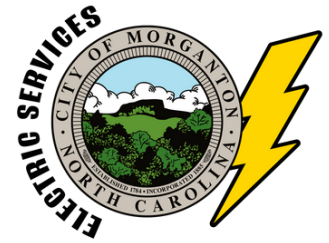


Electric Services Newsletter



My name is Brooks Kirby and I am the Electric Services Director for the City of Morganton. This is the first of my bi-monthly newsletters that will cover a variety of topics helping you to better understand how we bring you the best electric power into your home or business.

I have been the Electric Services Director for the City of Morganton since 2012 and it has been one of the best jobs I have ever had. I work with very dedicated people who have the privilege to serve each of you. The responsibilities of this position entails a lot of different aspects, but they all can be summed up in one short statement, "It is our job to make sure your power stays on." To do this requires working with the public, contractors, and city staff.

Within the Electric Department, we have several different positions including electric lineman, tree trimmers, technical crew, meter readers, etc. Electric lineman climb power poles to make repairs, adjustments or to replace parts. The technical crews work in the substations, on generators, inside City buildings, and respond to 811 call to locate electrical wiring underground.

Each month meter readers read the approximate 22,000 city electric and water meters. These employees have to work every day, in every kind of weather, to complete their monthly cycles. They also perform the disconnects and reconnects for customers. We also have a planning engineer and an administrative assistant who keep things flowing and running smoothly.

One of the ongoing tasks the department performs is the trimming and, if needed, the cutting of trees that interfere with power. Years ago, the city council passed an ordinance requiring a 15 foot clearance on both sides of the main overhead power lines. The department has a two man crew that works constantly to ensure the trees are trimmed according to these requirements. We strive to trim the limbs in a way that it does not damage the tree and take extra care to clean up the debris. Due to the number of trees in the City, the department employs a contract tree trimming crew to assist with these duties.

When a tree is causing trouble with your power, it needs to be trimmed or even cut down to restore your service. There are times when a tree starts to lean toward the power lines and it needs to be removed to prevent an outage and the costly damage that can happen where the tree could fall on the lines.

The employees in the Electric Department, and all the other departments in City, consider it a privilege to serve you. We work very hard year round to keep your lights on. It is our job to make sure you can cook your meals, wash your clothes, heat and cool your homes, and take care of your family.

If you ever need to reach the Electric Department, please call 828-438-5277. Please call or contact us with any concerns or comments.

Brooks Kirby

Electric Services Director

