

HIGH PLAINS POWER CURRENT



Your Source for Cooperative News

Wildfire Mitigation Planning Critical to Cooperative

Electric cooperatives are dedicated to delivering safe, reliable, and affordable power to their communities. Wildfire mitigation ensures that power lines and other infrastructure are protected from potential fire hazards, reducing the risk of outages and damage.

Legislation like the Fix Our Forests Act aims to protect cooperatives from excessive financial penalties that could arise from wildfires. In Wyoming, HB0192 aims to enhance wildfire mitigation efforts. By implementing and documenting a Wildfire Mitigation Plan, co-ops can gain access to appropriate insurance and protect their members from bearing the financial burden of natural disasters.

Wildfire mitigation is not just about policy; it's a shared responsibility. Legislation helps co-ops enhance grid resilience and community protection, ensuring that residents and businesses are safeguarded from the devastating effects of wildfires.

The legislation helps streamline the process for co-ops to obtain federal permits to modernize their systems and make them more resistant to wildfires.

Overall, wildfire mitigation legislation is essential for electric cooperatives to ensure safety, reliability, financial protection, and community resilience against the threat of wildfires.

Annual Meeting Scheduled for April 19, 2025

HPP is moving its annual meeting back to April, in hopes that it is a more favorable meeting time for farmers and ranchers. Annual Meeting will be at the Fremont Center, Fremont County Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 19, 2025. Doors will open at 10am, the meeting will start at 11am.

Annual Meeting is a good opportunity to hear about what is affecting the cooperative in 2025. There is a lot going on with energy markets, political change and potential consolidation of cooperatives. The boards for the three cooperatives involved in the consolidation

process will vote to exit or continue the process at their March Board Meetings. There will be more information on this at the annual meeting.

The annual meeting structure will be similar to last year, people can register until the meeting starts at 11am. There will be breakfast snacks and drinks, the annual raffle and giveaways. There will also be meal vouchers for local restaurants for those who register for annual meeting as well as a \$25 door credit for attending!

We hope to see you there!

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Substation Maintenance and Upgrades

Substations, like any other part of our power infrastructure, require regular maintenance and updates to operate efficiently. Each substation is inspected monthly by our substation technicians. They test and inspect equipment for wear and tear and replacing worn equipment as needed. They also work to install upgrades to equipment that will enhance system notifications. They are currently working on adding an Advanced Data Management System (ADMS) to gather advanced data metrics to help increase system reliability and provide more timely information. These upgrades will help with reliability and outage management.



(pictured : Ramsey Allen and Nick Becker, HPP Sub Techs)

They implement and adhere to safety protocols and procedures, including the use of personal protective equipment and isolation of energy sources, to prevent accidents and ensure compliance with regulatory standards.

HPP Sub Techs are Journeyman linemen, who complete four years of coursework to become certified through a program with Tri-State G&T Cooperative. HPP has three substation technicians, located in Riverton and Thermopolis who manage the substations in HPP territory, covering over 12,000 square miles.

Winter Safety Tips

- With heaters and everyday appliances in use, it's easy to overload circuits. Signs of overload include flickering lights and tripped breakers. Spread out the use of high-wattage appliances across different circuits.
- Always place space heaters on a flat, stable surface away from flammable materials. Never leave them unattended and plug them directly into wall outlets, not extension cords.
- Keep outdoor outlets and cords clear of snow and ice. Use weatherproof covers for outdoor outlets to prevent moisture from causing electrical faults.

