



Winter Reminders

Cold Weather Vehicle Safety

Driving in the winter means snow and ice can lead to slower traffic, hazardous road conditions, hot tempers and unforeseen dangers. To help you make it safely through winter, here are some suggestions from your Co-op and the National Safety Council to make sure that you and your vehicle are prepared.

It is recommended you perform an inspection of the following before hitting the road:

- Determine that brakes are in a safe operating condition before operating the vehicle
- If brakes are not working properly, correct this before the vehicle is used
- Perform a 360 degree walk around
- Inspect the windshield for cracks, chips or pitting that could interfere with vision
- Inspect windshield wipers and verify they are in good condition
- Make sure dirt or snow is removed from all vehicle exterior lighting
- Brush or clean off snow, ice or dirt from windows and mirror surfaces to ensure complete vision is achieved
- Check fuel level to be certain the destination can be reached with the remaining fuel level; it is best to have a full tank of gas for any long distance travel
- Check to ensure the license plates, inspection tag and insurance paperwork are current

Weather affects road and driving conditions and can pose serious problems. It is important to check weather forecasts and road conditions.

An emergency situation on the road can arise at any time and you must be prepared.

Along with a tuneup, a full tank of gas, and fresh anti-freeze, your trunk should carry a properly inflated spare tire, tire-changing equipment, jumper cables, a shovel, tow strap, tire chains, and a tool kit. Depending on the conditions, you might also carry

traction mats and a bag of salt or cat litter.

Always be prepared with a “survival kit” that remains in the car, and remember to replenish items after use. Essential supplies include a working flashlight and extra batteries, flares, reflective triangles and brightly-colored cloth, compass, first aid kit, exterior windshield cleaner, ice scraper and snow brush, wooden stick matches in a waterproof container, scissors and string/cord, and non-perishable, high energy foods like unsalted canned nuts, dried fruits, and hard candy.

In addition, if you are driving long distances under cold,

snowy, and icy conditions, you should carry supplies to keep you warm. Cold weather gear should be in the vehicle between October 1 and April 30 (recommended). Exposure to cold for long period of time can cause hypothermia. Hypothermia occurs when body heat is lost faster than it can be replaced and the normal body temperature (98.6°F) drops to less than 95°F. Important items include additional base layers, a heavy coat, warm gloves, boots, socks, a hat, handwarmers, and blankets.

If you become stranded, do not leave your car unless you know exactly where you are, how far it is to possible help, and are certain you will improve your situation by leaving.

For more information, visit nsc.org.

Moving Snow Safely

Everyone involved in snow removal, whether commercial or residential, should be aware of the dangers associated with piling snow on, under, or near CVEA equipment, lines, and facilities.

State of Alaska statutes prohibit any equipment from operating within 10 feet of an overhead electrical line. The 10-foot rule includes the highest point of the equipment being used and includes people on the ground, on a snow bank, or on the equipment. When snow is pushed under or near CVEA electrical lines, it creates a potential hazard for the equipment operator and general public. CVEA asks all snow removal equipment operators to keep

in mind the 10-foot rule when pushing and piling snow.

Snowfall often obscures electrical equipment located directly on the ground and identified with snow markers. Make sure you are aware of the location of this equipment when moving snow. If you are unsure, please contact CVEA.

Do not push snow against or pile snow on top of any electrical equipment. The force of the moving snow may cause damage to the equipment and create electrical hazards. This may also compromise reliability of the system due to the barrier created when access to the equipment becomes necessary.

If you come into contact with the equipment and

your vehicle or equipment becomes entangled, please do not attempt to free your vehicle or equipment and do not exit your vehicle unless a more hazardous condition exists inside. If it is necessary to exit, jump away from your vehicle ensuring you do not come into contact with your vehicle and the ground at the same time. Call CVEA immediately.

CVEA asks everyone to keep an eye out for potential electrical hazards, including heavy snow and ice buildup on powerlines. Never approach or make contact with an electrical line or damaged equipment. If you see a hazardous situation, please contact CVEA immediately at 822-3211 or 835-4301. To report something after hours, call 866-835-2832. ■

Winter Car Kit Checklist

- shovel
- Sand or shingles
- windshield scraper/snow brush
- hats, sock, mittens
- flashlight
- blanket
- snacks
- jumper cables
- flares and matches
- small broom
- spare radio with batteries
- water
- fluorescent distress flag



Employee Spotlight

Jessi Gallatin

Jessi is the Valdez Customer Service Representative, a position she's held since coming to work for CVEA a decade ago.

Mary Ellen Bedrick, CVEA Revenue Accountant and Jessi's supervisor had this to say, "Jessi is a team player who is always willing to help where she can. She is conscientious and dedicated to doing her best. It has been a pleasure working with her and getting to know her over the past 10 years."

In order to highlight Jessi, we recently asked her a few questions:

Q. What do you do as the Customer Service Representative?

A. I set up new accounts, handle cash accounting, collections, meter readings, job orders, and billing. I assist with communications and am on the front line assisting customers in person and over the phone.

Q. What things do you enjoy doing in the community?

A. I enjoy going to community events, playing softball, and helping the Elk's Lodge with their community giving programs.

Q. What are some of the big projects or changes you've been involved in since you began working at CVEA?

A. I've been a part of CVEA's exit from the Four Dam

Pool Power Association, the relocation of the transmission line on Thompson Pass, significant diesel engine and hydro upgrades, the building of Allison Creek, SmartHub, the 4/10 work schedule, and powering the Serendipity Subdivision, to name a few.

Q. What do you like about living in Valdez?

A. I like the scenery, and the sense of community when people come together for those in need of help.

Q. What is a little known fact about you or your family?

A. I am blessed with four granddaughters; Cambree, Kathleen, and twins Eva and Georgie.

Q. What do you like about your job at CVEA?

A. I like meeting new people, and that there is always something to do. I love the diversity of my job.

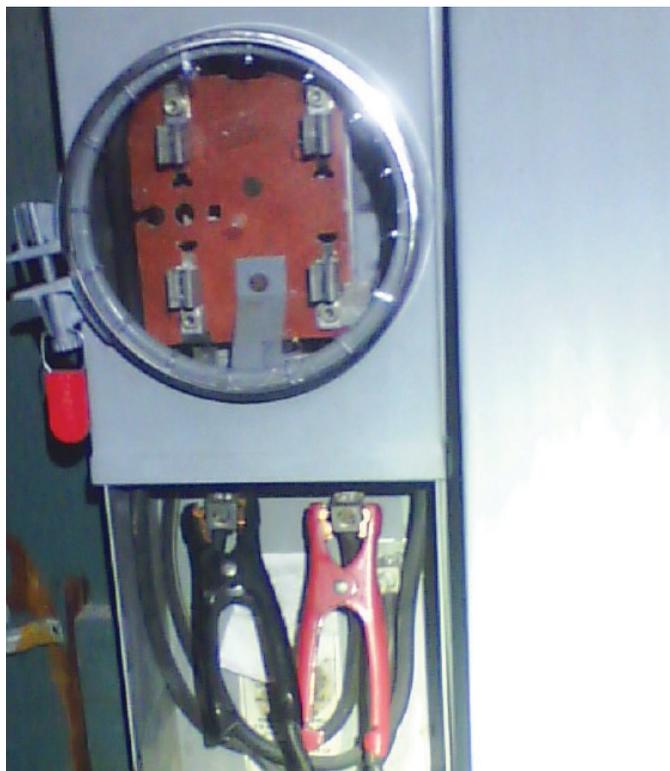
Q. What do you do in your spare time?

A. I enjoy camping, playing darts, and hanging out with my family.

Q. What about your job are you most proud of?

A. I am most proud of the exceptional quality of service we provide to our members. ■





Stealing From the Neighbors

Electricity Theft: Not Worth the Risk

Every year, electric cooperatives across the country cope with thieves—folks who deliberately tamper with their electric meter to steal power. Not only is this practice extremely dangerous, it is a serious crime that can result in hefty fines and jail time.

“We’ve seen people do some dangerous things—using jumper cables and any number of other objects to get around paying for the power they use,” explains CVEA COO, Travis Million. “However, not only are these persons stealing from the Co-op, they are stealing from their fellow co-op members and

risking their own lives and those of CVEA linemen.”

According to the Cooperative Research Network, a division of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, power surging through a compromised meter can cause an electrical catastrophe. A short circuit could produce an arc flash bright enough to cause blindness and powerful enough to launch fragments of shrapnel-like, red-hot debris. Serious injury or death from electrocution, explosion, or fire often results from meter tampering. Only trained CVEA personnel wearing protective clothing should work on meters.

“Any time you get into a meter base, you run a risk,” comments Million. “With an arc flash, someone could be killed or seriously injured.”

Electricity theft is not a victimless crime either. Your not-for-profit cooperative loses revenue and expends resources to investigate tampering. These costs are then passed on to the entire membership.

National estimates vary, but *The Washington Post* cited revenue protection officials who claim between \$1 billion and \$10 billion worth of electricity is stolen from utilities nationwide annually. “We don’t know exactly how much is being stolen annually in CVEA’s service territory, but it does happen, how far and widespread is unknown,” according to Million. He goes on to say that the Co-op’s potential risk has been reduced since the new AMI meters were installed. “The new meters report back to CVEA when a meter has been bypassed or tampered with; this additional system benefit should help reduce the risk of theft and safety concerns.”

It is important CVEA members know the rules that govern this issue for the Cooperative. Below is Section 6.13 of CVEA’s Tariff.

6.13 Tampering with Association Property

Tampering with meters and other facilities of the Association violates these consumer service policies and Rules and Regulations. The tampering may also result in civil liability under Alaska law (AS 42.20.030).

The Association may collect from the party up to three times its damages sustained and three times the value of the service taken as a result of such tampering. Further, the party may be convicted of several criminal offenses, with penalties ranging up to 10 years imprisonment and a fine of \$100,000, depending upon the magnitude of the offense (AS 11.46.480, 12.55.125[d], and 12.55.035[c] [1]).

In addition to statutory penalties, a fee as set forth in the applicable Schedule of Fees will be charged for consumers’ facilities where a seal has been broken or removed, or the Association’s facilities are otherwise tampered with.

In flagrant cases, electric utility service will be discontinued (Section 10.9). Authorization to break a meter seal will be given in appropriate cases upon application and payment of a fee as set

forth in the applicable Schedule of Fees.

Damage or vandalism includes, but is not limited to, broken glass, broken seals, and altered mechanisms.

In order to protect its equipment and service, the Association may seal the service switch and/or other devices or enclosures on the consumer's premises to prevent access by any unauthorized persons.

The consumer shall not in any way interfere with or alter the meters, seals, or other property used in connection with rendering electric service, or permit same to be done by other than the authorized agents or employees of the Association. Damage to or loss of Association property shall be paid for by the consumer.

Damage to or removal of the Association's meters, seals, or other property shall be considered sufficient reason for discontinuance of service to a consumer until the Association has received satisfactory assurance that its equipment will be free from future interference and until all damages, fines, and bills for metered or unmetered electricity have been paid.

Remember, meter tampering can result in electric shock or severe injury to the homeowner or CVEA personnel, it is illegal, and it increases electricity rates for other co-op members. "Stealing power is just as serious a crime as any other type of theft," Million says. "As a co-op, we take a hard line on it because this is not a theft from a big corporation, it is a loss to all 3,000 members."

Since everyone pays for lost power, please let CVEA know if you suspect meter tampering. Call the Cooperative at (907) 822-3211 or (907) 835-4301 to report possible theft of service. All information can be given anonymously.

If you have questions about this or any other CVEA issue, please contact Sharon Scheidt, Director of Communications at (907) 822-5506, (907) 835-7005, or email scheidt@cvea.org. ■

Source: The Washington Post, Cooperative Research Network, Christine Smith/National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

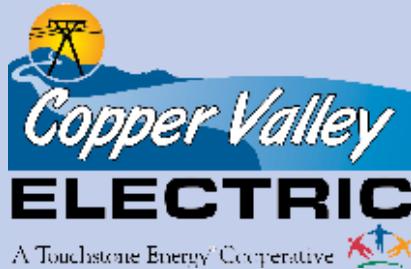
DO NOT TAMPER WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER

Meter tampering can result in electric shock, is illegal and increases electricity rates for other co-op members.



- ⊘ Never break a meter seal.
- ⊘ Never open a meter base.
- ⊘ Never remove a meter or alter an entrance cable in any manner.

If you know or suspect that someone has tampered with their meter, please contact us immediately.



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www.cvea.org
Copper Basin District
907-822-3211
Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.
Valdez District
907-835-4301
367 Fairbanks Dr.
After hours outage line
866-835-2832

Important Dates

February

Director Nomination Deadline: 6 p.m.
Thursday, February 13, 2020

CVEA Offices Closed:
The CVEA offices will be closed
Monday, February 17, 2020, for
President's Day

Scholarship Application Deadline: 6
p.m. Thursday, February 20, 2020

CVEA Board Meeting: The February
meeting of the Board of Directors is 1
p.m. Thursday, February 20, 2020, in
Glennallen

March

CVEA Board Meeting: The March
meeting of the Board of Directors is
1 p.m. Thursday, March 19, 2020, in
Valdez

AK-34

Save the Date

2020 Annual Meeting

Valdez: Tuesday, May 5
Copper Basin: Thursday, May 7

Committee Volunteer Opportunities: Credentials & Elections Committee

Credentials & Election (C&E) Committees are responsible for validating signatures on the back of director election ballot envelopes and counting the ballots for Director elections and Bylaws amendments.

The committees, one for each district, are comprised of interested members who are not employees, directors, candidates, or close relatives of these persons.

Service on the C&E Committees will take place during April, with most of the work performed the week prior to the meeting.

Community Foundation Scholarship Selection Committees

CVEACF Scholarship Selection Committees review scholarship application packets, determine which students to interview, conduct the interviews and select who will receive the scholarships being offered this year.

Participation on the committees requires attending three or four meetings as well as time for reviewing and scoring applications, and is estimated to take up to 10 hours.

If you would like more information, or would like to volunteer for either of these opportunities to serve, please contact Sharon Scheidt at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email scheidt@cvea.org. The committee volunteer deadline is Tuesday, February 18, 2020.