

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

We are committed to the wellbeing of our members and employees to provide safe, reliable power and maintaining the company's financial strength.

#### How to reach us

Garland Light & Power Co. 755 Highway 14A Powell, Wyoming 82435

307-754-2881

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Office hours: 7:00am-5:30pm

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# **Power Pointz**

**July 2021** 

# Pole Position: What's It Take To Make The Move?

Distribution poles can be found all along roads and neighborhoods, bringing power into homes and businesses. To keep the system working properly, Garland Light & Power regularly inspects the lines and occasionally finds a few poles that need to be replaced. If a pole needs to be replaced, GLP does its best to keep members in service while the lineworkers get the job done.

Poles need periodic replacement. Weather disasters like lightning, storms and tornados can cause major and immediate damage. Car crashes, equipment changes, and highway relocation are also reasons why a pole may need to be replaced.

When a pole is hit by a car, it can cause an electric outage. The outage time depends on how long it takes to get a crew to the site, how much is connected to the pole, and the conditions the line crews are working in.

It usually takes about four hours on average, but it can take as long as six hours if there is a lot of equipment connected to it. Even poles that don't suffer major damage will lose some of their strength after being subjected to the

elements over the years.

GLP replaces about 60 old poles a year. A total of 700 poles were inspected last year in accordance with the operation plan.

When replacing poles one guy will run the digger truck, while the rest of the crew works on framing and setting the pole



setting the pole. Once the pole is set, depending on what all is on the pole, one to two guys will go up and do the overhead work on the new pole while the others keep an eye on them for safety reasons. At least one guy on the ground is required to keep an eye on the guys in the air.

To report an outage, please call our 24/7 phone number at 307-754-2881.

### Three Home Energy Hogs

As you search for ways to cut costs, your energy use might provide some potential opportunities for savings. Even if your home is extremely similar to a neighbor you may find your energy bills are much higher. This may come as a surprise, but you could have a hidden energy hog eating away at your bank account. These energy hogs that may be increasing your energy use include:

#### Old refrigerator or freezer in the garage

That second refrigerator or freezer may be costing more than you think. If the model was produced prior to 1990, it's likely using twice as much energy, or more, than a newer EnergyStar® rated model. If it's located in the garage, it may run constantly in the summer, which could lead to higher electric bills.

#### Cooling or heating an uninsulated area

Cooling or heating an uninsulated workshop or garage can be expensive. To give you an example, during a past energy audit, it was discovered that the homeowner heated an uninsulated shed to keep several half empty buckets of paint from freezing. He was paying more to keep his paint warm than the paint was even worth. Pet owners have been known to heat and cool an uninsulated garage to keep pets comfortable, not realizing that it might be costing more than heating their actual home. If you really want to heat or cool these types of spaces, they need to be well insulated and efficiently heated and cooled, perhaps with a ductless mini split system.



#### **Pumps**

If you live on acreage or on a farm, you probably have several pumps, including irrigation, well, septic and sump. If you're like most of us, you use those pumps until they break down. Consider replacing the oldest and most used pumps over time with new, more efficient ones, that are sized

correctly for their task. Also, make sure you're eliminating leaks in the water lines, which make pumps work harder and longer.



### 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.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# PAYING A DELINQUENT BILL!

**Don't wait too long.** A job GLP employees and some customers dread each month is the collection of delinquent electric accounts.

Prior to doing collections, GLP notifies the customer by mail. We send a notice with the amount listed that is owed.

When you pay by the due date you keep money in your pocket because you will not pay these additional charges.

#### TRIP CHARGES

Collection Charges	\$100.00
Reconnect Charges	\$100.00
Overtime Reconnect Charges	

If you are struggling to pay your bill, please contact our office to discuss options and community assistance programs that may be available to you.



# Don't forget to call 811

Building a deck? Planting a tree? Installing a mailbox? 811 is the number you should call before you begin any digging project.

Every digging job requires a call, even small projects like planting trees or shrubs. If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt services to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for repair cost.

Remember 48 hours notice is required before you start to dig.

## **Summer Hours**

Garland Light & Power is currently on a 4/10 work week from May 3 to Oct 4

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

### Remodeling? Keep Efficiency in Mind

Sunny days are prime time for tackling remodeling projects, upgrades and repairs around your home. If you're planning a project, make a point of adding energy efficiency features along the way. Here are a few ideas:

- Add insulation around recessed lights so heated or conditioned air doesn't leak out of them and the weather can't sneak in.
- Install programmable thermostats when you add rooms to the house. While you're at it, have the thermostats in the rest of your home upgraded to programmable models.
- Your contractor will install more insulation in any new spaces you're adding than your builder did during the original construction of your home. Consider adding insulation to already-insulated areas, like the crawlspace and attic, to meet new energy efficiency standards.
- A new kitchen means shiny new appliances. Select those rated as energy efficient EnergyStar®, which use less energy than unrated models. (We also offer rebates on EnergyStar® appliances)
- If your older home still has single-pane windows, consider an upgrade. Double-pane windows are more energy efficient because they better shield your home form the outdoors and keep your conditioned air indoors.
- Replace old lightbulbs in your more-used rooms with LEDs. They last 10 years or longer and save considerable energy when compared to incandescent bulbs.
- Work with a contractor who understands how passive solar design can affect your energy bills. Rooftop solar panels, sunrooms and skylights are popular additions.
- Add or upgrade ventilation fans in bathrooms. This can improve air quality throughout the home, not just the bathrooms, by removing moisture from the air.





