

OFFICES CLOSED ON COLUMBUS DAY

Fall River Electric offices will be closed Monday, October 13, 2025, in recognition of the Columbus Day holiday. Since 1937, Columbus Day commemorates the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the New World on October 12, 1492. The Italian-born explorer had set sail intending to chart a western sea route to China, India, and the fabled gold and spice islands of Asia; instead, he landed in the Bahamas.



As with all holidays, Fall River crews are on stand-by in case of a power outage. If you experience an outage, please call 800.632.5726 and a crew will be dispatched immediately.



SOFTWARE SYSTEM CHANGES PLANNED FOR 2026

Plans are currently underway for Fall River Electric Cooperative to make a change in early 2026 in the computer software that manages the accounting and bill paying functions for members. More information concerning these changes will be announced in future issues of the *FLASHES* newsletter.



BPA Sets Rate Increase To Be Effective October 1

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has adopted an 8.9 percentage (8.9%) wholesale power rate increase to Fall River Electric, which will go into effect October 1. This is in addition to a 19.9 percent (19.9%) increase in transmission rates. BPA said the rates were developed through a series of settlements among ratepayers, of which Fall River Electric's management was actively engaged.



Fall River Electric's Board of Directors will meet to determine how these new rates will impact the owner-members of the Co-op. The Cooperative is in the best financial position it has ever been, which will help mitigate the impact of these new wholesale power and transmission increases.

BPA is Fall River Electric's primary power supplier and is a federal wholesale utility that receives no congressional appropriations and must recover its costs through its rates.

Safety At Harvest Time



Fall weather means harvest time on the farms in Fall River Electric country. Do not let the harvest turn dangerous when electrical hazards are overlooked. Many of our member farmers employ seasonal workers to help with the harvest. Be sure everyone on the farm is kept safe by sharing these tips:

- Look over your work area for overhead power lines and power poles.
- Make sure there is ample clearance when moving equipment in and out of fields, including combines, grain augers, balers, front end loaders, and any other large machinery.
- As pivots and hand line sprinkler pipes are moved from the fields to allow for harvest activity, be sure to caution workers to not have them come in contact with overhead power lines.
- Be extra careful when working around trees and brush that can obscure power lines and transformers.
- And, if a piece of machinery you are operating encounters an overhead power line, **DO NOT** climb out. Stay where you are and call for help.

New Board Officers Elected

Congratulations to Brent "Husk" Crowther of Rexburg for being elected the new president of the FRE board of directors, succeeding Georg Behrens. Jodi Stiehl of Island Park was elected as vice president, and Island Park resident Jeff Keay was elected secretary/treasurer. Crowther and Stiehl previously served as board officers. Keay, however, is new to his position as Secretary/Treasurer. The board is responsible for the long-term strategy and financial stability of the Cooperative, which is owned by the customers it serves.

Fall River Electric's CEO/General Manager Bryan Case commended Behrens. "On behalf of the other eight members of the Co-op's board, we express our deepest gratitude to Georg for his steady leadership over the past two years. Under his direction, the Cooperative has achieved several major milestones, including a comprehensive review of our wholesale power supplier options, development of a long-range technology plan, and noteworthy progress on our multi-year transmission system upgrade," Case said.

These officers will serve until the June 2026 annual business meeting.



Brent "Husk" Crowther



Jodi Stiehl



Jeff Keay



Where Service Matters

800-632-5726
208-652-7431

ASHTON

1150 North 3400 East
Ashton, ID 83420

DRIGGS

1605 N Highway 33
Driggs, ID 83422

WEST YELLOWSTONE

436 Madison Ave
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

All Our Offices Are Open

Monday - Friday
8:00am - 4:30pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Husk Crowther
District 1
Rexburg/Rigby
President

Travis Markegard
District 2
West Victor



Georg Behrens
District 3
East Victor

Anna Lindstedt
District 4
East Driggs



Brent Robson
District 5
West Driggs/Tetonia

Dede Draper
District 6
Ashton



Jodi Stiehl
District 7
South Island Park
Vice President

Jeff Keay
District 8
North Island Park
Secretary/Treasurer



Doug Schmier
District 9, West Yellowstone

Bryan Case
Fall River Electric
CEO/General Manager



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Keep up to date, including on power outage information, by "liking" Fall River Electric on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fallriverrec.

www.fallriverelectric.com

September Is National Preparedness Month



Flooding in Texas and New Mexico, tornadoes in Missouri and Kentucky, wildfires in the West—they all add up to natural disasters that are all too commonplace. Recently, Fall River Electric has had to implement the Co-op's Wildfire Mitigation Plan multiple times whenever the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has issued Red Flag Warnings for the Co-op's service area. Are **YOU** ready for a natural disaster?

If you need to get to safety quickly, you need to have easy access to a well-stocked basic emergency supply kit. Here are the items your kit should include, according to *Ready.gov*:

- **Water:** one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- **Food:** at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or **hand crank radio** and extra batteries
- **Flashlight** and extra batteries
- **First aid kit**
- **Whistle** to signal for help
- **Dust mask** to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- **Moist towelettes**, garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation

Take Safety Home: Be Bear Aware

Bears are a part of living, visiting, and recreating in Fall River Electric's service territory. Be bear aware by following these safety tips.

- Store all food, toiletries, and garbage in bear-proof containers or inside your car or pickup when camping.
- Travel in groups when hiking, make noise, and always carry bear spray.
- Be extra cautious near water, and during dawn and dusk, when bears are most active.

If you encounter a bear, stay calm and back away slowly while talking to the bear in a calm and steady voice. Stand tall while raising your arms to appear larger, while accessing your bear spray canister.

- **Manual can opener** for food
- **Local maps**
- **Cell phone** with chargers, inverter, or solar charger

Do not wait, communicate. Make your emergency communications plan today!

Here are a few simple steps to start your family's emergency communication plan:

- 1. Understand how to receive emergency alerts and warnings.** Make sure all household members are able to get alerts about an emergency from local officials.
- 2. Discuss family/household plans for disasters that may affect your area and plan where to go.** Plan together in advance so that everyone in the household understands where to go during a different type of disaster like a wildfire, flood, or winter storm.
- 3. Collect information.** Create a paper copy of the contact information for your family that includes cell phone numbers, email address, school contacts, and medical service providers. Provide a copy to every member of your family.
- 4. Identify information and pick an emergency meeting place.** Things to consider:
 - Decide on safe, familiar places where your family can go for protection or to reunite.
 - Make sure these locations are accessible for household members with disabilities or access and functional needs.
 - If you have pets or service animals, think about animal-friendly locations.
- 5. Practice your plan.** Have regular household meetings to review your emergency plans, communication plans, and meeting place after a disaster, and then practice, just like you would for a fire drill.



If the bear charges you fight back if it is a black bear. If it is a grizzly bear, play dead by lying on your stomach with your hands behind your neck and remain as still as possible. Do not move until the bear leaves.

Bears are part of our ecosystem and are usually not dangerous unless surprised or are protecting their cubs or food source.

