



TIPS From T.I.P.

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OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

January 2024

Brooklyn, Iowa

CEO/General Manager's Update



Scott Long

Ring in a new year sparks a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. As the CEO/General Manager of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, for me, it's a time to reflect on what we've accomplished and look forward to where we are

going. 2023 was no different, as it was full of changes and new adventures.

In 2023, our scholarship committee awarded nine scholarships to the High School graduates across our service territory from the Pekin, Keota, Sigourney, Tri-County, Williamsburg, HLV, BGM, and South Tama schools. We will be promoting our scholarship program again in 2024, so please don't miss this opportunity and send in your applications.

Last year the operations department was busy upgrading multiple miles of three phase lines in the Brooklyn and Sigourney areas. They also had almost 130 poles to change out from our pole testing program on the Brooklyn and Toledo substations along with almost 180 grounds to repair. Multiple new services were built along with some services being retired. These projects were completed in dedication to keeping our commitment to our mission of providing you reliable electricity.

Our team at T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative is always looking ahead and exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on across our territory. You may not realize it, but T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative doesn't generate electricity. Instead, we purchase it from our energy provider, Central Iowa Power Cooperative, (CIPCO), and from there we distribute it to the member-owners of T.I.P.

Rural Electric Cooperative. CIPCO strives for an all-the-above policy of generation mix to provide that reliability.

As we have noticed inflation rates dropping, the price of goods and services have not always followed the same path. We are still being challenged by the 50%-150% price increases that we have sustained over the last couple of years for our materials and fleet vehicles. We pride ourselves on doing everything within our control to manage the cost of providing our member-owners with reliable, affordable and safe electricity. This is not just because it impacts you, but because it impacts many of us, too.

One of the best methods for improving our services to our member-owners is monitoring trends and leading practices from other electric cooperatives in Iowa and across the country. Learning from other cooperatives is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model because for us, it's about cooperation, not competition. As we turn our focus to 2024, we will continue striving to provide the reliable, affordable and safe electricity our member-owners expect and deserve, today and into the future.



SmartHub Redesign this Month



The graphic features a green background with a network of white dots and lines. At the top left is the 'smart hub' logo. To its right, the text 'UPGRADE UNLOCKED' is displayed in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. Below this, a laptop screen shows a web interface with a bar chart and various data points. Underneath the laptop, the text reads: 'New Look. New Experience. Same SmartHub. Manage your account like never before with the new, improved SmartHub web application. A simplified yet enhanced design is coming your way soon. This new version of SmartHub puts your usage and payment details front and center for fast, easy access and the simplified menu structure makes navigating the site a breeze.' At the bottom left is the REC logo, and at the bottom center is the text 'T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative'. A green banner at the very bottom contains the slogan 'Smart Management. Smart Life. SmartHub.'

As a reminder to all SmartHub users, effective **January 15, 2024**, you will have a new, improved version of SmartHub. It's the SAME SmartHub but with easier access to your usage and payment details. The simplified menu structure will make navigating the site easier.

Apply in February Youth Tour Contest (trip date: June 15-21, 2024) & Scholarship Program

Watch for more information on
both in our February newsletter
or go to our website
www.tiprec.com

Simple Steps to Lower Heating Costs and Keep You Warm



Nearly half of the energy used in a typical U.S. home goes to heating and cooling it, making it the largest energy expense for most homes. There are some simple steps, such as sealing air leaks to keep cold air out, that can help you save on your energy use and energy bills:

1. Use caulk to seal gaps in the walls of your home. Wherever different building materials meet, or wiring comes out of a wall, there are gaps that may contribute to the loss of heat in your home.
2. Weather stripping is relatively easy to use and available at your local home improvement store. Stop drafts from coming in and heat from leaking out of your home through drafty doors and windows.
3. If you have older or leaky windows, consider temporary fixes, such as plastic film kits.
4. Open curtains on sunny days to help warm a room with radiant energy. Close them at night and on gloomy days to keep heat in.
5. Lower the temperature setting on your thermostat when you leave your home and at night when you go

Surveying

Brooklyn and Sigourney crews will continue their annual surveying schedule to ensure that all our lines and equipment are in top operating condition. In January, crews will be surveying on these substation areas:

**Tama, Vining, Marengo,
Conroy, Koszta, Hayesville,
Millersburg, Pilot
and Webster**

Thank you for your cooperation
during this process.

6. to sleep. A programmable or smart thermostat can automatically make these adjustments for you.
6. Replace your furnace filter monthly to save energy and improve heat circulation.
7. Set the water heater thermostat to 120 degrees and if it is an older unit, install an insulating blanket to prevent heat loss.
8. If you have a fireplace, be sure to close the damper when it is not in use. This prevents heat from escaping and cold from entering through your chimney.

Please Help us Find the Owners of These Unclaimed Patronage Refund Checks

The following is the remainder of the list of members whom we are unable to find since we made patronage payments for **25% of 2006, 70% of 2007, and 10% of 2022** on August 10, 2023. Please notify the office if you know the correct address for anyone listed. If one of the former members listed is deceased, we need to know the name of an heir to contact.

Please feel free to contact the cooperative if you have any questions.

Patronage Checks Returned after Payment in 2023

Nemecek, Terry, Mount Vernon
 O'Rourke, James L., Geneseo, IL
 Outlet Retail Stores Inc, Westbury, NY
 Party Concepts, Inc #43322, Store #9998, Rockaway, NJ
 Patterson, Steve, Millersburg
 Pearce, Bill or Kelly, Ankeny
 Peters, David A., Tama
 Pieper, Patrick or Ann, Williamsburg
 Pinney, Mrs. Ronald, Marshalltown
 Plants, Nikki or Joey Hidlebaugh, Brooklyn
 Powell, Dan, % Kathryn Troyer, Waxhaw, NC
 Powell, Gertrude K., South English
 Power, Pat, Prescott, WI
 Poweshiek, Eugene, Tama
 Primrose, Danny or Kathy, Iowa City
 Pritchett, Helen, Tama
 Randolph, Lois, Williamsburg
 Reader's Digest Outlet, Pleasantville, NY
 Reed, Brian, Sigourney
 Reicherts, Janet M., Dysart
 Ricker, Patrick W., Marengo
 Riha Jr., Rich W., Ames
 Rinehart Construction, West Des Moines
 Roberts, Barbara H., Indialantic, FL
 Roberts, Jenny Jordt, Blairstown
 Rosenberger, Betsie K., Cedar Rapids
 Roudabush, Kathryn J., Williamsburg
 Routh, Joe, Des Moines
 Ruby Field Inc, % Ed Grafke, Sigourney
 Rue 21 Inc, % Ecova, Inc.-MS 3636, Spokane, WA
 Russell, William S. or Elizabeth, Marengo
 Salisbury, Kristina L., Hedrick
 Salyars, William R. or Julie, Cedar Rapids
 Sara Lee Direct, Rural Hall, NC
 Mary Jo Ann Schulte for the account of Mrs. Francis A. Schott, Shoreline, WA
 Schropp, Daniel or Brenda, Williamsburg
 Schuett, Harold H., Toledo
 Shaull, Nickolas, or Peggy Richardson, Williamsburg

Sinclair, Edward B., Grinnell
 Sleep Inn Hotel, Brooklyn
 Smith, Tanya or Eric M., Kalona
 Lyle G. Snakenberg for the account of Ruth Snakenberg, Sigourney
 Southgate Development, Iowa City
 Spears, Jessica, Hedrick
 Steenhoek, Judy, Manitowsh Wtr, WI
 James C. Stevens for the account of James F. or Mary Stevens, Toledo
 David A. Stratton for the account of Betty R. Stratton, Tiffin
 Swanson, Josey, Marion
 Tandy, Mrs. John R., Williamsburg
 Taylor, Hurschel, Brooklyn
 Tee, Frances E., Grinnell
 Thatcher, Rita, Williamsburg
 Thompson, Dennis, Brooklyn
 Thompson, Michael, Brooklyn
 Thompson, Toby C., Williamsburg
 Thompson, Warren, Deep River
 Timm, Jerry, Belle Plaine
 Doreen Novak for the account of Wayne Toney, Belle Plaine
 Triple R Driving School, Coralville
 Tuttle, Michael P., Victor
 Tweed, Gordon E., Montour
 Vajgrt, Martin or Mabel E., Marshalltown
 Vogel, Roger, Indianola
 Wallace, Mrs. Edward E., Iowa City
 Wallace, Leon V., Bondurant
 Washington Mutual Bank, Attn Jennifer Benske, Milwaukee, WI
 Welcome Home, Wilmington, NC
 White, Ken, North Liberty
 Charles H. Williams for the account of Judy Williams, Keota
 Williams, Charlotte M., Conroy
 Sharon Williams for the account of Mrs. James R. Williams, North English
 Williams, Sharon, % English Valley Care Center, North English
 Wilson, Laurel A., Amana
 Wiseman, Alvin W., North English
 Wisner, Seth J., Marengo
 Jared Wolf for the account of Michael Wolf, Belle Plaine
 Young, Thomas L., Des Moines
 Youngbear, James, Toledo
 Youngbear, Jeanette, Toledo
 Youngbear, Jon P., Tama
 Youngbear, Leon, Toledo
 Zimmerman, Keaton, Williamsburg

Your T.I.P. Board of Directors:

Gene Von Ahsen, Homestead. President
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Tips to Keep Food Safe When the Power Goes Out

Severe winds, lightning and even squirrels can temporarily cause the power to go out. We understand power outages of any length can be frustrating, especially when your fridge is stocked with perishable foods.

Extended power outages are rare, but when they occur, it's important to understand food safety measures to take to avoid illness.

Here are a few food safety tips to keep in mind before, during and after a power outage.

Before an Outage

A good rule of thumb is to keep an emergency supply kit on hand. Be sure to include nonperishable food items like bottled water, powdered milk, canned goods, cereal and protein bars in your emergency kit.

If you have advance warning that an outage is possible, fill a cooler with ice—just in case the outage spans for several hours. Having a cooler ready to go can buy extra time for your refrigerated, perishable items.

During an Outage

If an outage occurs, **DO NOT OPEN** the refrigerator or freezer unless *absolutely* necessary. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about **four** hours. A half-full freezer will keep food frozen for about **24 hours** and a full freezer for about **48 hours**. If it looks like the power outage will last longer than four hours, move your important perishable items to an ice-filled cooler.

After an Outage

If refrigerated foods have been exposed to temperatures higher than 40 degrees for more than two hours, the American Red Cross recommends discarding the items. If any foods have an unusual color, odor or texture, they should be thrown away.

While most perishable foods should be thrown out after an extended outage, there are a few items that are safe to consume after a two-hour exposure to 40+ degrees:

- hard cheeses that are properly wrapped
- butter or margarine that is properly wrapped
- taco, barbecue and soy sauces
- peanutbutter, jelly, mustard, ketchup and relish

The best way to avoid illness from spoiled food during or after an outage is to follow the four-hour rule of thumb. After an outage, always smell and inspect foods before consuming and remember: when in doubt, throw it out.

To learn more about food safety after an emergency, visit www.ready.gov/food.

Keep Food Safe

During and After a Power Outage

Refrigerated or frozen foods may not be safe to eat after a power outage. Use these tips to minimize food loss and reduce risk of illness.



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Refrigerated food will last four hours. After four hours, place refrigerated foods in a cooler with ice.

24 OR 48

Food in a half-full freezer will last 24 hours. Food in a full freezer will last 48 hours.

Food Safety Tips

1. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
2. Throw out any food with an unusual odor, color or texture.
3. Throw out perishable food in your refrigerator after four hours without power or a cold source (like a cooler with ice).

When in doubt, throw it out!



WHAT'S IN YOUR TRUNK

Make sure your vehicle is equipped with emergency supplies to help keep you safe on the road.

- Flashlight and batteries
- Charger for your cell phone
- Snowbrush or shovel
- Warm clothing
- Blankets
- Nonperishable food
- Water
- Inflated spare tire
- Wheel wrench
- Tripod jack
- Jumper cables
- First-aid kit



Safe Electricity.org

NOTICE: The Brooklyn office will be closed on **Wednesday, January 24 from 7:00 am till 1:00 pm** for an all-employee meeting.

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TIPS from T.I.P. is published monthly for members of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, 612 W. Des Moines St., Brooklyn, Iowa 52211.