

Taylor Report



January 2021

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Tips for Weathering Winter Storms



Winter storms can cause hazardous road conditions, downed power lines, and extended power outages. Safe Electricity shares tips on preparing for and safely weathering winter storms.

Before a storm ever begins, tune into your local weather service for the weather forecast. It is important to know the differences among various watches and warnings.

- **Winter Storm Watches** signify that stormy conditions, including heavy snow, freezing rain, or sleet, are likely within the next few days. You should be alert, as this means adverse conditions could begin within the next 12 to 48 hours.
 - **Winter Storm Warnings** call for stormy conditions to begin within the next 24 hours. Those in the range of the warning should be mindful of the impending conditions and consider canceling plans to travel outside of the home.
 - **Blizzard Warnings** advise those in the affected areas to seek refuge immediately due to high levels of snow, strong winds, and resulting near-zero visibility to those traveling on the road.
- If the power goes out, notify your utility of the outage. Have an emergency kit prepared to help you and your family weather the storm and the outage safely and comfortably. Some of the items this kit should include are bottled water, non-

perishable food, flashlights, a weather radio and extra batteries.

If you are using an alternative heating source during an outage, know how to use it safely and have all supplies for it gathered. To help you and your family stay warm during an outage, dress warmly, cover windows at night, close off unneeded rooms, and place draft blocks at the bottom of doors.

To protect your circuits and appliances when power is restored, switch off lights and unplug appliances. Leave one light switched on as a quick reminder that the power is restored.

Only venture outside if absolutely necessary. Downed power lines could be submerged in snow and ice, making them difficult to see. If you must go outside, use caution and treat all downed and hanging lines as if they are energized. Stay away, warn others to stay away, and immediately contact your utility.

If travel is necessary, be especially cautious driving, and keep an emergency kit in your vehicle. Its supplies should include a windshield scraper, a first aid kit, a cell phone charging adaptor, booster cables, a blanket, and a flashlight with extra batteries.

Never drive over a downed line because that could pull down the pole and other equipment, causing additional hazards. If you see a downed line, do not get out of your car. The safest place is inside the vehicle. Contact the utility immediately.

For more information on electrical safety and weathering winter storms, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load).

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) estimates that the average home loses \$200 annually to energy wasted by phantom load.

Source:
www.nrel.gov



Board Report – Nov. 2020

- Approved October disbursements totaling \$418,082. 18 new member applications, and September 2020 construction in the amount of \$49,955.
- Reviewed financial results for the month of October, with \$379,503 Operating Margins and \$474,210 Total Margins year to date.
- There were 4 outages in October, with average YTD outage time per meter of .7343 hours.
- Five applications for discounted early retirement of capital credits to estates were approved with total capital credits of \$3,186 to be paid out at the net present value of \$1,775.
- 24 delinquent accounts were processed for collection following the November 20th due date. The total amount owing on these accounts is \$11,085.
- The Dairyland power cost adjustments for the next few months were discussed and will be passed to the members.
- Cheri Klussendorf was appointed to fill the seat vacated by Jeff Albers. Discussion was held on the succession of Dean Tesch. It was decided to let the seat stay open until the June Annual Meeting. There was a vote to fill the Board Chair seat. Brian Hallgren will fill that until the normal reorganization meeting in June.
- WECA committee seats were filled.
- Bylaw amendments for 2021 were discussed and will be forwarded to the attorney for review. The topics were voting by other than in person means, nomination by petition timing, and majority vs. plurality to determine the winning candidate.
- CEO Ceagske gave an update on the COVID 19 response, Cost of Service initial results, employee changes, and member issues.

Important NEW YEAR Resolutions . . .

That don't involve diet or exercise!



1. Make sure outlets have GFCIs in the kitchen, bathroom & laundry
2. Replace frayed electrical cords
3. Check for loose-fitting plugs
4. Replace missing or broken wall plates
5. Check for overloaded outlets
6. Make sure light bulb wattage matches the fixture requirements
7. Have an electrician check outlets that are warm/discolored

Learn how to keep your family safe at:



**WE'RE ALL
IN THIS
TOGETHER.**

Let's Keep Small Businesses Thriving.

It's time to power a Small Business Comeback across America.

Co-op Connections is a free member benefit program brought to you by **TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**. Download the free Co-op Connections app to find documents from your local merchants and nationwide. We can support our neighborhood businesses safely if we all work together.

Visit www.SmallBusinessComeback.coop for more information.



- Watch for details on the 2021 Incentive Program coming next month!
- Your bill this month contained a PCA (Power Cost Adjustment) in the amount of $-\$.007$ which will result in a credit on your electric bill. We were able to give this credit to you because Dairyland Power Cooperative, our power supplier, had lower than projected purchased power costs.