

# PRECorp News

FEBRUARY 2019

## 2018 power reliability improves dramatically

By Tim Velder, PRECorp Marketing Communications

PRECorp members experienced fewer and shorter-lived power outages in 2018 compared to the averages from previous years, according to data from the cooperative's System Operations team.

In 2018, PRECorp crews responded to 1,088 outages. PRECorp members on average, were without power for about 169 minutes in total for 2018; that's a little more than 2½ hours per member for the entire year.

These numbers are a dramatic decrease from outage reports from 2017, which show 1,123 outages, leaving members nearly 5 hours (296 minutes) without electricity for that year.

"PRECorp employees continue to work hard every day to storm harden the electrical system," said PRECorp VP of System Operations Rich Halloran. Halloran said line crews and design technicians work together to perform

preventative inspections of all distribution lines and service drops, all the way up to large substations and high-voltage transmission lines. "The substation inspections are correcting problems where a more widespread outage could instantly knock out hundreds of meters on an entire circuit," Halloran said.

In general, the power interruptions for members can be placed in one of two categories: controllable and uncontrollable.

Controllable outages are due to maintenance, construction, high-load moves, aging equipment, and danger trees. Controllable outages are down significantly from five years ago because of preventative maintenance programs and planning for grid redundancies for faster power restoration.

**Continued on page 4...**

Regular business: 1-800-442-3630 • Report an outage: 1-888-391-6220

[www.precorp.coop](http://www.precorp.coop)

### In This Issue

CEO Straight Talk

Town Hall meetings set

Meat drawing

Lineman Scholarship

Drive safely

Scholarship information



**MIKE EASLEY,**  
CEO

X Prize Foundation Chairman Peter Diamandis says he becomes demoralized by organizations that start off with a mission only to retreat when they find it too risky.

To a large degree, facing risk head-on is Powder River Energy's philosophy in 2019 and our approach to the future of the cooperative. Our member-owners, and the broader service territory that we cover in northeast Wyoming, has a different "bottom line." While our priority is always to provide reliable and safe energy, there is another equally important part of this equation. As we navigate during times of high risk, your well-being and that of the larger community that we serve are of paramount concern.

In 1945, Tri-County Electric and Sheridan-Johnson Electric cooperatives were founded to fulfill a vital need to enhance the quality of life in our communities that would not have otherwise been met. It was a risk, but concerned local leaders came together to build these cooperatives and bring electricity and all its benefits to Northeast Wyoming. Later, in 1995, those cooperative directors took another leap of faith to merge their cooperatives into Powder River Energy Corporation, ultimately forming the largest electric cooperative and second largest electric provider within Wyoming.

Over time, folks in the community may have come to think of us as simply another energy provider. But we are not. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the communities and members we serve. We are truly looking out for you.

This is why we hold the Annual Meeting, quarterly Telephone and Facebook Live town halls with you, our member-owners, regular meetings with commercial and industrial members, and briefings with state and federal officials. We host events like this to engage with you and obtain your feedback. The integration of Wyoming Health Fairs and a rural healthcare component to our 2018 Annual Meeting was very well received by our membership.

We strive to find new ways to lessen the trajectory of rising costs and to help you use energy more efficiently.

We hope to do even more in 2019.

PRECorp is always looking to explore more options, advanced technologies and data systems that will help you manage your energy use such as SmartHub, advanced metering infrastructure, and remote outage management. PRECorp's Vision and Strategy were designed to serve you.



**I invite you to view a 3-minute animated video which tells our vision story. Watch the video on YouTube. Just search for "Powder River Energy vision."**

PRECorp members help guide important co-op decisions that improve and enrich the community. As a local business, we have a stake in the community.

That's why we created the Powder River Energy Foundation and programs like Operation RoundUp®. Since 2007, this partnership has given donations of nearly \$1 million to local charities, non-profit organizations, and community-based groups who need funding to complete their missions. The funding comes from our Operation RoundUp® program, unclaimed capital credits and other fund-raising sources. The support of the PRECorp Foundation does not impact electric rates.

Plainly stated, when you support Operation RoundUp® or donate your capital credits, you are supporting the community and making it a better place for everyone, without increasing your electric rates.

While the world we live in appears to be in constant and rapidly accelerating change, we view our role as a catalyst for good. Working together, we can accomplish great things for you and the communities we serve, now and in the future.

*Mike*

## Events calendar

The PRECorp Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. rotating between the offices in Sundance, Gillette, and Sheridan. Meetings might be moved to avoid conflicts with state or national cooperative events. The tentative dates for 2019 are as follows:

- February 19 - Gillette**
- March 18-19 - Sheridan**
- April 16 - Sundance**
- May 21 - Gillette**
- June 17-18 - Sheridan**
- July 16 - Sundance**
- August 20 - Gillette**
- September 16-17 - Sheridan**
- October 15 - Sundance**
- November 19 - Gillette**
- December 16-17- Sheridan**

### Other events to remember:

- **Monday, February 18** - All Employee Meeting, PRECorp Offices closed.
- **Wednesday, February 27:** Telephone Town Hall, 6:30 p.m., call 1-855-312-2107.
- **Friday, March 29:** Application deadline for *PRECorp Scholarship* and *Swanda Scholarship*. Swanda Scholarship applicants must be Crook County high school seniors entering ag-related studies in post-secondary schools.
- **Saturday, April 27:** PRECorp Apprentice Lineman Scholarship Banquet, 5 p.m., Gillette Cam-Plex Energy Hall. See Page 5 for complete details.
- **Saturday, June 1:** Durham Ranch Buffalo Stampede 5K/10K walk/run, 7 a.m. at the ranch north of Wright. Fundraiser for the PRECorp Foundation. Go to [www.precorpfoundation.org](http://www.precorpfoundation.org) for more information.
- **Saturday, August 24:** 74th PRECorp Annual Meeting, Buffalo High School.

## 2019 Telephone Town Hall Meeting dates set

PRECorp members are invited to participate in quarterly Telephone Town Hall meetings with CEO Mike Easley.

Mike will be live on the phone to take your questions and explain the cooperative's activities for 2019.

The meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. on the following dates:

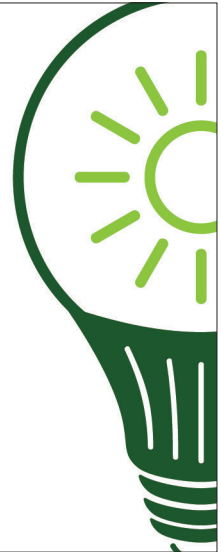
- Wednesday, February 27;
- Wednesday, May 22;
- Wednesday, August 21;
- Wednesday, November 20.

Members will receive a telephone call at the beginning of the meeting. If you would like to join the call, dial 855-312-2107, or watch and comment live on the PRECorp Facebook page.

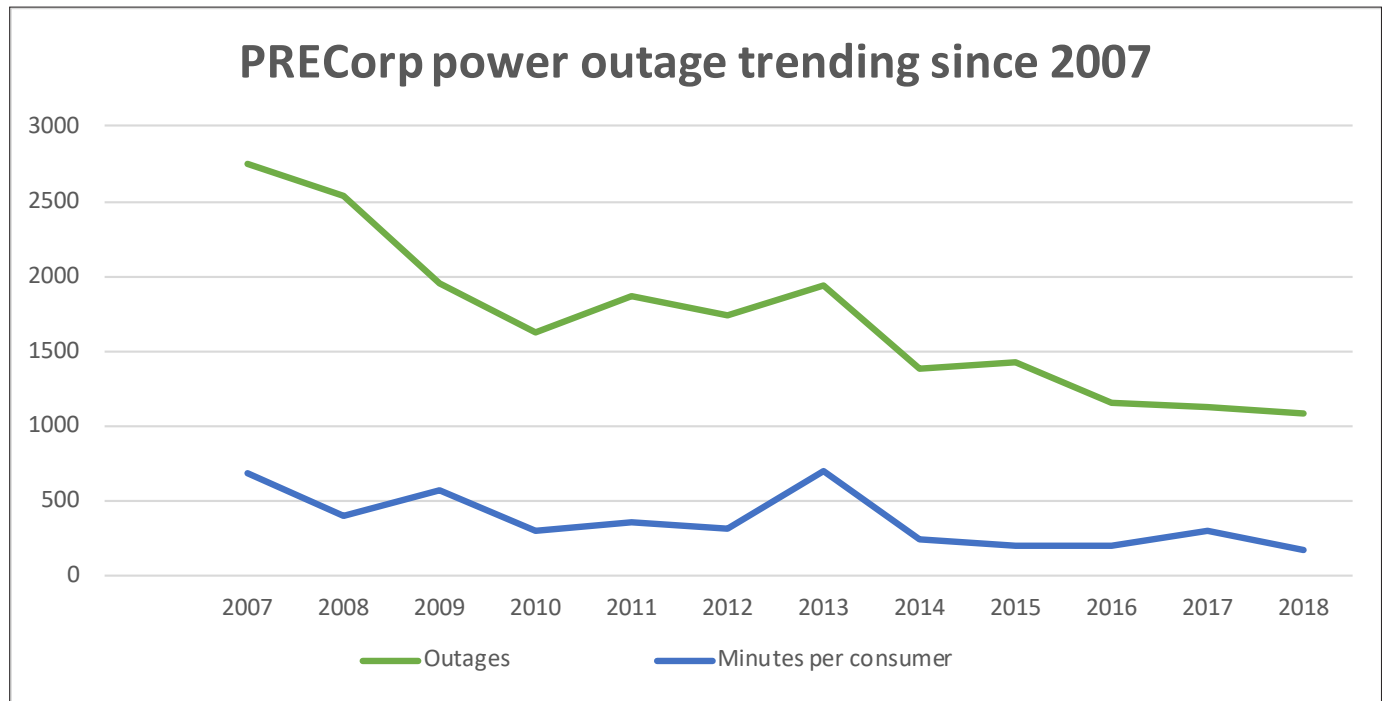
## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You'll spend less time running the dryer for lighter-weight items, which saves energy.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



**CO-OPS** = OWNED BY MEMBERS  
 COMMITTED TO OUR COMMUNITIES



## Reliability stats...

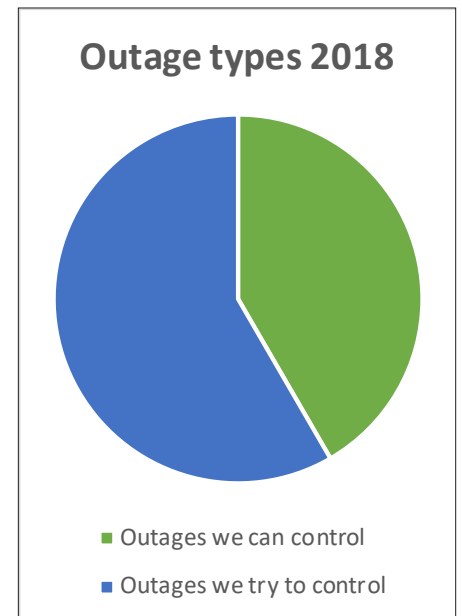
from page 1.

Uncontrollable outages are due to weather, animals, or damage by the public. Weather is by far the largest single threat to PRECorp lines. As a rural electric cooperative in northeast Wyoming, members are spread far and wide, with miles of line going through rugged countryside exposed to the harsh climate.

However, with that problem in mind, PRECorp is working to lessen the impact with automated metering infrastructure or AMI. Over the next two years, PRECorp is phasing in the installation of a system that can speed up the response and repair times for outages. The AMI creates a long-term communications network where individual meters can notify PRECorp System Operations the location of an outage as it happens, which reduces analysis and response times.

Animals and people are two other factors when they accidentally damage the system. PRECorp is a responsible citizen when it comes to protecting animal species from touching high-voltage power equipment. In 2018, 41 animals caused outages. In response, the cooperative installs additional protective devices on places animals want to go in pursuit of food and shelter.

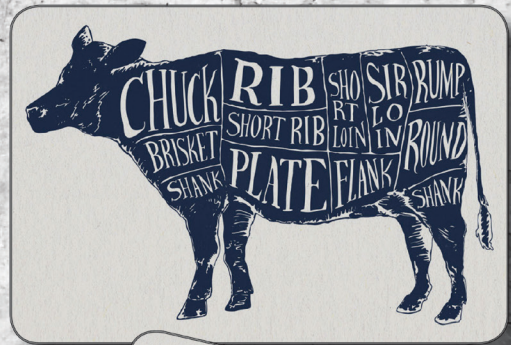
People are the most important priority when it comes to electrical safety. Human-caused outages outnumbered those caused by animals in 2018. Many were due to accidental contacts with poles, overhead or underground lines. Six motor vehicle accidents knocked out power in 2018. PRECorp regularly reminds the public of the dangers of overhead power lines, and our staff would gladly offer field safety demonstrations for any organization upon request.



This is all part of the PRECorp purpose of positively influencing and improving the lives for those we serve by providing reliable energy and services, while paving the way for access and affordability.

# Sign up for Operation RoundUp® and win a 25-pound bundle of Beef and Pork. (Valued at \$100)

Powder River Energy is offering Operation RoundUp® members and new enrollees a chance at a free bundle of locally-raised 4-H beef and pork, just because you are a part of the monthly contribution network to the Powder River Energy Foundation. If you are currently enrolled in Operation RoundUp®, or you sign up by 5 p.m. Friday, March 29, you will be entered in the drawing on Monday, April 1. If you are not a member of Operation RoundUp®, **SIGN UP NOW** by checking the box on your bill, or by calling PRECorp at 1-800-442-3630.



## 2018 Christmas Meat Giveaway winners:



Stephanie L., Gillette



Karen B., Gillette



Sandra D., Aladdin

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual**



# 2019 Apprentice Lineman Scholarship Banquet

**SATURDAY, APRIL 27 - 5 P.M.  
GILLETTE CAM-PLEX ENERGY HALL**

**5 p.m. - Social hour, no-host bar**

**6 p.m. - Dinner**

**Auction - Following dinner, there will be raffles and auction opportunities for many guns and other prizes.**

**EVENT TICKETS:  
\$50 per person  
Call Bruce Olson at  
307-680-4747  
or Alyssa Himle at  
307-257-9693**



**LINEMEN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

## Why donate?

Help us maintain a scholarship fund for future generations. Help us provide funds for scholarships for locally-grown apprentices who live, work, and contribute to our northeast Wyoming communities.

Keep our best and brightest in our communities where they can be active citizens and leaders. Train quality and hard-working linemen that provide safe and affordable electricity to rural northeast Wyoming.

This program is an employee-based initiative that supports the cooperative's mission and vision of being an employer of choice throughout the region and enhance service to our member/owners.

The Apprentice Lineman Scholarship Program is administered through the Powder River Energy Foundation, the charitable arm of Powder River Energy Corporation.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



A Helping Hand for Northeast Wyoming

**Buy a banquet ticket and get a chance to win a commemorative rifle!**



## SPECIAL DRAWING!

**Special limited-entry drawing for a Street Legal  
2019 Polaris Ranger 900 Side-By-Side.**

**\$100 per ticket with only 250 tickets sold!**

**For tickets call Bruce  
at 307-680-4747  
or Alyssa at  
307-257-9693.**



**Street Legal!**

**Reliable and smooth,  
yet powerful enough  
to get the job done.  
From the fun and  
adventure  
enthusiasts at Peak  
Powersports of  
Sheridan.**

Drawing will take place April 27, 2019, if 150 tickets are sold. The drawing will be held later once 150 tickets are sold. Need not be present to win.

# Drive safely; be cautious at accidents

At PRECorp, our primary concern is for the well-being of equipment operators, drivers, and passengers, whose lives and health are threatened in an accident.

Drivers who are distracted, inexperienced, careless, impaired, or overconfident on slick roads run the risk of colliding with another vehicle, or careening into a ditch.

Accidents require emergency responders and PRECorp crews to clear the scene, replace the broken poles, and restore power to the scores of members whose homes and ranches are darkened by the accidents.

Below are some life-saving facts to know if you are involved in or discover an accident.

## Be safe

While no driver can pick the place their automobile accident will happen, there are measures to keep in mind when driving on hazardous roads:

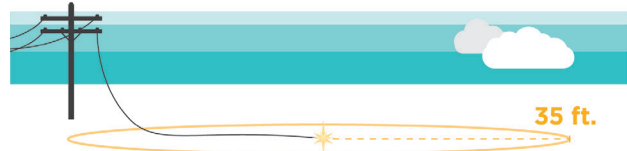
- Use your seat belt every time you get into your vehicle.
- Stay focused. Do not use your phone or dashboard controls if they pull your eyes or attention off the road.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface (wet, ice, sand, gravel).
- If your vehicle starts to slide, always look and steer where you want to go.
- Leave time and distance to slow down. It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.
- Double the following distance behind the cars in front of you. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Applying the gas slowly helps regain traction and avoids spin outs.
- Know your brakes. Whether you have antilock brakes or not, the best way to stop is to keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.

## Know the hazards at an accident scene:

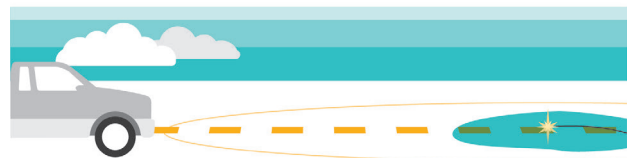
- If you come in contact with a power pole, line, or ground-level transformer, or come upon an accident of this nature, be very careful. Call 911 immediately.

## Downed and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 ft.** away – so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item – this will not prevent injury or death!

Source: ESFI.org

- **STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE!** Unless the vehicle is on fire, do not get out of your vehicle if a power line is near it.
- Do not touch or attempt to move a downed line.
- Stay back from the scene. Stepping in the direction of a downed power line exposes you to the risk of deadly voltages.
- Use caution. Fight the urge to escape or rush in until you have surveyed the area for potential hazards.

# Deadline reminders for 2019 scholarships

Powder River Energy Corporation facilitates many scholarships for eligible high school and college students from northeast Wyoming.

To apply for any of the scholarships, students must satisfy the required criteria and complete the scholarship application. Updated 2019 scholarship information is available online at: [www.precorp.coop/student-scholarships](http://www.precorp.coop/student-scholarships).

Descriptions and deadlines for upcoming scholarship deadlines follow:

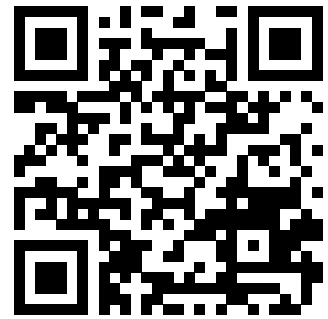
## **Swanda Scholarship - \$2,500**

To a Crook County High School senior planning to enroll in agricultural or animal science studies at a university or vocational/technical school in Wyoming, North Dakota, or South Dakota. Seniors at Sundance High School receive preference this year on the program's rotating schedule. However, all seniors from Crook County are encouraged to apply. **The filing deadline for the Swanda Scholarship is March 29, 2019.**

## **Powder River Energy Corporation/Foundation Scholarship - \$1,500**

To qualifying seniors and college students from 14 high schools and at-large students in its service territory. Applicant's parents or legal guardians must be PRECorp members. **The deadline for Powder River Energy Corporation Scholarship is March 29, 2019.**


For scholarship information and applications, go to [www.precorp.coop/student-scholarships](http://www.precorp.coop/student-scholarships) or scan the image below.



**Powder River Energy Corporation offices will be closed on Presidents' Day, Monday, February 18, for the annual All Employee Meeting. To report an outage call 1-888-391-6220.**

**Regular business: 1-800-442-3630  
www.precorp.coop**



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**Powder River Energy Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**