



Kilowatt Korner

MAY 2021

Minimal April showers will bring May flowers but also predictions of summer fire danger for the White River Valley. WREA encourages all members to take extra care with their outdoor activities this year. Electric cooperatives around the state endured devastating wildfires last summer with miles of burned power lines and hundreds of lost homes. While we can all do our part to help prevent wildfires, WREA takes additional affirmative steps to address fire danger through the management of our electric system.

WREA works throughout the year to mitigate fuels within our electric rights of way with our tree trimming program. Please call WREA if you see trees too close to power lines and WREA will promptly respond to determine if it is a tree that requires trimming. WREA also monitors wildfire conditions to adjust its electric breakers to more sensitive “fire settings” so the system can quickly detect line interferences. These efforts mitigate fire dangers but can also result in power fluctuations and outages. WREA does not anticipate more issues than normal but we do want to educate our membership about the cause of seasonal fluctuations and outages.

Lighting and wind remain the primary causes of summer outages, but fire settings can increase outages. WREA appreciates that outages are an inconvenience, but these steps are necessary to proactively address increasing fire dangers. WREA is proud of its 99% overall reliability ratings and WREA’s dedicated line crews are prepared to restore power as quickly as possible. WREA’s advanced outage management system helps WREA respond to issues by sending real time information to headquarters. WREA will continue to closely monitor the fire danger and change the settings to match the corresponding danger. If your power does go out, please remember the basic common-sense tips such as keeping the fridge and freezer door shut as well-insulated fridges and freezers will keep things cool for several hours. Consider installing surge protectors to address power fluctuations for more sensitive technology or unplug if it is not consistently used. WREA is committed to the safe and reliable operation of our electric system and we appreciate the supportive role our members play in mitigating seasonal fire dangers.

Most importantly, never hesitate to call WREA if your power goes out or if you are experiencing abnormal power fluctuations. The more information we have, the better we can improve our system and respond to your specific issues. WREA’s phones are answered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by our local employees or by our afterhours customer service representatives who are familiar with our system. Please also look to our website (wrea.org), our Facebook and Instagram pages for outage updates.

May is also the month that WREA sends out its Annual Meeting Notice and information about director elections including director qualifications. This fall, one Town of Meeker and one Rural District director will be elected. In 2020, the COVID pandemic required WREA to pivot from its traditional lunch meeting. Thank you to our membership for your commitment to last year’s election and democratic process. Also, a thank you for all the “likes” and views of our Annual Meeting video. Following last year’s positive response, we have decided to take the best of our traditional community gathering and collaborate with the Meekerpalooza Concert Series to add a WREA Member Appreciation Dinner to the July 23, 2021 Friday night concert. WREA will provide a complimentary dinner to all who attend the Friday night event as well as hand out WREA member appreciation gifts. The July 23rd event will be in lieu of our traditional lunch event at the Fairfield Center. WREA will host its Annual Business Meeting in the same virtual video format as we did last year with a mail-in ballot election. We will also draw names from those who mail in a ballot to select the winners of the WREA 4H Meat Boxes.

~ *White River Electric Association*