



Outage Preparedness and Communications

Keeping the lights on in the Copper Valley system can be a delicate balancing act. While CVEA does everything they can to deliver your power through safe, reliable, cost-effective means, the Co-op cannot guarantee 100 percent uninterrupted power, especially considering the difficulties encountered in CVEA's challenging service territory.

Let's face it, there is no good time for a power outage. Outages not only leave you in the dark, but can disrupt communications, businesses and services, cause food spoilage, and even prevent the use of medical devices. For these reasons, it is critical for members to be prepared. Below are some basic tips to help you:

- Have flashlights ready in multiple, easily accessible locations around your home or business; LED flashlights are great because they last much longer
- Have plenty of fresh, spare batteries for your flashlights and other devices
- Have emergency candles and plenty of matches
- Have a battery operated or hand crank radio available
- Store foods that do not require refrigeration and require very little warming or cooking
- Have other means to prepare food such as a grill and grill supplies, a camping stove, or an open fire
- Have a manual can opener for opening cans of food; if you are a coffee drinker, have a french press available
- Keep your cell phone, iPads, and laptops fully charged; also have battery chargers and car chargers ready and accessible

- Keep your automobile's fuel tank at least half full
- Know how long refrigerated medications can be stored at higher temperatures and have a plan for alternate refrigeration for medications critical for life
- Keep frozen containers of water in your freezer; this will help keep food cold longer if power goes out
- Keep a supply of books, board games, playing cards and other items to stay entertained
- Sign up for local alerts
- Keep extra blankets or sleeping bags handy for warmth during the winter months
- Have CVEA's emergency contact information available

In addition to these common preparations, some members, particularly members that use special healthcare equipment, like oxygen generators or dialysis equipment that require power, should notify CVEA in advance. CVEA maintains a life support list that will flag your account in CVEA's system as critical in the event of an outage or emergency.

Special consideration and notice is given to members on this list. To be added, a simple form is required. Please contact your local office to make these arrangements.

Standby Generators

Some members prepare for the possibility of an extended power outage by purchasing an electric generator as a standby system. In some cases, these systems can provide electricity to major appliances, lights, or possibly even an entire home or business until power is restored.

There are two basic standby generation installations: portable standby generators and permanent standby generators.

Portable standby generators are typically under 8,000 watts and would most often be used to power a select number of items in your home or business. Appliances and lights are unplugged from wall outlets and connected directly to the generator utilizing electrical cords. When using this type of generator, make sure that the generator is placed outdoors or the exhaust is vented outside to prevent hazardous exhaust gasses from entering your home or business.

Permanent standby generators are permanently connected to your home or business electrical system, range in size from 5,000 watts to more than 20,000 watts, and can provide electricity to the entire building. They can either be manually or automatically operated, depending on the type of double-throw transfer switch installed.

A manual transfer switch requires the user to physically move the switch from the utility source position to a standby generator source position. The configuration is wired eliminating the possibility of connecting the generator to the overall utility system.

An automatic transfer switch detects a utility power outage and changes from the utility source to the generator source position. During a power outage, typically less than one minute later, the automatic standby generator is powering your home or business. Once utility power is restored, it will switch back to the utility source.

Generators offer peace of mind, but can also pose serious safety hazards to you and others, including hazardous exhaust gasses if not properly ventilated, excessive sound levels, and electrical shock. To reduce these risks, members should follow all manufacturer's safety instructions. In addition to member safety, the safety of CVEA personnel working on the electrical lines is of paramount importance to the Cooperative. It is required that standby generators have appropriate safety devices to prevent connecting to the energized system or feeding energy back into the system during a utility power outage.

This requirement is addressed in the CVEA Tariff 4, Section 9.13 where it states, "Standby generation installations shall include the requirement for the installation of a double-throw switch on the consumer's side of the kilowatt-hour meter, with the capacity in either position equal to the total connected electrical load through the switch. All such installations shall be subject to prior approval of the Cooperative in order to assure the safety of the Cooperative's personnel."

Also, please be aware that members are responsible for any injuries or damage to their property, their neighbors or CVEA's, resulting from an improperly installed or operated generator.

Outage Communications

CVEA understands that members are interested in informa-

tion regarding outages, both in real-time and post-outage. The Cooperative is committed to providing members outage information. Currently CVEA provides updates during outages and additional details are provided on cvea.org and through other media channels after outages.

CVEA reports real-time outage information under the following circumstances:

- For district or system-wide outages expected to last more than 1 hour
- For major distribution feeder outages expected to last more than 2 hours
- For any outage affecting more than 10 customers expected to last more than 2 hours

Please note that members should not expect real-time outage information if an outage does not meet the criteria above. It is CVEA's priority to provide real-time outage information during extended outages so members can prepare their homes, businesses, and families to be without power for lengthy periods of time.

We ask that members recognize that the Plant Operator's FIRST priority is to assess the situation and then develop a plan to get the lights back on. The process includes locating the cause of the outage, calling appropriate personnel, bringing additional generation online as necessary and energizing distribution lines to restore service to customers.

Depending on weather, time of day, cause and location, these activities can take minutes or hours, therefore this information is not always available immediately. CVEA does provide updates as soon as information is available, so if you don't see it initially, please be patient and check back.

CVEA reports real-time outage updates in a variety of ways to ensure all members have access to current information. Members can call the after-hours emergency voicemail system at 1-866-835-2832; real time information is updated on the voicemail message system for those calling in. Members can visit the CVEA Facebook page, where current information is posted throughout the outage, or members can visit cvea.org. Facebook updates can also be viewed through a feed on the homepage.

CVEA members can find monthly outage information just one click away; gather information on the number of outages by month and by cause, view copies of press releases sent to the local media, and find copies of Ruralite articles that focus on outages and projects related to outages. Interested members are encouraged to visit cvea.org and click the Outage Communications link under Quick Links on the homepage.

If you have questions regarding outages or any other CVEA issue, please contact Sharon Scheidt, CVEA Director of Communications, at 907-255-1425, or sscheidt@cvea.org. ■



COOK UP ENERGY SAVINGS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

- Clean oven burners regularly
- Match the pan size to the burner you're using
- Use small appliances like slow cookers and toaster ovens when possible

**From our table to yours,
Happy Thanksgiving!**

Cook Up Holiday Energy Savings

For many of us, the best holidays involve home-cooked meals and wonderful aromas of turkey, stuffing and baked goods wafting throughout the house. It means a busy kitchen, but it doesn't have to mean higher energy costs this holiday season.

Cut carbs (carbon) painlessly

- When preparing side dishes, baked goods, soups and such, consider using small appliances like a crock pot, toaster oven, microwave or warming plate instead of your conventional oven or stovetop. These small appliances are a smart, energy-saving alternative, typically using about half the energy of a stove.
- Unplug appliances that draw phantom energy load – these are the appliances that draw energy even when they're not in use, like coffee makers, microwaves and toaster ovens. Unplug them when they're not in use, or better yet, use a power strip for convenient control.
- Bonus tip: The best way to save energy is to not use it. Try a tasty, no-bake dessert recipe. Your sweet tooth (and energy bill!) will thank you.

Seal in efficiency; allowing large appliances to work less

- When using your oven, don't peek! Opening the oven door can lower the temperature by as much as 25 degrees and causes your stove to work harder (consuming more

energy) to return to the desired cooking temperature. If your recipe calls for baking the dish more than an hour, it is not necessary to preheat the oven.

- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible so cold air doesn't escape. Make sure leftovers are covered and allow it to cool down first so your fridge doesn't work harder to cool warm food.
- Give your furnace a brief holiday, too. The heat from your hard working oven will keep your house comfortable, enabling you to turn down the thermostat.

Clean up with energy savings

- When it's time to clean up, wash and dry dirty dishes by hand. If you do use the dishwasher and rinse dishes before loading them, use cold water.
- Run the dishwasher with full loads only, and if possible, use the energy-saving cycle.
- You can also save energy by letting your dishes air dry. If your dishwasher doesn't have an automatic air-dry switch, simply turn it off after the final rinse and prop the door open so the dishes will dry faster.

By adapting these efficient practices in your kitchen, energy savings will be one more thing to be thankful for this holiday season.

SAFE DÉCOR FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

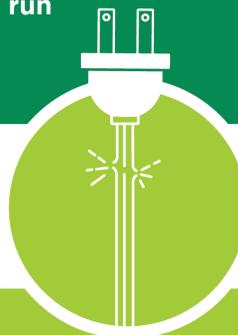
It's almost time to deck those halls! Statistics show that home fires and electrical accidents typically increase during winter months, so keep these holiday lighting tips in mind for a safe holiday season.

Carefully inspect all electrical decorations before you use them. Cracked or damaged sockets and/or loose or exposed wires can cause serious shock or start a fire.



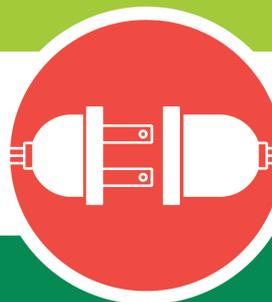
Consider purchasing LED lights, which use less energy and run cooler than traditional incandescent lights.

Never mount or support light strings in a way that might damage the cord's insulation.



Make sure that cords are not pinched in doors, windows or under heavy furniture, which could damage the cord's insulation.

Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses.



Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Winter Energy-Saving Tips

Decrease energy bills and increase comfort by using these energy-efficiency tips

Heating and cooling are significant energy expenses for residential members. They can account for nearly half of the average home energy bill.

For Copper Valley Electric members, that primarily means costs associated with staying warm in the winter.

The yellow, orange and brown hues of fall have given way to the snow and cold of winter. If you haven't already, it's time to consider ways to control winter electricity costs. Winter can be challenging enough without adding higher-than-usual electricity bills to the equation.

Thermostat Savings

One quick and easy way to achieve energy savings is by doing a little work with your thermostat.

The Department of Energy estimates you will save one percent on your energy bill for every degree you turn down your thermostat per eight hours. That's a lot of math to calculate, so here are some guidelines to follow.

- Generally, 68 F is a good place to start with your default temperature. If you're willing to throw on a comfy sweater and sweatpants or cuddle up in a cozy blanket, you can crank it back a little more.
- Don't believe the myth that maintaining a constant temperature in your home

is more efficient and, as a result, more cost-effective. In reality, it costs more to heat your home when you're not there to benefit. By turning the thermostat down to 60 when you're at work or asleep, you can realize savings for 16 out of 24 hours. The beauty of programmable thermostats is you can spend a few minutes setting up a program and then not worry about it for the rest of the season.

- Space heaters can be your best friend or worst enemy. When used in conjunction with your home heating system, they can help you save money. Using a single space heater to warm a small area of the house, like a family room or bedroom, where you spend the most time, can allow you to turn down the temperature in the rest of your home. However, using multiple space heaters as a primary source of heat gets expensive in a hurry.

Attack Heat Loss

Controlling energy savings depends on how well your house retains heat. The less heat you need to maintain your desired temperature, the more efficiently your system will function.

- Start with a time-honored tradition in many older homes, covering drafty windows has the obvious effect of keeping cold air from infiltrating your home. Common methods include using a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or taping clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames. Make sure the plastic is tight to the frame to prevent cold air from getting in.
- Locate and seal other leaks and drafts. Ensure your doors and windows seal tightly when closed and use

weatherstripping accordingly. Caulk is a perfect solution for drafty frames. Leaky ducts in your HVAC system are another leading source of heat loss. Invest in duct sealing to lower your monthly bill.

- Another way to increase your home's heat retention is to add insulation to your attic and floor. Think of it as a winter jacket for your house. Just like thicker, better-insulated jackets keep us warmer as temperatures drop, adding insulation can help your home retain more warm air.

Other Reminders

System maintenance is important to make sure your system runs as efficiently as possible. Don't forget to have it serviced before the coldest darkest months hit, and make sure you regularly change the air filter.

Take advantage of the solar gain by opening your blinds and allowing the sun's rays to heat your home. When the sun goes down, energy-efficient blinds can add another layer of heat retention.

For other tips on energy efficiency, or access to CVEA's energy calculators, visit cvea.org.

Calculators can help you determine how much common household items and appliances cost based on the estimated usage you anticipate. It is a great way to see where costs are and how they can be reduced.

If you have questions, contact Sharon Scheidt, CVEA Director of Communications, at 907-255-1425, or email at sscheidt@cvea.org. ■

10 Quick Tips to Avoid High Winter Bills

Looking to lower your bills this winter? Use the 10 tips below to conserve energy.

1



Seal air leaks and insulate well to prevent heat from escaping and cold air from entering your home.

2



Reduce waste heat by installing a programmable thermostat.

3



Turn off lights when not in use.

4



Lower your water heater temperature. The Department of Energy recommends using the warm setting (120 degrees) during fall and winter months.

5



Unplug electronics like kitchen appliances and TVs when you're away.

6



Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home.

7



Close blinds and curtains at night to keep cold, drafty air out.

8



Use power strips for multiple appliances, and turn off the main switch when you're away from home.

9



Wash clothes in cold water, and use cold-water detergent whenever possible.

10



Replace incandescent lightbulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Board of Directors

Lon Rake, President
Will Stark, Vice President
Dan Stowe, Secretary
Yvette Delaquito, Treasurer
Paul Kildal, Director
Jan Maslen, Director
Jeff Saxe, Director
Mark Shorten, Director

P.O. Box 45
Glennallen, AK 99588
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

November

CVEA Board Meeting: The November meeting of the Board of Directors is 9 a.m. Thursday, November 18, 2021, in Valdez

CVEA Offices Closed: CVEA will be closed Thursday, November 25, for the Thanksgiving holiday

December

CVEA Board Meeting: The December meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, December 16, 2021, in Glennallen

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will be closed Wednesday, December 22 and Thursday, December 23, 2021, for the Christmas Holiday, and Wednesday, December 29 and Thursday, December 30, 2021, for New Year's

AK-34



CVEA Community Foundation Round Up for Your Community

The holiday season is a time for giving thanks. Copper Valley Electric would like to thank everyone who rounded up or donated to the CVEA Community Foundation in 2021 and encourage all members to begin rounding up their electric bill next year.

Consider rounding up your electric bill to the nearest dollar amount each month. It's easy and painless. Participants who round up their bill contribute between \$.01 and \$.99 monthly, an average of just \$6 a year, to the Foundation.

Individually this is not a large number, but combined with other Co-op members, it will make a difference. If half of all CVEA members round up their bills each month, the Foundation will bring in an amazing \$10,000 each year.

Money raised is used to provide scholarships for students and to help local educational, scientific, and charitable organizations in our communities start new programs and expand existing ones. In 2021, the Foundation awarded \$8,000 in scholarships and made over \$19,000 in contributions to 16 local nonprofit organizations. Stay tuned to see what programs received funding, an announcement will be included in the next issue.

Another really easy way for members to contribute is to add a specific amount to their electric bill each month. Members can also make a one-time donation or even donate their future capital credit disbursements.

If you'd like to help your Cooperative do more for the community by rounding up or adding an amount to your bill, you can do this anytime by simply filling out the donation form located on cvea.org (also available at CVEA offices) and bringing it to the CVEA office in your district, sending it via email to mbedrick@cvea.org, or mailing it to P.O. Box 45, Glennallen, AK 99588.

For additional information on the Community Foundation or if you have questions about making a donation, contact Sharon Scheidt, Director of Communications, at (907) 255-1425, or email sscheidt@cvea.org.