



CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

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Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's
lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Norvan Correll
- ▶ Kurt Deaton
- ▶ Frank Devine
- ▶ Seth Doris
- ▶ Kenneth Gean
- ▶ Darin Harvey

Contact us
today for your free
lightbulbs!



Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal
opportunity provider
and employer.

FROM THE MANAGER

We're Ready for Storm Season. Are You?



Kirk Thompson

Now that summer is in full swing, like many of you, I welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather. Summertime brings many of

my favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, afternoons on the water and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

But summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. Our region is known for harmful tornadoes and severe storms, often destroying everything in the storm's path. These potential weather events can also cause destruction to our electrical system, but I want you to know that CMS Electric crews are ready

and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- ▶ Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- ▶ Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.

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We're Ready for Storm Season. Are You?

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- ▶ Ensure your first-aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- ▶ Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- ▶ Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and

emergency information, and check CMS Electric's app or website for power restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings, and download our SmartHub app to stay abreast of power restoration efforts and other important co-op news and information.

I hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At CMS Electric, we recommend that you act today because there is power in planning. From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a safe and wonderful summer.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR AFTER A STORM

When the skies clear and the birds sing, know that the storm's fury could have created electrical hazards that you may or may not be able to see. Conditions in which stray electricity could energize the area, a person or objects include:

DOWNED POWER LINES

- ▶ on the ground
- ▶ under storm debris
- ▶ draped over or touching a metal fence
- ▶ covered by standing water
- ▶ across or by the road
- ▶ hidden in tree branches

OTHER POSSIBLE DAMAGE

- ▶ drooping or sagging lines (never try to move one)
- ▶ split or broken utility poles
- ▶ damage to a padmount transformer (green box)
- ▶ lightning strike to a substation transformer
- ▶ damaged or unstable guy wires

NEVER GO NEAR downed power lines or other damaged electrical equipment to assess damage or clean up the area. **STAY AWAY** and call 911 to report damage.

Power lines and other electrical equipment do not have to be sparking, arcing (giving off a flame) or on fire to be energized.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary. Remember to change your air filter every month (or every two months) to prevent dust buildup, which can lead to even bigger problems.

SOURCE: NRECA

