



# NorVal Electric Cooperative, Inc.

MAY 2026



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## REDUCING THE RISK OF WILDFIRES

Gone are the days when wildfires were primarily confined to the western United States. Rising temperatures, prolonged drought and shifting weather patterns are creating dangerous conditions in places that historically experienced few major fires. Today, more than 30 states, including Montana, are facing an elevated risk of wildfires. The reality is clear: wildfire risk is no longer regional—it is national, and it demands action from all of us.

At NorVal Electric Co-op, protecting our members and the communities we serve is our highest priority. As we recognize National Wildfire Awareness Month in May, we want you to know that wildfire mitigation is not seasonal work for us. It is a year-round commitment embedded in how we operate and invest in our local system.

One of the most important ways we reduce wildfire threats is through our comprehensive vegetation management program. Overgrown trees and power lines are a dangerous combination, particularly during dry and windy conditions. Throughout the year, NorVal crews proactively trim and remove vegetation that could come into contact with power lines and other critical infrastructure. This

work requires careful planning, coordination with property owners and ongoing inspection. While it may not always be visible, it is one of the most effective tools we have to prevent fire ignition and maintain reliable electricity.

In addition to boots on the ground, NorVal is leveraging advanced metering technology to strengthen our system. We are deploying specialized Radio Frequency (RF) meters that monitor equipment performance and alert us to potential issues before they escalate. Our staff can detect abnormal conditions and dispatch crews quickly. These modern technologies help us approach our daily tasks from a proactive perspective—identifying risks early and addressing them before they become escalations or emergencies.

Wildfire mitigation also requires thoughtful public policy. Managing electric infrastructure in and around public lands can present unique challenges. That is why we support practical, commonsense solutions such as the Fix Our Forests Act, which would streamline the ability of electric cooperatives and other utilities to maintain power lines on federal lands and reduce hazardous “fuel” buildup. Policies that promote responsible land

management are an essential part of a comprehensive wildfire prevention strategy.

While we are committed to doing our part, wildfire prevention is a shared responsibility. There are important steps each of us can take to protect our homes and neighborhoods. Properly extinguish fires by dousing them with water, stirring the ashes and ensuring they are cool to the touch before leaving the area. Avoid outdoor burning on windy or excessively dry days. Maintain a defensible space around your home by clearing dry leaves, dead branches and other flammable debris. Use lawn equipment carefully, particularly during hot conditions, and always check local regulations for burn bans or restrictions.

Wildfires are becoming more complex and more widespread, but through proactive system management, smart investments, sound policy and community partnership, we can reduce risks and strengthen resilience. At NorVal, we take this responsibility seriously. Our members depend on us not only for reliable power, but for leadership in safeguarding the communities we call home.

***One spark can change everything. Be careful.***



COMING SOON OPPEIM



# 18TH ANNUAL MEETING



OCTOBER 27, 2026

🕒 11:30 AM Registration Opens

🍴 12:30 PM Lunch

👥 Business Meeting to Follow

**MORE INFO**

PN: 1(406)228-9351  
<https://norval.coop/news-events>



## MEMORIAL DAY



MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026

Our office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day!

**ENROLL NOW** *Budget* BILLING

MONTHS	ACTUAL	BUDGETED	PAID
NOVEMBER	285.87	\$200.00	\$200.00
DECEMBER	\$315.25	\$200.00	\$200.00
JANUARY	255.54	\$200.00	\$200.00
FEBRUARY	195.85	\$200.00	\$200.00
MARCH	\$171.12	\$200.00	\$200.00

### HOW IT WORKS:

When you sign up for NorVal Electric’s budget billing, your monthly payment is calculated by averaging your previous 12 months of energy use. With budget billing, your monthly energy costs are easier to budget and manage, especially during seasonal fluctuations when bills tend to increase based on the weather. Budget billing is a great option for anyone on a fixed income or those with highly variable seasonal needs. Call our office for more information or to enroll in budget billing.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MANAGERS

- District 1: Kevin Nelson 724-3202
- District 2: Sam Gundermann 724-3405
- District 3: Rick Molvig 367-5328
- District 4: Chris Christensen 648-7303
- District 5: Rick Stahl 762-7162
- District 6: Brian Miller 525-3797
- District 7: Rocky Kittleson 263-1510

Gretchen Boardman ~ General Manager  
 Nick Dulaney ~ Line Superintendent  
 Marie Donaldson ~ Office Manager  
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 406-228-9351

**Office Hours:** Monday - Thursday  
 7:00 AM - 5:30 PM

