

MANAGER'S MESSAGE: SPOTTING POTENTIAL HAZARDS IN YOUR HOME



Electricity plays many roles in our lives, from powering baby monitors, cell phones and lighting, to running HVAC systems and appliances. No

wonder we get so comfortable with its instant availability that when we flip a switch, we expect most systems or devices to do the job.

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and here at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, we think it's a great time to look around your home and check for potential safety hazards.

Remember, every electrical device has a purpose and a service lifespan. While we can extend their operations with maintenance and care, none of them are designed to last or work forever. When electricity is involved, failures can present electrical hazards that might be avoided with periodic inspections.

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters

Outdoor outlets or those in potentially damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom or laundry room often include GFCI features. They are designed to sense abnormal current flows, breaking the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years, but in areas prone to electrical storms or power

surges, they can wear out in five years or less.

Loose/Damaged Outlets or Switches

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these warning signs, it may be time to contact an electrician.

Surge Protectors

Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment like televisions, home entertainment systems and computer components from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules, and surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can effectively absorb. That means if your surge protector is rated at 1,000 joules, it should be replaced when it hits or passes that limit. When the limit is reached, protection stops, and you're left with a basic power strip.

Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they've stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replacement may be the best option.

Extension Cords

If you use extension cords regularly to connect devices and equipment to your wall outlets, you may live in an underwired home. With a

growing number of electrical devices connecting your family to the services you get from Mor-Gran-Sou, having enough outlets in just the right spots can be challenging. Remember, extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional or periodic use.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. If it shows any signs of frayed, cracked or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, a grounded cord will not provide the protection designed into its performance. And always make sure that extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the United States, causing more than \$1.3 billion in annual property damage.

Electricity is an essential necessity for modern living, and Mor-Gran-Sou is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power to all of our members. We hope you'll keep these electrical safety tips in mind so that you can note any potential hazards before damage occurs.

Jason Bentz



Mor-Gran-Sou Electric

202 6th Ave. W. – P.O. Box 297
Flasher, ND 58535-0297
701-597-3301 | 701-663-0297
1-800-750-8212
info@morgransou.com

Underground Line Locates
Toll-free: 1-800-795-0555 or 811

Officers and Directors

Chair..... Steve Tomac
Vice Chair..... Chad Harrison
Secretary-Treasurer..... Pam Geiger

Directors:

Mark Doll, Rodney Froelich,
Bob J. Leingang, Ryan Petrick,
Kathy Tokach, Casey Wells

Co-General Managers/CEOs:

Travis Kupper
Jason Bentz



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



MOR-GRAN-SOU AWARD SCHOLARSHIP TO GRADUATES

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the 2022-2023 student scholarship winners, whose families are member-owners of Mor-Gran-Sou. In the spirit of the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives value of commitment to community, Mor-Gran-Sou is proud to offer yearly scholarships to assist in developing rural leadership in our region.

Mor-Gran-Sou/Basin Electric scholarship

The winner of the Basin Electric Power Cooperative/ Mor-Gran-Sou scholarship award is Mandan resident, **Anna Bendish**. She will receive a \$1,000 scholarship in the fall of 2023. Anna is the daughter of Debra Ova. She plans to attend the University of Mary in pursuit of a degree in Radiological Technology.

Mor-Gran-Sou/WDUS/3C Construction scholarship

Two \$500 scholarships were made available, on behalf of West Dakota Utility Services and 3C Construction, to applicants who plan to attend a certified vocational or technical school. **Luke Maier**, was awarded a \$500 WDUS scholarship. Luke is the son of Saul & Sheri Maier. He plans to attend North Dakota State College of Science in pursuit of a degree in Diesel

Technology.

There was no applicant for the 3C Construction scholarship.

Mor-Gran-Sou high school scholarships

Mor-Gran-Sou offered one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from each of the high schools within our service area, for a total of seven \$500 scholarships awarded. This year's recipients receiving \$500 in the fall of 2023 are:

- Elgin-New Leipzig Public School – **Anna Schatz** plans to attend NDSU in pursuit of a degree in Crop and Weed Science. Parent/member is Amber and Brian Schatz.
- Flasher Public School – **Jayden Miller** plans to attend Bismarck State College in pursuit of a degree in Nursing. Parent/member is Todd and Carmel Miller.
- Glen Ullin Public School – **Gabrielle Kuhn** plans to attend North Dakota State College of Science in pursuit of a Dental Hygiene degree. Parent/member is Matthew and Theresa Kuhn.
- Hebron Public School – No application received.
- Mandan Public School – **Kylie Thompson** plans to attend Bismarck State College in pursuit of a degree in

the Medical field. Parent/member is Eric and Susie Thompson.

- New Salem-Almont Public School – **Levi Becker** plans to attend the University of Mary in pursuit of an Accounting degree. Parent/member is Darcy and Darla Becker
 - Selfridge Public School – **Mali Morse** plans to attend North Dakota State University in pursuit of an Education degree. Guardian/member is Videll and Victor Krosch.
 - Solen Public School – No application received.
 - Standing Rock Community/Fort Yates Public School – No application received.
 - Home School or outside MGS service territory – **Caitlin Ottmar** plans to attend the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, in pursuit of a Science degree. Her parents/member are Renee and Desmond Ottmar.
- Remember that two \$500 Luck of the Draw scholarship awards will be drawn during the Mor-Gran-Sou annual meeting.** Thank you to all the students who took the time to apply, and congratulations to this year's winners! Mor-Gran-Sou is proud to play a small role in supporting your educations and careers.

SAVE THE DATE

JOIN MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC
FOR YOUR ANNUAL MEETING ON
FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2023
PRAIRIE KNIGHTS CASINO & RESORT

MORE INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW.



POWER
FOR GENERATIONS