UP ENERGY SAVINGS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

- Clean oven burners regularly.
- Match the pan size to the burner you're using.
- Use small appliances like slow cookers and toaster ovens when possible.

From our table to yours, Happy Thanksgiving!

Holiday Safety Tips:

Some good ideas for holiday decorating – please be sure to check your light strings and extension cords. Make sure that there are no broken lights, and that the cabling is in good condition and there are no cracks or splits or wires showing. Make sure that you have plenty of clearance around any electric based decorations. Also be careful not to overload your power circuits. We wish you a safe and happy Holiday season!

Understanding Power Surges and Blinks

Have you ever noticed your lights blink during a thunderstorm? Or perhaps you've noticed a blinking microwave clock when you arrive home. When this happens, you've likely experienced a brief disruption to your electric service, which could result from a power surge or blink. While the symptoms of surges and blinks can appear similar, what's happening behind the scenes can be quite different.

What's a power surge?

Power surges are brief overvoltage spikes or disturbances of a power waveform that can damage, degrade or destroy electronic equipment within your home or business. Most electronics are designed to handle small variations in voltage; however, power surges can reach amplitudes of tens of thousands of volts--this can be extremely damaging to your electronic equipment.

Surges can be caused by internal sources, like HVAC systems with variable frequency drives, or external sources, like lightning and damage to power lines and transformers.

High Plains Power encourages all members to install surge protective devices (such as surge protector power strips) to safeguard your sensitive electronics. If you're experiencing frequent surges in your home or business and you believe the cause is internal, contact a qualified electrician to inspect your electrical system.

What's a power blink?

Power blinks are also brief service interruptions, but they're typically

caused by a fault (short circuit) on a power line or a protective device that's working in reaction to the fault. Faults can occur through a variety of instances, like squirrels, birds or other small animals contacting an energized power line; tree branches touching a power line; or lightning and other similar events. In fact, when it comes to power disruptions caused by critters, squirrels reign supreme. In 2019 alone, squirrels were responsible for more than 1,200 outages.

Any of the events noted above

can cause your power to blink, but you may also experience a brief interruption when protective devices that act like circuit breakers are working to detect the fault. Believe it or not, these brief power blinks caused by protective devices are actually good because that means the equipment is working as it should to prevent a prolonged outage.

Regardless of the cause, High Plains Power crews will be on their way to inspect the damage and make necessary repairs after a power outage.



Generate Safely.

Never use a portable generator indoors.

Do not plug generators into standard electrical outlets.

Use heavy-duty extension cords to connect appliances into the generator.

Start the generator before connecting appliances.



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Ideas, questions and comments are welcome.

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