



Member Newsletter

March 2021

Sierra Electric Cooperative, Inc.

"Owned by Those We Serve"

General Manager

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8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

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The Board of Trustees meets the third Friday of the month at 8:30 a.m. in the Cooperative boardroom.

Notice of Change Deposit Refund Process

In accordance with NMAC 17.4.410 Residential Customer Service by Gas, Electric And Rural Electric Cooperative Utilities and NMAC 17.9.560 Service Standards for Electric Utilities, Sierra Electric Cooperative, Inc. will refund deposits to any customer who has not been chronically delinquent for the twelve-month period from the date of deposit by promptly crediting the electric account with the deposit amount together with accrued interest due. If the amount of the deposit exceeds the amount of the current bill, the customer may request a refund in the amount of the excess if such excess exceeds twenty-five dollars (\$25).

This new procedure has changed from our previous procedure of refunding the deposit amount together with accrued interest due in the form of a check.

Daylight savings time begins March 14, 2021.

to help your body adjust to daylight saving time

- 1. Don't change your schedule**
Stick to regular waking, eating, sleeping and exercise times.
- 2. Have a nighttime routine**
Prepare your body for sleep by engaging in a few relaxing activities before hitting the hay.
- 3. Avoid long naps**
Keep naps short (between 20-30 minutes) to avoid disrupting your sleep schedule.
- 4. Get some natural sunlight**
Sunlight helps regulate your body's internal clock.

If you are on a time of use rate schedule, your on-peak hours (higher rate) will be 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Please adjust your electric usage appropriately to save money and energy!

Boat & Dock Safety

- Water is a powerful conductor of electricity. It is especially important to be aware of electrical hazards around water.
- Watch the forecast and make sure you are inside when a thunderstorm approaches. Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the area in which it is raining. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder or lightning before returning outdoors.
- When boating or fishing, be aware of your surroundings and potential electrical hazards. Always check the locations of nearby power lines before boating or fishing.
- Maintain a distance of at least 10 feet between your boat and nearby power lines.
- If fishing, make sure you are casting the line away from power lines to avoid potential contact.
- Always lower masts of sail boats before using boat ramps to exit the water.
- If your boat comes in contact with power lines, never jump out of the boat into the water – the water could be energized. Instead stay in the boat until help arrives and warn others to stay away.
- Ensure proper installation and maintenance of electrical equipment on docks and boats. All electrical installations should be done by a professional electrical contractor familiar with marine codes and standards and should be inspected at least once a year.
- Have a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) breaker installed on the circuit(s) feeding electricity to the dock. A GFCI will trip the circuit and cut off power quickly if there is a problem.
- The metal frame of docks should be bonded to connect all metal to the AC safety ground at the power source.
- Neighboring docks can also present a shock hazard. Make your neighbor aware of the need for safety inspections and maintenance. Marinas and docks should comply with the National Electrical Code (NEC) and NFPA standards.
- Check cords that are plugged into docks to make sure there is no broken casing or exposed wires.
- Regardless of the size boat, maintenance of the electrical system should be done by a professional familiar with marine electrical codes.
- Boats with alternating current (AC) electrical systems should have isolation transformers or equipment leakage circuit interrupter (ELCI) protection, comply with ABYC standards, and should be serviced by an ABYC Certified Tech.
- Fuses are rated to protect the wire, not the appliance. If a fuse blows continuously, it should NOT be replaced with a larger one just to keep it from blowing again – something else is wrong. It needs to be checked out.
- Have your boat's electrical system checked at least once a year. Boats should also be checked when something is added to or removed from their systems.
- If you are swimming and feel a tingle. Get out of the water as soon as possible. It may be electricity leaking into the water. Swim away from potential sources of electricity.
- If someone is suffering from electric shock, do not enter the water to rescue him or her. The water may be energized, and you could be shocked or electrocuted yourself. Shut off power at the source, and then use a fiberglass sheard's hook to pull the victim out of the water.



POLE INSPECTIONS

Attention Members in Winston, Chloride and Poverty Creek: Annual pole inspections will be occurring sometime in March and April. We hire outside contractors to access our equipment, so you may notice the contractor arrive in a truck, then walking or riding an ATV going from pole to pole, however, the truck should be displaying a Sierra Electric Cooperative decal. Feel free to contact Operations Manager Travis Luna if you need more information.

