



# HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC NEWS & VIEWS

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hillcountyelectric.coop

## Save a Life: Avoid Distractions While Driving



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While driving, we typically hear that “ding” on our phone, alerting us to a text or call coming through, and we sometimes feel the urgent need to check it. We know we shouldn’t, but we reason that we’re going to make an exception—just this once.

So, why do we indulge in behavior we know to be wrong, dangerous and in many states, illegal? Call it hubris. According to AAA research, most people feel they are better-than-average drivers. After all, we have busy lives and are accustomed to multitasking. But mounds of research and thousands of deaths every year prove otherwise.

The reality is that using a phone while driving creates potential for injuries and fatalities. Distractions take a motorist’s attention off driving, which can make a driver miss critical events, objects and cues, potentially leading to a crash.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, one of every 10 fatal crashes in the U.S. involves distracted driving, resulting in more than 3,000 deaths annually. I find this statistic heartbreaking considering so many of these accidents could easily be avoided if we’d simply put down our phones while driving.

Distracted driving is considered any activity that diverts our attention, including texting or talking on the phone without\* being handsfree\*, and adjusting

the navigation or entertainment system. Texting is by far one of the most dangerous distractions. Sending or reading one text takes your eyes off the road for an average of five seconds. At 70 mph that is one tenth of a mile. That is a lot of road covered without any eyes on the road or hands covering the wheel of the vehicle.

In addition to refraining from texting while driving, we can help keep the roads safe by moving over for first responders and other emergency and utility vehicles. If you see utility crews conducting work near the roadside, it is now the law in Montana that you must move over and slow down and give them extra space to perform their work safely.

At Hill County Electric, safety is foremost in everything we do—for our employees and the members of the communities we serve. It is Hill County Electric policy that there will be no texting and driving. We routinely remind our crews of the dangers of distracted driving, and we hope you’ll have similar conversations with your teens who may be new to the roadways and are especially susceptible to the lure of technology.

Let’s work together to keep everyone safe on the roads. **Remember: that text can wait and waiting just might save a life. If it is that important, pull over in a safe spot, stop the vehicle, read the text and return the text if necessary before you get back on the road.**

**Don’t put your life or others lives in danger.**

As always, stay safe and stay healthy!

# 4 KEY FACTORS That Impact Energy Bills

You pay for the electricity you consume each month, but there are additional factors that impact your energy bills.



## Fuel Costs

Before electricity can be delivered to your home, it must first be generated at a power plant or from a renewable source. The cost of fuels used to generate electricity fluctuates, which is why you see a power or fuel charge on your monthly bill. This monthly charge covers cost fluctuations without having to continually restructure electricity rates.



## Service Costs

Your bill includes a monthly service charge, which recovers part of the co-op's ongoing investments in poles, wire, meters, system maintenance and additional costs necessary to provide electric service.



## Weather

When temperatures soar or dip, your cooling or heating equipment must run longer and at maximum capacity, which can greatly increase your energy use. Extreme temperatures can also affect electricity market prices. When the need for electricity increases due to extreme heat or cold, the price of power typically rises.



## Energy Consumption

This is the amount of electricity you use each month to power your home's cooling/heating system, appliances, lighting, electronics and more. The amount of electricity you consume is measured in kilowatt-hours, or kWh. You have control over how much energy you use, which can ultimately help manage your monthly costs.

## Hill County Electric General Retirement

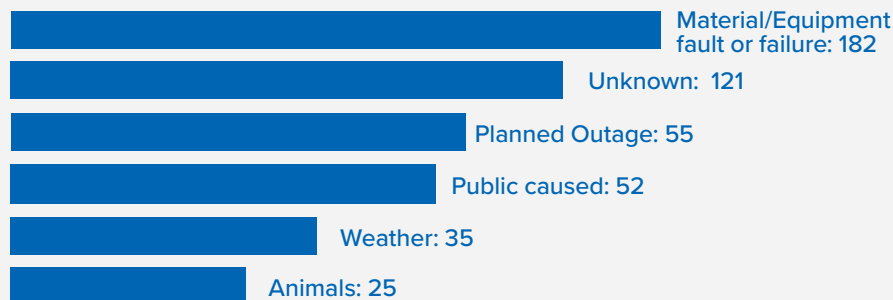
Hill County Electric General Retirement (dividend) checks were mailed out Friday, May 19, 2023. Only checks for \$5.00 and over were printed. The checks are green and white with a description of what the capital credits are, how they are refunded and the beginning and ending balance on your account.

HCE is refunding a Total Retirement of \$469,715.32 for the following years:

- 100% of 1989
- 50% of 1990
- 0.5% (one half of one percent) of 1991-2021

## HCE Happenings

Last month, Hill County Electric (HCE) had approximately **470** account hours affected by outages. Of these hours:



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know fall is the perfect time to schedule a tune-up for your heating system? Home heating accounts for a large portion of winter energy bills, and no matter what kind of system you have, you can save energy and money by regularly maintaining your equipment.

Combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings can save about 30% on your energy bills.

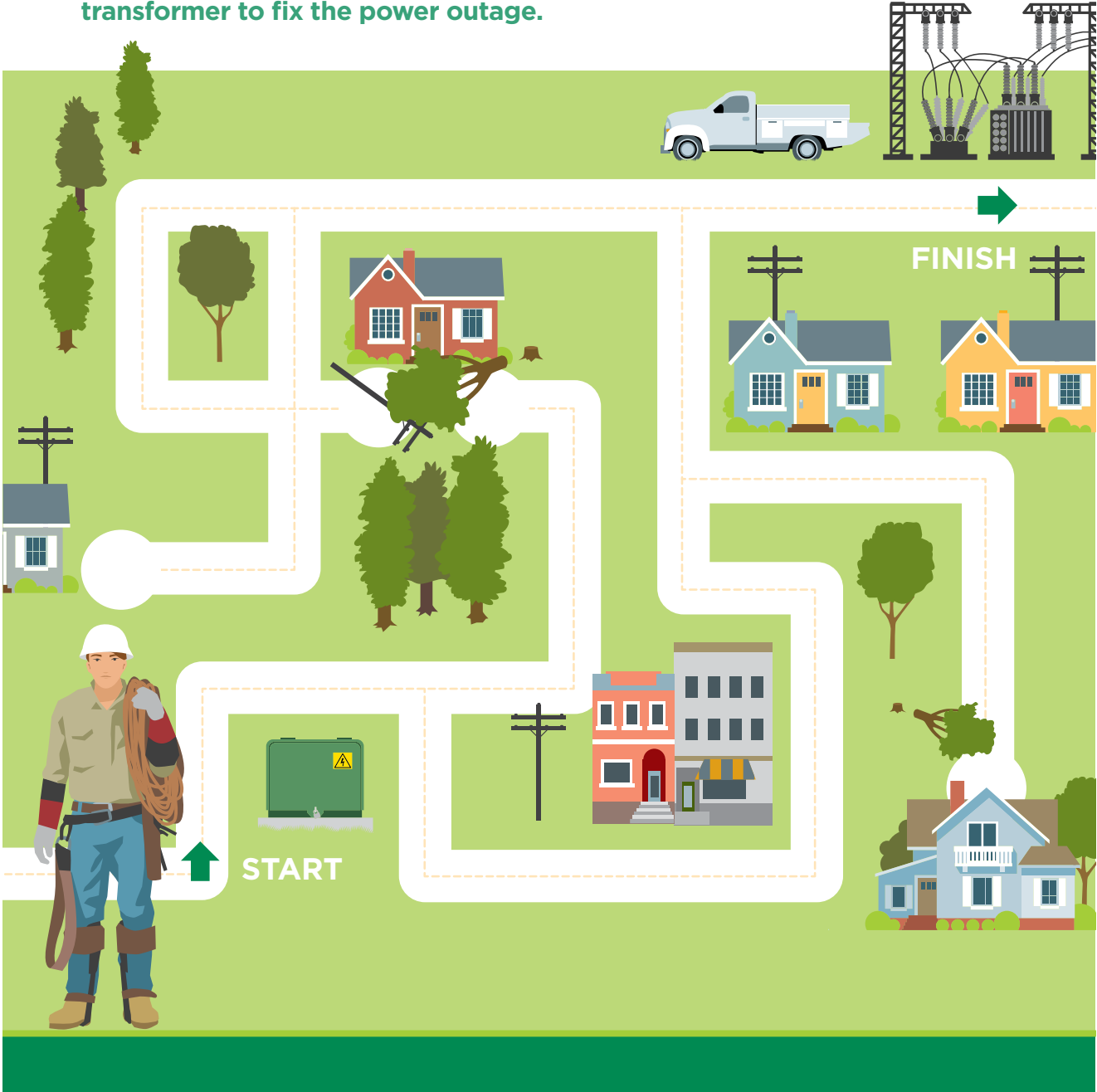
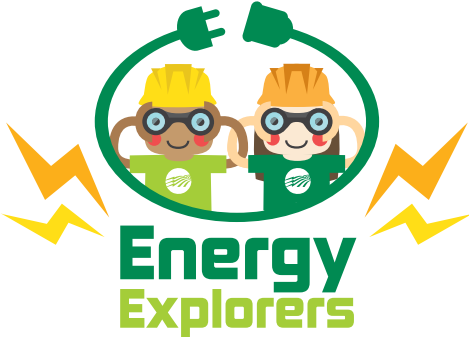
Source: Dept. of Energy



# HELP THE LINEWORKER RESTORE POWER

Occasionally, severe weather can cause power disruptions. When outages occur, our lineworkers get to work! They restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

Help the lineworker reach the transformer to fix the power outage.



# Swap and Shop

Welcome to our Swap and Shop! Feel free to post and find classifieds from other members! Ads submitted online are usually added within 2 to 3 business days.

Due to print deadlines and space available, some ads may appear in the next month's magazine.

\*Denotes photo available on website

### 7Up Refrigerated Cooler and more

Nice original 7up soda pop refrigerator cooler out of an old grocery store, asking \$650. Also have Cushman scooter parts for sale. Firebird original snowflake wheels, \$350.00. Call 406.350.1392.

### Musical Instruments, Books and misc

Yamaha FG800 guitar and case, \$125.00. The Old West (Time-Life Books) 27-volume set plus Master index, \$150.00. Bamboo Lupaca pan flute, 21 pipes with case, \$110. Can text photos. Call 406.622.5093 or 406.231.0969.

### 1979 CJ5 Jeep with winch

1979 CJ5 Jeep with winch, steel cab and roll bar. New tires, batter, starter, fuel pump and windshield. Runs good. Also and 1989 Dodge short box V8 auto. All original, great shape with seats and carpet in excellent shape. Very hard to find one like this, runs great. No rust 87K, 2nd owner. 1980 Case 446 tractor with 46 inch mower and hydro, 16 hp. Good tires and paint, always inside, \$1,500. Call 406.350.1392.

### Whole & Half Pork For Sale

Farm raised in Havre, processed at the Saco Pay and Save. Processing in June and October. Whole \$450 plus processing and half is \$250 plus processing. You receive appr. 150 lbs of meat per whole hog. I deliver processed meat locally and area between Saco and Havre on pickup day. Contact Twyla at 406.230.2281 (text or call). Also on Facebook.

### Hunting Lease Wanted

Respectful, honest group of sportsmen seek long-term yearly hunting lease for elk, deer and other game. We are willing to compensate a landowner well for premier hunting. We will work with landowner to manage game and allow period(s) for landowner and family to hunt, Contact David at 406.263.2133, serious inquiries only.

### Craftsman Zero Turn Mower

42", 22 HP, 130 hours, rear bagger. Asking \$1,800, call 406.378.3122.

### 2005 Crestliner 1950 Sportfish\*

Purchased new in 2009, one owner. Includes a boat cover, 200-horsepower Mercury Motor, one 9.9 Mercury Kicker motor, a 24-volt trolling motor, and 2 depth finders. Many accessories included, call 406.262.4015 or see in person at 700 Cleveland Road.

### In Search of Pickups and Parts

1949 to 1959 Chevrolet or GMC 1/2 ton pickup or just parts. Call 406.326.2287.

### 2016 Starweld Boat

18 Pro Merc 150 (20 hrs) Merc 9.9 kicker, minn-kota troll, 4 seats, ram mount rod holders, bimini top, travel cover, shorelander trailer. Asking \$32,000, call 406.566.2426.

### 1955 Ford 600 Series Tractor with Ford loader

Does not run but not seized, good tins. Asking \$1,500, call 406.566.2274.

### 1985 Ford F150

4x4 1985 Ford F150 4x4, 300-6, 4 speed, good body, very little rust, front dif bad but have used one for replacement. Parked because of starter/solenoid issue 12 years ago. Asking \$5,000, call 406.566.2274.

### 1967 Ford F100

1967 Ford F100 4x4, 360, 4 speed, upgraded front and rear difs, power front disc brakes, very little rust, 2-inch front lift. New 235 8SR16 tires on new white spoke wheels. Runs great but leaks oil and water. Located in Stanford, asking \$10,000, call 406.566.2274.

### 1980 Case 446 Tractor

1980 Case 446 tractor 2 cycle, 16hp, hydro with 48-inch mower. New battery, always stored inside, nice tires, set and paint. Call Mike at 406.374.2458.

### Tires For Sale

Four 33x12.50R17 General Grabbers at 95% on black aluminum rims, 5x5.5 bolt pattern. Asking \$1,200, call 406.566.2274

### Boys Bike and Misc For Sale

Boys bike, needs tire repaired, \$100. Brown barrell chair, \$129. Lowry Holiday Organ, Yamaha Digital Piano, \$500. Call 406.366.4625.

### Sanger Speedboat

Sanger Speedboat, asking \$6,000 or best offer. Call 406.378.2572.

\*Photos available on our website version of the Swap & Shop ([www.itstriangle.com/swap-and-shop](http://www.itstriangle.com/swap-and-shop))

Swap & Shop is a classified advertising section of the Triangle Communications and Hill County Electric websites and newsletters. It is maintained as a service to customers and communities wanting to buy, sell and announce non-commercial items. To have an ad included, simply enter all the pertinent information on the online form. An administrator will review the information within two business days and if approved, the ad will then appear. It will stay online for 60 days unless you notify us to remove or change it. It will also appear in any of the newsletters printed during that 60 day window. Triangle reserves the right to abbreviate ads and if the section is full, we will display ads on a first come, first-served basis. If you're unable to enter your ad online you may mail or e-mail it to us using the contact info inside the front cover of this magazine. Happy swapping and shopping.