

Along these LINES

JULY/AUGUST 2025



Grounded in *Community*

Delivering the cooperative spirit through hands-on community service Page 20

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From left, Toni Johnson, Rhowanda Vessel and Chanon Martin, of DEMCO; Aaron Meche and Patricia Lemoine, of Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center; and Anne Hawes and David Latona, of DEMCO, deliver comfort baskets to Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DEMCO



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2025 Hurricane Season Safety Guide

Essential tips to protect your family before, during and after the storm

Hurricane season has begun, with peak storm threat from mid-August to late October. Be prepared with these tips from ready.gov.

Know your risk. Learn how hurricane-force wind and water could affect where you live.

Make an emergency plan. Share it with everyone in your household.

Gather supplies. Include medication, disinfectants, cloth face coverings and pet supplies in your go-bag or car trunk.

Know your evacuation zone. You may need to leave quickly.

Get warnings and alerts. Download the Federal Emergency Management Agency app and receive real-time alerts from the National Weather Service. Sign up for community alerts.

Keep disabilities in mind. If anyone in your household has special needs, determine if you may need additional help.

Review important documents.

Make sure your insurance policies and identification are up to date. Make copies and keep them in a password-protected secure digital space.

Strengthen your home.

Declutter drains and gutters, bring in outdoor furniture and consider hurricane shutters.

Get tech ready. Keep your cellphone charged when a hurricane is in the forecast and buy backup charging devices.

Help your neighbors. Check with those who may need help.

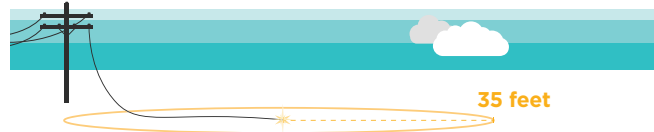
Stay informed. Listen for emergency information and alerts. If told by local officials to evacuate, do so immediately.

Protect yourself. During high winds and flooding, take refuge in a designated storm shelter or interior room on the highest level of the building.

Don't walk or drive through floodwaters. Just 6 inches of fast-moving water can knock you down. One foot can sweep your vehicle away. Stay off bridges. ■

Downed and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to 35 ft. away—so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a nonconductive item. This will not prevent injury or death!

Source: ESFI.org

More hurricane information can be found on Pages 12-15 and 18.

Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives Inc.

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Weathering the Storm

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Volume 40, Issue 4

Mission

To enhance the quality of life for our members, employees, and communities by safely providing reliable and competitively priced energy services.

Along These Lines (USPS 4089) is published bimonthly by the Association of Louisiana Electric Co-ops Inc., 10725 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70816, in partnership with Pioneer Utility Resources.

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DEMCO is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



At DEMCO, the term “member-owned” isn’t a slogan—it’s the foundation of how we do business. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, DEMCO has no shareholders—we have members. And that distinction matters.

Each year, our annual meeting is a reminder of what sets us apart from investor-owned utilities: We are locally owned and locally governed. Unlike investor-owned utilities, DEMCO is governed by a board of directors elected by—and from within—our membership. These are not corporate appointees or outside investors. They are your neighbors who live and work in the community and are deeply committed to the long-term success of the cooperative.

Their role is to represent the interests of the entire membership, making sure DEMCO remains accountable, transparent and responsive.

All 13 DEMCO board members have earned the prestigious Director Gold Credential—the highest level of cooperative board training. This certification reflects their dedication to continued education and effective governance. By staying informed about changes in finance, technology, operations and communications, our board is better prepared to guide the cooperative with our members’ best interests at heart.

To learn more about our progress, priorities and performance, read the board president’s report on Page 8. For more ways to stay informed, check out our new podcast, “Co-op Conversations with DEMCO.” You can listen on your favorite podcast platform or visit DEMCO.org/Podcast to tune in.

We’re also proud to support the next generation of cooperative members through our scholarship program. This year, DEMCO awarded 50 scholarships of \$2,500 each to students from member families—a total of \$125,000 invested in education and opportunity across our communities.

Through local governance, ongoing communication, and support for our members and communities, we’re doing more than just keeping the lights on. That’s the cooperative difference in action.



POWER OF COMMUNITY



An Honor to Serve

LEFT and CENTER: It was DEMCO's honor to serve 80 war veterans and 20 staff at Louisiana War Veterans Home in East Feliciana Parish. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week, DEMCO volunteers served lunch to more than 100 staff members at Galvez Primary School in Ascension Parish. PHOTOS COURTESY OF DEMCO



ABOVE LEFT: Over the course of three days, DEMCO welcomed the Central Fire Department for advanced electrical safety training. A live wire demonstration provided a close-up look at the dangers of downed lines and reinforced critical response protocols. We're proud to support the continued training of our emergency responders—true professionals who put their lives on the line to protect our communities.

ABOVE RIGHT: DEMCO linemen Nick Carruth and Kristopher Morgan provide a career presentation for Zachary High School students during their trade day.

Powering life & community -THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE

#DEMCOserves

SHOWCASING THE FLAVORS OF *Louisiana*

Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives and members hosted the Taste of Louisiana Cookout for elected officials. The afternoon was spent at the Capitol meeting with legislators and ended with some Louisiana home cooking.



AT RIGHT, FROM TOP: South Louisiana Electric Cooperative staff serve boiled shrimp. Washington-St. Tammany board members and General Manager Dane Hocott meet with Louisiana lawmakers. Youth Tour alumni attend ALEC's legislative cookout and rally. DEMCO personnel serve crawfish. Beauregard Electric representatives network with their local legislators.





FROM LEFT: Dane Hocott, of Washington-St. Tammany Electric; David Latona, of DEMCO; Matt Peters, of South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association; and Mike Heinen, of Jeff Davis Electric Cooperative meet with a member of Sen. Bill Cassidy's staff.



FROM LEFT: Dane, far left, joins his WSTE colleagues, board member Nickey Smith and Johnny Bruhl, to take a photo in front of the Capitol. Louisiana electric cooperative members meet with Matthew Palmer, a member of Rep. Steve Scalise's staff. Far right, David and Mike, center, discuss important cooperative business with Rep. Cleo Fields, far left.

Co-ops on Capitol Hill

Louisiana electric cooperative leaders met in April with the state's congressional representatives in Washington, D.C., to discuss topics important to the member-consumers they serve. The visit coincided with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Legislative Conference, which welcomes cooperative grassroots advocates from across the country to the nation's capital each year.



The President's Report

Danny Berthelot
President, DEMCO Board of Directors



Each year, the President's Report serves as an important way to reflect on the cooperative's progress and share meaningful updates about DEMCO's operations and performance.

As your locally elected board, we remain committed to serving you—our member-owners—with transparency, accountability and care.

Our mission is clear: to enhance the quality of life for our members, employees, and communities by safely providing reliable and competitively priced energy services.

That commitment extends beyond board meetings.

Through ongoing training and certification, we stay informed on industry trends and best practices across key areas, such as engineering, finance and governance. This continual learning helps us make thoughtful decisions that support the long-term strength and stability of the cooperative.

We're proud to report DEMCO sold 2,264,271,216 kilowatt-hours of electricity in 2024, serving 117,848 meters throughout our distribution system. With 9,249 miles of line and a system peak demand of 690.66 megawatts, these numbers reflect our continued investment in reliability and operational excellence.

Elected without opposition are the following five board directors, each serving a three-year term: Glenn DeLee, representing East Feliciana Parish; Kevin Beauchamp, representing West Feliciana Parish; Melissa Dufreche, representing Tangipahoa Parish; Randy Lorio, representing East Baton Rouge Parish; and I, Danny Berthelot, representing Livingston Parish.

On behalf of your locally elected board, we are honored to serve you and look forward to the work ahead as we power our communities together.

MORE POWER FOR YOUR PREPARATION

We're dedicated to
keeping you informed
before, during, and
after a storm.

Download a free hurricane
preparedness checklist
DEMCO.org/Storm-Center.

Powering life and community:
THAT'S THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE



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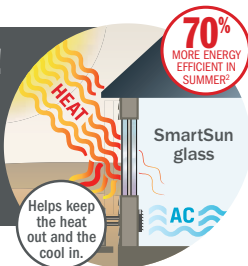
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NadieB's Taste of HomeAh

By Cheré Coen

It's no surprise that Nadie Burrell learned to cook in her family's kitchen. Louisiana is known for producing great cooks and chefs who began their careers at home, whipping up indigenous cuisine.

Nadie hails from a large family in Gray. Growing up, cooking wasn't just a necessity—it was also an art form. She watched her grandfather cook outdoors, slaughtering hogs and producing pork products while her grandmother reigned over the kitchen. The couple had eight children and 20-plus grandkids, so food was a major part of their lives.



NadieB's Taste of HomeAh is part of Bayou Country Crawfish Trail. The tourism promotion by Houma Area Convention & Visitors Bureau highlights restaurants and establishments serving Louisiana crawfish. PHOTO COURTESY OF CHERÉ COEN



Nadie Burrell's restaurant, NadieB's Taste of HomeAh, is a mix of seafood, soul food and street food. PHOTO COURTESY OF CHERÉ COEN

"It was a family love language," Nadie says. "It was what we did when we got together. And there was a lot of us."

Church was another place Nadie learned about good cooking. She mirrored the older ladies in the kitchen who never kicked her out.

"I lived in that kitchen," she says.

Sharing the Love

Nadie moved to Houston in 2018 and decided to give her new community a taste of her home. Or HomeAh! as she named her new company, a play on words of the larger town near Gray.

Houston offered lots of opportunities for pop-up cooks such as herself, Nadie says. For instance, many bar and lounge owners wanted to provide their patrons boiled seafood but didn't want the mess and liability of doing it in-house. Nadie would load up her car or a rented U-Haul with propane tanks, pots and ingredients and serve her boiled seafood on-site.

"I gave Houston a taste of my home," she says.

Until COVID-19 hit, followed by Hurricane Ida.



Crawfish Étouffée. PHOTO COURTESY OF NADIE BURRELL

Nadie worried her community back in Louisiana wasn't getting the resources it needed, so she headed home. She opened a restaurant, called NadieB's Taste of HomeAh, in a building in Gray where her grandmother used to work. It seemed appropriate.

"I saw there was a need to help my community," Nadie says. "It just felt like I needed to come home."

Setting the Table

NadieB's menu is diverse, featuring seafood boiled seasonally, and street food, like sandwiches and po'boys. Soul food dishes, like oxtail, smothered okra, and collard or mustard greens, are always part of the lunch special.

One of NadieB's most popular sandwiches is the Bayou Club, which features fried shrimp and fish, lettuce, tomato, and grilled onion.

"It's the perfect combination of simple things," Nadie says.

Restaurant visitors also find shrimp pasta, red beans and rice, pork chops, chicken wings, crawfish mac and cheese, and fried fish, among other entrees. Nadie's seafood rolls consist of Louisiana crawfish, shrimp and crabmeat that's mixed with cheese, rolled up and fried like an egg roll.

"It's pretty delicious," Nadie says.

On Saturdays, NadieB's serves breakfast from 8 a.m. to noon with a special price of \$8 for seniors.

"We try to do this for our seniors, to give something back," Nadie says.

Nadie offers her take on crawfish étouffée below. ■

NadieB's Taste of HomeAh! is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon Saturday. The restaurant is at 3059 W. Main St. in Gray.

Crawfish Étouffée

1 stick plus 4 tablespoons butter or ½ cup vegetable oil

1 clove minced garlic

Holy Trinity (½ cup each of chopped onion and bell peppe and 2 chopped celery stalks)

½ cup all-purpose flour

Seafood broth or stock

½ can Rotel tomatoes (hot or mild)

Louisiana crawfish tails

Cajun seasoning

Garlic powder

Onion powder

Chopped green onion

Louisiana rice

Add 4 tablespoons of butter or ½ cup vegetable oil to cast-iron skillet. Once hot, add garlic and the Holy Trinity. Cook vegetables until translucent, about 5-6 minutes. Remove from skillet and set aside.

Reduce heat to medium, and add 1 stick of butter to cast-iron skillet. Once melted, add flour. Use a whisk to combine butter and flour. Whisk until it is smooth and golden brown. This is called a blonde roux. Stir continuously, or the roux will burn.

Add seafood broth, whisking until it is smooth, until the roux's consistency is to your liking. Add vegetables to the roux. Add half the can of Rotel tomatoes. Season to taste with Cajun seasoning, onion powder and garlic powder.

Add crawfish tails to the seasoned roux. Stir. Cook on medium heat for 8-10 minutes. Reduce heat to low and simmer for 5 minutes. Remove from heat, and top with green onions. Serve over hot rice.



WEATHERING THE STORM

From the earliest days of electricity, weather has presented the greatest challenge to electric grid reliability and safety. Severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, heat waves, heavy snowfalls, flooding and high winds have long tested power lines and electric utility crews across the country. But in Louisiana, hurricanes are known intimately—they're not just statistics. They're memories etched into communities. From Betsy in 1965 to Katrina in 2005, and more recently Gustav, Ike, Laura, Delta and Ida, each storm has revealed the vulnerability of electric infrastructure.

If it seems like storms are becoming more frequent and intense, you're not wrong. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which tracks weather and climate disasters causing more than \$1 billion in damage, reported an annual average of 18 such events between 2018 and 2022. That compares to an average of just 8.1 major disasters per year from 1980 to 2017, even after adjusting for inflation.

Louisiana has endured more than its share of these costly disasters. Hurricane Ida alone left more than 1 million Louisianans without power in 2021, with some rural areas remaining dark for weeks. Winds topping 150 mph turned everyday objects into projectiles and uprooted centuries-old live oaks that crashed into power lines.

Hardening the Grid

While scientists and policymakers debate the causes of extreme weather, electric utilities are focused on preparing for it. Across the Bayou State, electric cooperatives take steps to harden the infrastructure that delivers electricity to homes, farms and businesses. This includes upgrading equipment and strengthening connections to the nation's power grid to better withstand disasters.

Coastal parishes face unique threats—not just hurricane-force winds and rain but also storm surges that push saltwater miles inland. Salt left behind can corrode equipment and cause failures long after the storm passes. Additional strategies aim to prevent damage from happening in the first place.

Vegetation Management: A Critical Defense

You may have noticed an emphasis on tree trimming and vegetation management. Keeping branches a safe distance from power lines reduces outages caused by limbs falling during storms. In hurricanes, Louisiana's beloved live oaks, cypress trees and even palm fronds become airborne hazards. After storms, crews often find massive limbs draped across power lines or entire trees tangled in transformers. It's sad to see favorite trees trimmed, but many of the outages occur when trees tangle with power lines.

As drought conditions cause increased wildfire risks, even in places unaccustomed to them, these preventative efforts become even more important.

Beyond the Basics

Grid hardening also involves inspecting poles and replacing weakened ones with more durable materials. If one power pole is damaged or otherwise weakened, strong winds might bring it down and leave a big area in the dark.

When crews aren't fixing problems, they're working just as hard to prevent them from happening. Those poles and the wires connecting them are frequent targets for lightning, so utilities install lightning arresters to divert surges caused by lightning strikes. Hurricane-spawned tornadoes and severe thunderstorms can produce intense lightning activity, making these protective systems essential for maintaining grid stability during dangerous storms.

Smart Grid Technology and Storm Response

Investments are being made in sophisticated management systems—what some call smart grid technology—capable of identifying and addressing issues before they become widespread outages. Automated devices like reclosers can isolate problems and maintain power in unaffected areas. These systems even help defend against outages caused by curious wildlife that may come into contact with equipment.

Advanced hurricane tracking from the National Hurricane Center in Miami allows Louisiana's cooperatives to pre-position crews and equipment days before a storm makes landfall. For example, when Hurricane Francine approached the Louisiana coast, mutual aid crews from as far away as Arkansas and Texas were already staged and ready to assist in restoration.

Reinforcing substations and other important outdoor equipment to better withstand weather events has also been a focus.

The Economic Impact of Extreme Weather

Storms don't just affect local power. Weather extremes in one part of the country can significantly affect energy availability and costs elsewhere.

When hurricanes disrupt Louisiana's energy infrastructure—including the refineries along the Mississippi River and natural gas facilities in the Gulf—the effects ripple across national energy markets. After Hurricane Ida, gasoline prices spiked nationwide as Louisiana's refineries slowly came back online.

Commitment to Resilience

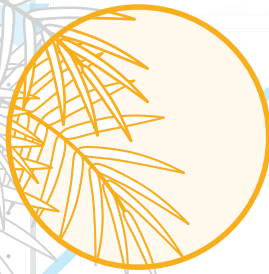
Every investment in prevention reflects utilities' dedication to keeping the lights on when it's needed most. As hurricane seasons grow longer and storms intensify, Louisiana's electric cooperatives remain committed to building resilient infrastructure communities need to weather whatever nature sends their way. ■

Hurricane Hardening

Hurricane season in the United States runs from June 1 through Nov. 30. As the intensity and frequency of storms have increased over the past decade, electric cooperatives whose territories are vulnerable to hurricanes have worked to improve their systems to minimize damage and disruption from high winds and flooding, and speed up recovery times. Here are some of the key measures co-ops take to harden the grid:

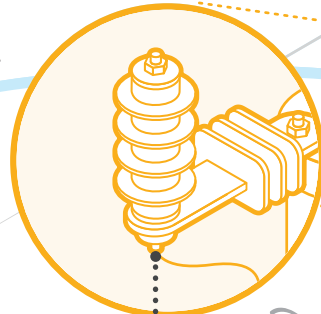
Vegetation Management

Conduct regular trimming and removal of trees within rights-of-way.



Lightning Arresters

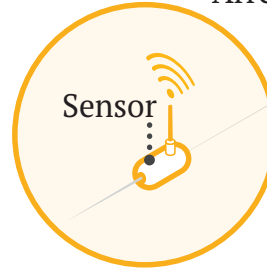
Install devices that divert surges from lightning strikes to keep power flowing.



Arrester

DA/FLISR

Deploy “self-healing” systems like distribution automation and fault location, isolation and service restoration to minimize the scope and duration of outages.

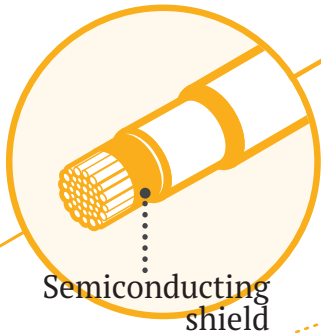


Sensor

Cutout fuse

Wire Upgrades

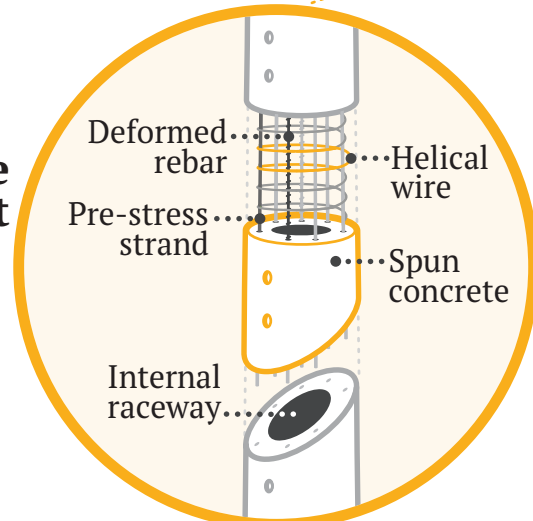
Replace standard conductor with larger-diameter, coated “tree wire” to resist damage from wind and tree limbs.



Semiconducting shield

Pole Management

Increase pole inspections and repairs and replace wood poles with higher-class wood, metal or concrete to better withstand strong winds.



Deformed rebar

Helical wire

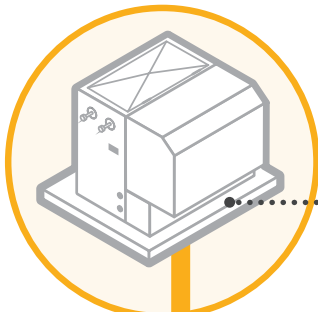
Pre-stress strand

Spun concrete

Internal raceway

Undergrounding

Move vulnerable sections of line underground to protect them from high winds and falling trees.



Pad-mounted transformer

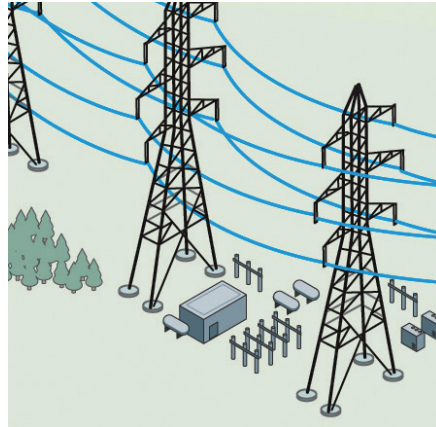
Pole

Underground power lines

Powering Up After an Outage

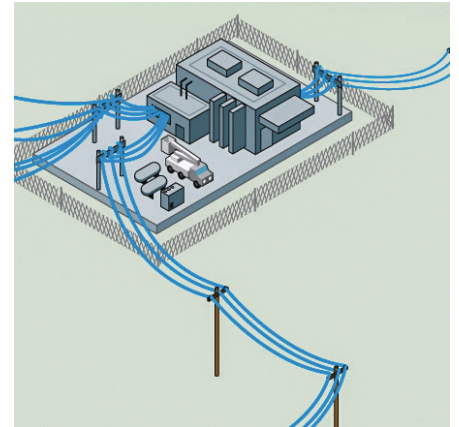
Five Steps to Restoring Your Power

When hurricanes or storms cause widespread damage, extended outages are likely. Electric utility line crews work long, hard hours to safely restore service to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible. Here's the sequence crews follow when the power goes out.



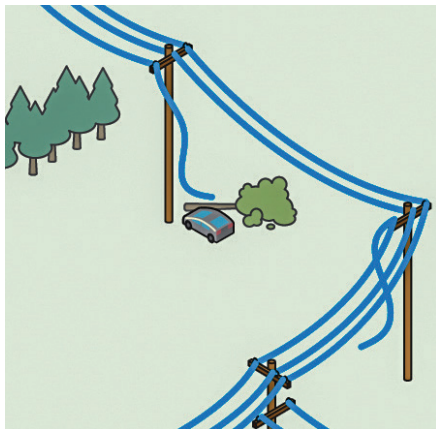
1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations—and thousands of members—rarely fail. But when damage occurs, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.



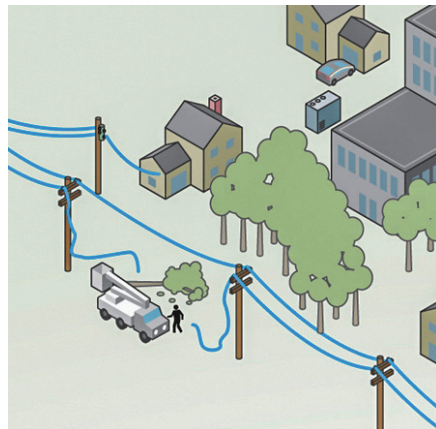
2. Distribution Substation

Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of members. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if problems exist down the line.



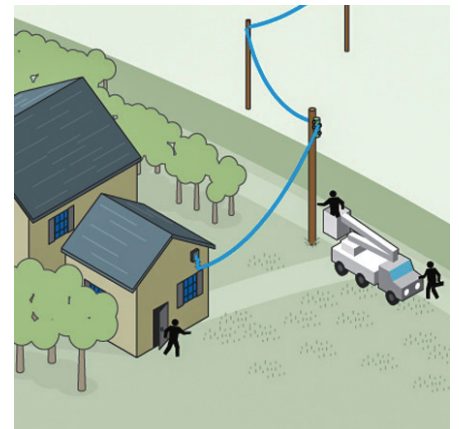
3. Main Distribution Lines

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.



4. Tap Lines

If local outages persist, supply lines—also called tap lines—are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service outside businesses, schools and homes.



5. Individual Homes

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Remember to report any service disruption to your cooperative—as the information is helpful in narrowing down where there are problem areas.

Keep Food Safe

Before, During and After a Power Outage

Unfortunately, power outages do occur from time to time. It's important to know how to keep your food safe during an outage. Use these tips from USDA to help minimize food loss and reduce risk of illness.

Before power outage



Keep refrigerator at **40° or below**. Freeze items like fresh meat and poultry that you won't use immediately. Keep freezer set to **0° or below**. Group frozen foods to help items stay colder longer.



If you anticipate an extended power outage, buy dry or block ice to keep the fridge and/or freezer cold.

During power outage

Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed!

If the doors stay closed during the length of the outage:



A full freezer will hold its temperature for **48 hours**.



A refrigerator will keep food safe for **four hours**.

After power outage

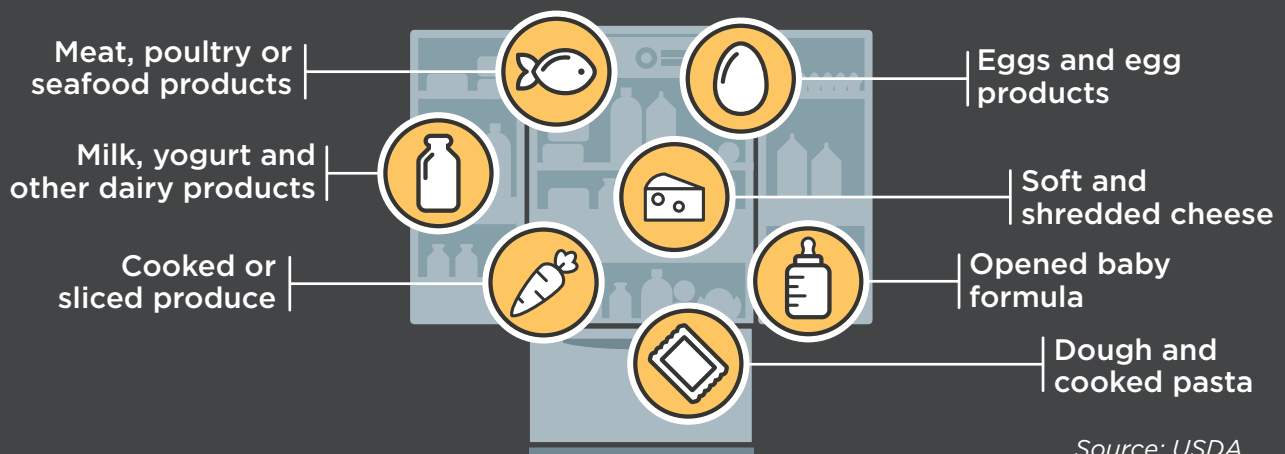


Check the temperature inside your refrigerator and/or freezer.



If the temperatures are safe, the food should be safe to eat.

Foods that should be thrown out after an extended power outage:



Source: USDA

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Beat the **ENERGY** Peak

By Miranda Boutelle

When electricity demand spikes, so can costs—and that affects all of us. The good news is that you can take small steps to protect your comfort and help keep your power bill more affordable.

What is a “peak”?

A “peak” is a time when electricity use across the grid is at its highest, and when demand soars, so does the price of power supply. As a cooperative, that cost gets shared by all co-op members.

When you shift, we all save

Even small changes can make a big difference when thousands of members come together. That’s the power of community and the cooperative difference.

As a DEMCO co-op member, you have control over when and how you use energy. While you can use as much as you like, shifting major energy use away from peak times helps the cooperative better manage costs.

For more summer energy tips, visit www.DEMCO.org/Power-Smart.



Instead of running the dishwasher right after loading it, use the delay start setting so it runs overnight. PHOTO BY MARK GILLILAND/PIONEER UTILITY RESOURCES

Tips to “beat the peak” this summer

- Bump up your thermostat a few degrees in the afternoon (78°F is recommended if you’re home).
- Use fans to circulate air when you’re in the room—they use far less energy than lowering the thermostat.
- Run appliances—such as washers and dishwashers—one at a time and later in the evening.
- Charge electric vehicles after 8 p.m. or before 5 a.m.
- Pre-cool your home in the morning, then close blinds and curtains to keep the heat out.
- Grill outside or use smaller appliances such as a microwave, toaster oven or air fryer instead of the oven.
- Turn off lights and electronics that aren’t being used. ■



✓ CHECK OFF THE WAYS YOU HELP SAVE ENERGY!

⚡ POWER SMART HERO CHECKLIST

- ☐ TV off when no one’s watching
- ☐ Curtains/blinds closed to block the heat
- ☐ Fan spinning counterclockwise
- ☐ Lights off in empty rooms
- ☐ Fridge closed quickly after opening
- ☐ Microwave used for reheating (instead of oven)

Are You Ready?

Your portable generator safety checklist

Storm season is upon us, which means greater potential for power outages. If you plan to use a portable generator in the event of an outage, make sure you use it safely.

With proper use and maintenance, portable generators can provide great convenience during an outage. However, generators used incorrectly can be hazardous.

In a 2022 report, the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated 85 U.S. consumers die every year from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by gasoline-powered portable generators.

Here are safety tips to keep in mind when using portable generators:

- DO: Install backup CO alarms.
- DO: Keep children and pets away from portable generators at all times.
- DO: Position generators at least 25

feet outside the home, and away from doors, windows and vents that can allow CO to enter the home.

- DO: Ensure your generator is properly grounded. Use a portable ground fault circuit interrupter to prevent electric shock injuries.

- DO: Use three-pronged extension cords rated to handle the load of the generator. Inspect extension cords for cuts, frays or other damage before use.

- DON'T: Operate a generator inside your home or an enclosed (or partially enclosed) space. Generators produce deadly levels of CO.

- DON'T: Open windows or doors while the generator is running.

- DON'T: Rely on generators as a full-time source of power. They should only be used temporarily or in emergency situations

to power essential equipment or appliances.

- DON'T: Overload generators. They should only be used to power essential equipment. Make sure your generator can handle the load of the items you plan to power.

- DON'T: Connect generators directly to household wiring unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed. If a generator is connected to a home's wiring without a transfer switch, power can backfeed along power lines and electrocute utility lineworkers making repairs.

While generators provide convenience during power outages, they can quickly become hazardous—even deadly—if improperly operated. Before you operate a portable generator, be sure to thoroughly read the owner's manual for important safety information and tips. ■



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MONTHLY RATES

Issue Age	\$100,000		\$250,000		\$500,000*		\$1,000,000*	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
30	8.77	7.56	9.71	8.60	13	11	18	16
36	8.77	7.93	10.35	9.44	14	13	22	18
37	8.77	8.15	10.52	9.81	15	13	22	20
38	8.77	8.16	11.19	10.18	16	14	24	21
39	9.13	8.31	11.62	10.55	17	15	25	22
40	9.55	8.48	12.04	10.98	18	16	27	24
41	10.05	8.72	13.10	11.58	20	17	30	26
42	10.48	9.01	14.21	12.30	22	19	33	29
43	10.98	9.36	14.72	13.18	23	20	38	31
44	11.58	9.73	15.67	14.10	25	22	41	34
45	12.17	10.15	16.86	15.16	28	24	45	38
46	12.84	10.64	17.85	15.83	30	25	49	40
47	13.43	11.16	19.03	16.68	32	27	54	44
48	13.48	11.88	20.27	17.37	35	29	58	47
49	13.69	12.33	21.73	18.32	37	31	63	52
50	14.36	12.98	23.00	19.82	40	33	69	57
51	15.37	13.75	25.30	20.65	45	35	78	62
52	16.36	14.87	27.63	22.13	49	38	87	67
53	17.46	15.88	30.95	24.81	54	42	98	73
54	18.68	16.72	33.99	26.20	60	46	110	81
55	20.70	17.50	37.13	27.85	67	50	121	90
56	22.69	19.48	42.01	31.07	74	53	138	96
57	24.69	20.63	45.81	33.43	81	58	150	107

MONTHLY RATES

Issue Age	\$100,000		\$250,000		\$500,000*		\$1,000,000*	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
58	27.70	21.98	50.43	36.04	89	62	169	116
59	30.37	23.51	55.50	38.76	98	67	186	126
60	33.49	24.28	60.76	41.71	109	73	206	136
61	36.49	25.09	66.43	47.10	122	83	236	154
62	39.88	27.91	73.90	51.32	136	92	262	166
63	43.69	34.01	81.54	57.25	153	102	287	187
64	47.91	38.28	90.20	62.32	170	112	323	200
65	52.81	40.88	100.33	68.23	191	125	361	223
66	58.71	44.61	114.29	75.40	211	135	392	242
67	64.59	49.08	125.27	83.64	234	146	436	261
68	72.24	59.65	143.07	105.55	254	173	485	322
69	79.34	64.22	158.23	129.28	288	188	547	352
70	86.85	68.11	177.24	147.66	318	203	595	375
71	102.45	82.60	203.10	159.34	374	235	702	443
72	113.68	93.16	232.46	172.23	427	272	807	512
73	127.55	106.68	267.15	188.15	493	319	937	596
74	142.08	119.36	303.50	204.84	562	367	1074	685
75	159.25	140.48	346.45	224.56	644	424	1235	789
76	200.03	168.51	418.29	276.67	785	530	1489	982
77	249.54	216.74	505.52	339.94	956	658	1797	1215
78	310.70	268.40	613.27	418.11	1167	817	2179	1504
79	374.78	322.52	726.16	500.00	1389	983	2578	1807
80	450.50	386.47	816.15	596.78	1625	1180	3050	2164

* \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 monthly rates are rounded up to the nearest dollar. Therefore, actual monthly rates at \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 may be slightly less.

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Grounded in *Community*

DEMCO employees deliver comfort baskets to Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF DEMCO

At DEMCO, service isn't just what we do—it's who we are. As a member-owned cooperative, we exist to serve our communities, not just with power, but with purpose. That's what makes the Youth Cooperative Ambassador Program so important. It's more than leadership development—it's a hands-on experience in

what it means to be part of a cooperative.

This spring, DEMCO's Youth Cooperative Ambassadors carried that mission forward by assembling 100 comfort baskets for patients receiving treatment at Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center. The students gathered March 29 to organize and pack blankets, beanies, fuzzy socks, journals,



ABOVE: Youth Ambassadors from left are Daniel Watson, James Hicks, Madeline Cox, DEMCO's Rhowanda Vessel, Hayleigh McKean, Shayla Sanders and Robert Dunbar. Ambassadors not pictured are Johanna Clifton and Mary Claire Cox.

LEFT: Baskets provide a world of comfort as DEMCO Youth Cooperative Ambassadors pack 100 of them for Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center patients.

mugs, tea, queasy pops, coloring supplies, lip balm, mints and stress balls. Each basket was wrapped with care and tied with a bow, a simple gesture with the potential to brighten a difficult day.

Once packed, the baskets were loaded into a trailer by DEMCO employees and delivered April 4. Staff from DEMCO and

Mary Bird Perkins worked together to roll in the baskets and brighten the day for patients.

As the team drove away, a message came in that brought the project full circle. One of our co-op members had already received a comfort basket and was deeply touched by the gesture.

This act of service represents more than just a day of volunteering—it reflects the cooperative difference that sets DEMCO apart. As a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative, DEMCO is deeply rooted in the communities it serves, instilling the values of cooperation, service and local impact one generation at a time. ■

DIG SAFELY—IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

By Christina Sawyer

When it comes to maintaining safety and preventing service interruptions, your electric utility is committed to doing its part. That includes performing dig locates for consumers who call the 811 Call Before You Dig service. But safety doesn't stop at the locate. It's crucial for everyone take personal responsibility to dig carefully, remain cautious and contact your co-op immediately if any lines are accidentally hit. Remember, even with the best technology and the most diligent efforts, some risks simply cannot be predicted.

Call Before You Dig: The First Line of Defense

The first step in any digging project—whether you're planting a tree, installing a fence or setting up a mailbox—is to call 811. This free service alerts utilities in your area to mark underground lines with flags, paint or stakes. This crucial step helps you avoid hitting underground lines and protects yourself, your neighbors and the infrastructure that keeps our communities powered.

The process is simple: Call 811 or submit a request online at least two business days before you plan to dig. After that, a representative visits your site and marks the approximate location of underground lines. Each type of utility line is marked with a different color—electric lines are typically marked with red. This visual guide is your map to digging safely.

Use Caution While Digging

Even after a locate, the work isn't over. The lines marked on your property are approximate. While the markings give a general idea of where the underground lines lay, there is still room for error. That's why we urge you to dig with care, especially when you're within a few feet of any markers.

Hand tools, such as a shovel, should be used within this area. This might slow down your project, but it significantly reduces the risk of accidentally hitting a utility line. If you're using heavy equipment, be extra cautious and consider using spotters or soft digging techniques to further minimize the risk.

Risk Factors That Can't Be Predicted

Underground utility lines can shift over time due to erosion,

temperature changes and soil movement. Even with a locate, you could encounter lines in unexpected places. Additionally, lines may not be as deep as expected due to changes in the landscape over the years, such as soil erosion or excavation work done before the current standards were enacted.

Furthermore, not all lines are owned or maintained by your local utilities. Private lines, such as those running from the meter to your home or shed, might not be marked during a locate. The owner is responsible for knowing the location of these lines and digging carefully around them.

The Locate Process and Resources Available

When you call 811, state-of-the-art mapping and detection tools are used to pinpoint the location of underground lines. These maps are developed based on detailed records and regular updates, but they're only as good as the information available. That's why digging carefully is essential, even when you think you know where every line is located.

The Responsibility of Digging

As a member of a community, you share the responsibility of maintaining community safety. Digging is no small task. It requires awareness, caution and a willingness to follow the right procedures. Should you hit a power line or any other utility line while digging, cease all work and contact your co-op immediately. Do not attempt to repair or inspect the damage yourself. We have trained personnel and specialized equipment to handle the situation safely.

Inspiring a Culture of Safety

Safety is not just the responsibility of your cooperative; it's a shared duty each of us carries.

When you plan your next digging project, remember a little extra caution can prevent accidents, outages and even save lives. By calling 811, following the locate markings and digging carefully, you contribute to a safer, more reliable community for everyone.

Let's work together to keep our power flowing and our neighborhoods safe. Dig smart, dig safe and always reach out if you're unsure. We're here to help you every step of the way. ■



When you call 811, a representative visits your site to mark the approximate location of underground infrastructure, such as buried gas and electric lines. ADOBE STOCK
PHOTO BY JJ GOUIN

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



If you suspect you're dealing with a utility scam, it's crucial to slow down and take your time before taking any action.

Scammers will often pressure you to make quick decisions or immediate payments. Instead, take the time to verify the legitimacy of the communication by contacting your cooperative directly.

Use a phone number from a reliable source, such as your bill or the co-op's website. Taking this simple step can help protect you from falling victim to utility scams.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams

