Weathering a Winter Storm

When ice and heavy snow bring down limbs and power lines, safety is a consideration indoors and out. Make sure you know how to weather the storm.

*When outside, stay away from downed power lines:*

- A power line need not be sparking or arcing to be energized. Equipment near power lines can also be energized and dangerous.
- Lines that appear to be “dead” can become energized as crews work to restore power or sometimes from improper use of emergency generators. Assume all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous. If you see a downed or sagging line, call your cooperative.
- Motorists should never drive over a downed line, as snagging a line could pull down a pole or other equipment and cause other hazards.
- Be careful approaching intersections where traffic or crossing lights may be out.
- If you plan to use a generator, know how to operate it safely.

*Before a winter storm, have supplies on hand and know how to stay warm:*

- Always keep a battery-powered radio, flashlights, and a supply of fresh batteries. Also, have bottled water, blankets, and non-perishable food.
- To prevent water pipes from freezing, keep faucets turned on slightly, so water drips from the tap. Know how to shut off water valves in case a pipe bursts.
- Never use a charcoal grill to cook or heat with inside the home. Burning charcoal gives off deadly carbon monoxide gas. Charcoal grills should only be used outdoors.
- If you live with a child or elderly person, you may need to take them somewhere with power, so they can stay warm. If you are healthy enough to stay home safely, there are ways to stay warm: stay inside and dress warmly in layered clothing.
- Close off unneeded rooms.
- When using an alternate heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards, and be sure to ventilate properly.
What is Grid Resiliency?

Resiliency of the grid is one of the most popular concepts talked about in the electric industry today. This concept recently made headlines in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto Rico’s electric grid resulting in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history. Lack of resiliency became the go-to phrase to describe Puerto Rico’s grid. Here in Iowa, what does grid resiliency mean for you?

Resiliency is many things - it’s reliability in your electric service, it’s our ability to efficiently restore your power, it’s being able to meet the demands of new technology and it’s how we serve you with various generation sources without skipping a beat. Ultimately, resiliency is how we deliver on our promise to improve your quality of life.

When it comes to having a resilient electric grid, it begins with a system that is designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cybersecurity threats and other disruptions that could result in outages. A resilient grid is also flexible and adaptable by allowing different types of generation - such as wind, solar, coal and hydro - to seamlessly work together to provide you with safe and reliable power. The way our systems react to advancements in technology - from demand response investments to serving the needs of electric vehicles - all factor into the resiliency of our grid.

Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-days-a-year task. Whether it’s the power lines, substations or generation facilities on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly. With thousands of consumers without power for months, the lack of resiliency in Puerto Rico’s power grid wasn’t solely caused by hurricane damage; it was the result of years of neglect in taking care of their system and preparing for a worst-case scenario.

In a similar way to how we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, inspections and tire rotations, a grid must also be properly maintained. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct pole and line inspections. Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes one. For example, if we find a weak pole that has damage from termites, we replace that pole. Doing so ensures that pole is as strong - or as resilient - as it can be.

Living in Iowa, we know that significant power outages can occur during any time of the year. Whether we’re at the mercy of a tornado or ice storm, we have confidence in the resiliency of our system to recover from the situation with as little disruption as possible.

In the dictionary, resilience is defined as “the ability to bounce back, recover quickly and go back into shape or position after being stretched.” When it comes to providing you with resilient service, this is what we work toward - day in and day out!
Help us Locate the Owners of These Unclaimed Patronage Refund Checks (Continued from November newsletter)

Shadden, Roger D., Toledo
Sieck, Mike, Chelsea
Sinclair, Edward B., Grinnell
Sindt, Alyce, Dublin, TX
Slagel, Michael, Ainsworth
Smith, Eric C., Biloxi, MS
Sorensen, Mrs. Eldon R., Grinnell
Spray, John R. or Sherri, Ollie
St. Cyr, Janelle, Le Grand
Starr, Sue, Richland
Stern, Betty, Belle Plaine
James C. Stevens for the account of James F. or Mary Stevens, Toledo
Taylor, Bobbie, % Bobbie Purk, Chelsea
Thoms, Barbara L., Janesville, MN
Timm, Rodney, Victor
Trammell, Ian, Norfolk, NE
Walters, Franklin “Buzz”, Webster
Walton, Billy or Julie Marek, Belle Plaine
Wanatee, Sandra, Tama
Warwick, Tracy or Mary, North English
Waseskuk, Anissa, Toledo
Wauters, Jess, Belle Plaine
Wesely, Mark E. or Janet M., Toledo
West, Genevieve, North English
White, Anson, Waterloo
White, Staci, Sigourney
Williams, Amber, North English
Williams, Barbara, % Barbara Thoms, Brooklyn
Williams, Marvin K., % Les Williams, North English
Williams, Nick, % Vickie Williams, Williamsburg
Williams, Nicholas or Wesley, Marengo
Williamson, Randy or Reaih, Ladora
Wolf, Michael or Jacqueline, Belle Plaine
Wright, Wayne or Annette Blackwell, Williamsburg
Yoder, Warren E., Kalona
Youngbear, Noelle, Tama

Congratulations, John!

John Hawkins, Brooklyn Sub Foreman, (left), retired May 31, 2018, after 30 years of dedicated service to T.I.P.

John is shown above receiving a meter desk lamp from your cooperative presented by Jon Miles, General Manager.

We wish John a long and happy retirement.

December TIPS from T.I.P.

A Dusty Refrigerator?

When was the last time you cleaned your refrigerator? Did you clean the back side or underneath it as well? The dust that accumulates on the coils makes your refrigerator run much longer and harder and it will shorten its life. A simple little brush, known as a refrigerator brush sold at hardware stores, or another similar cleaning tool is all you need. Clean the dirt off every 3-4 months and you will instantly begin saving energy.

Your water heater might be sending money down the drain.

An efficient electric water heater can help you use less energy—potentially reducing your utility bill. Visit our website to see available equipment rebates, get to know your options and see how much you could save by going electric.

641-522-9221
tiprec.com
Pictured above is Mrs. Todd (Monica) Wessels of South Amana holding the Butterball Indoor Electric Turkey Fryer she won after entering the Living with Energy in Iowa magazine Editor’s Choice Contest.

This turkey fryer can be used to make delicious dinners throughout the year. It can hold a turkey up to 22 pounds and can fry using oil, or boil and steam with water.

Congratulations on being the lucky winner!

Use LEDs this Holiday Season and Save Some Green

The world can rejoice a bit more this holiday season by switching to LED lights when decorating. While it’s tempting to use the non-LED Christmas lights you have on hand, doing so can make your electric bill higher. That’s because LED lights consume 80 to 90 percent less power than incandescent lights and last a lot longer too: 3,000 hours on average or about 10 times longer than the traditional type.

LED Christmas lights are also safer than incandescent strands. “Not only do they use far less energy making them much more cost effective to operate, they pose almost no fire danger around dry trees or wreaths,” says Molly Hall, executive director of the Energy Education Council.

Safe Electricity offers these additional benefits of decking the halls with LED Christmas lights:

1. You can connect numerous strings (20-plus) together while traditional lights are more limited in the amount you can safely link per outlet. (The number varies depending on the type of lights and what else is drawing energy on the circuit you’re using.)
2. They don’t produce heat like their predecessors, making them more child and pet friendly.
3. LED lights come in a wide range of colors, are usually brighter than the incandescent variety, and often offer more modern features such as dimmers and light pattern settings.

For additional safety tips, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Nearly half of all home fires occur during winter months. Take a few minutes to identify and correct any potential electrical hazards to ensure the safety of your home.

SWITCHES AND OUTLETS

- Are any switches or outlets warm to the touch? Warm switches or outlets indicate an unsafe wiring condition.
- Are any outlets or switches discolored? Discoloration indicates dangerous heat buildup at these connections.
- Do plugs fit snugly into outlets? Loose-fitting plugs can cause overheating and fires.

CORDS

- Are any cords cracked, frayed or damaged? Damaged cords can expose wires, causing shock or fire hazard.
- Are any cords pinched by furniture or windows, or attached to anything with staples or nails? Pinching and/or stapling cords can damage the insulation, causing shock or fire hazard.
- Do you use extension cords on a permanent basis? Extension cords should only be used temporarily.

ELECTRIC PANEL

- Do you have recurring tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses? If yes, this could indicate you’re exceeding a safe level of electrical current.
- Do you have arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs)? AFCIs provide greater fire protection. Check your circuit breakers for the AFCI label.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holidays? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets, like TVs, gaming consoles, chargers and DVD players use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they’re not in use.

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