GARLAND LIGHT & POWER CO.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Power Pointz

News From
Garland Light & Power Co.

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Caring for Your Home's Electrical System as It Ages

To help prevent injury and illness there are things we know we have to do to care for ourselves, especially as we get older. Our homes also have to be maintained to stay in good shape, and an important part of that maintenance includes a home's electrical system.

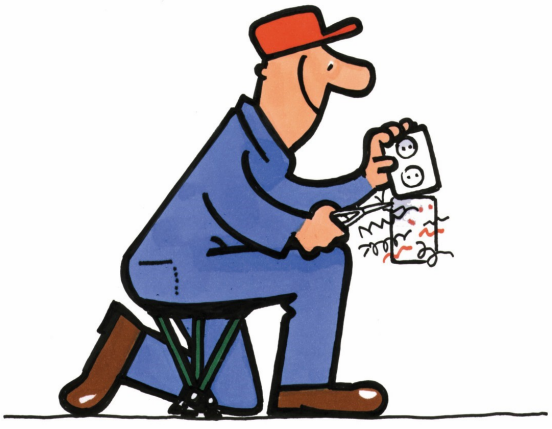
The National Association of State Fire marshals reports that older homes are more than three times more likely to have an electrical fire than newer homes. An electrical system's insulation can eventfully wear out from a variety of factors including age, animal gnawing and overloaded circuits.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, with increasing energy consumption the electrical demands on older homes can have an impact on the household wiring. The National Electric Code's minimum standard for residential electric service is 100 amps.

Be aware of the signs of electrical wiring problems, which include dim or flickering lights as well as a burning smell, smoke, shocks or discoloration when using an electrical outlet or switch. Also, look out for frayed wires, breakers that trip or blow and signs of potential rodent damage that may affect insulation.

To check on the status of your home's electrical system, contact a qualified electrician to perform an electrical inspection of your home. The U.S. Consumer Product and Safety Commission (CPSC) suggests the following timeframes for inspections:

- If the last electrical inspection of your home was 40 or more years ago, an inspection is overdue.
- If the last inspection was 10 to 40 years ago, an inspection is recommended, especially if your electrical demands have increased significantly or you have noticed any of the warning signs of electrical problems.
- If the last inspection was less than 10 years ago, an inspection should not be needed unless you have noticed any of the warning signs of an electrical problem or any temporary wiring has been added.
- The CPSC further suggests that if you are not sure when the last time your home had an electrical inspection, you might be able to find a label or tag with that information on your electrical panel door or cover. If there is no label or tag, then use the age of the house as a guide to the probable need for an inspection.
- To learn more about home electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



As we kick off Spring 2019, we are excited to be working on a project that started back in 2013. For several years Garland has known that the Kysar Substation located north of town needed to be replaced. It was determined that the substation which had been in service since the 1970's and contains transformers from the 1950's would be costly to rebuild and was not in the best location on the system. The cost of a new substation can be overwhelming for a small cooperative like Garland so we were fortunate when Tri-State, our power supplier, suggested that Garland tap the Tri-State 115 kV transmission line that runs from Big George south of Cody to Lovell. The substation will be built, owned, and operated by Tri-State.

The past few years have been spent finding a suitable location, engineering the site and tie-line that will connect the substation to our existing line, and filing the necessary paperwork with various agencies involved in the permit process. In February, we received great news when the Park County Commissioners approved the Special Use Permit needed in order for Tri-State to proceed with their plan. We are hoping construction can begin in August with an in-service date of December 2019.

This substation will allow the linemen greater flexibility when it comes to maintaining the lines, will serve as a back-up to both Ralston and Garland Substations, and its location will better support future growth on Garland's system. While Tri-State won't begin their construction until summer, you will see your linemen working on the tie-line and our side of the substation in the coming months.

Speaking of linemen, April 18th is Lineman Appreciation Day. This day honors the men and women who put their lives at risk in order to keep the power on. This occupation is on the list of most dangerous jobs in America since linemen frequently work with high voltage power lines often high off the ground. Your linemen are on call 24/7 and are called out in severe conditions for vehicle accidents and house fires in addition to line outages. We especially appreciate the time they spend called away from their families. If your power is on – Thank A Lineman.

And one more thing, as we begin another irrigation season and see all the farmers out in their fields, the Board and Staff would like to wish them all a productive and prosperous growing season. Your hard work and dedication are appreciated by your communities.

"*Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals & happiness." – Thomas Jefferson*

Don't forget to LIKE us on

DOWNED POWER LINES-Accidents, severe storms, and other disasters can cause power lines to come down. With one wrong move before, during, or after a disaster, a life can be lost. Know the right steps to take to keep you and your family safe: If you see downed power lines, or other damaged electrical equipment, notify Garland Light & Power as soon as possible because the lines could still be live.

- Just because power lines are damaged does not mean they are dead. Stay away, and instruct others to do the same.
- Power lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live and dangerous.
- Downed power lines, stray wires, and debris in contact with them all have the potential to deliver a fatal shock. Stay clear of fallen power lines and damaged areas that could hide a hazard. Be alert during clean-up efforts.
- Treat all power lines as if they are energized until there is certainty that power has been disconnected.
- If a power line has landed on the ground, there is the potential for the area nearby to be energized. Stay far away, and warn others to do the same.
- Do not attempt to drive over a downed power line.
- If you are driving and come along a downed power line, stay away and warn others to stay away. Contact emergency personnel or Garland Light & Power to address the downed power line.
- If power lines should fall on your vehicle while you are driving, do not attempt to drive away or get out. Call for help, and stay inside until utility crews say it is safe to get out. The only exception would be if fire or other danger, like the smell of gasoline, is present. In that case, the proper action is to jump—not step—with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Jump clear. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the vehicle and ground at the same time. Hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Summer Hours

Garland Light & Power is changing to a 4/10 work week from April 29 to Oct 7

Hours of operation will be:
7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday
Closed on Fridays

Standby crews will be available from Friday through Sunday for outage situations by calling:

754-2881

How Much Electricity Does a Penny Buy?

What does a penny buy these days? Not much. The government can't even make a penny for a penny anymore. According to the U.S. Mint, it now costs 1.5 cents to produce one.

About the only thing of value you can still get for a penny is electricity. You might call it "penny electricity."

Using Wyoming's average rate of a little over 12 cents per kilowatt hour, you get 60 minutes of 1,000 watts of electricity for 12 cents. That means a single penny of electricity equates to 83 watts. That is enough to power a 9-watt LED lightbulb (the equivalent of a 60 watt incandescent bulb) for 9 hours, all for only a penny.

A penny's worth of electricity allows you to fully charge your iPhone more than 15 times or once every day for a year for just over 24 cents. Or you could charge your average laptop, with its far larger screen, for only $9 a year.

Not impressed? For only a penny, you can power a 1,000 watt microwave oven on high for five minutes; run a 200 watt desktop computer for 15 minutes; or watch an hour of your favorite show on a 79 watt, 42 inch LED television.

Unfortunately, we don't always appreciate electricity. When our monthly electric bill comes, we open it and may complain about the cost. We don't stop to think about the value we received for the money.

Since electric co-ops first brought electricity to rural Wyoming, wages and the cost of living have risen substantially, However, one thing hasn't changed much ; the value of electricity. And today, a penny still has a lot of value when it comes to buying the electricity to power your life.

Your cooperative is a proud member of WREA Wyoming Rural Electric Association