

## HOW DO WE CONTACT YOU?

Every now and again we have to take some electrical services out of power to do maintenance or repairs on our system. When we do this, we send out an automated call informing members of the planned outage so they can plan accordingly. We don't want you to just get started on a birthday cake or loaf of bread and have the power go out!

Every time we do these calls, we have a handful of phone numbers that bounce back as disconnected, changed, or it's for the wrong person altogether.

We list your phone number(s) that we have on file on the bottom third of your electric bill. Please take a moment to verify that the number we have on file is the best number for you to get important notifications at. If it is not the correct number, you can make the correction on the stub and just mail it with your monthly statement. Otherwise, you can always call the office at 715-232-6240 to notify us of the change.



## FROM THE BOARD ROOM

### July 2024 Board Meeting Highlights



#### Monthly Reports:

The Operations report included an update on contractors and projects. It was noted that Zielies is doing service calls and continues the 2024 brushing rotation out of the Colfax and Wheeler substations and PUSH, Inc. has completed the work plan project on State Road 40 and are working on the overhead portion of the County Highway T project.

The Engagement and Communications update included information on Operation Round Up grants, the summer intern, and the member survey being sent out in August.

The CFO led discussion on year-to-date energy sales and capital credit retirements happening in October.

The CEO/General Manager had various updates for open session, including discussion of grant efforts,

past and upcoming meetings, the DPC 20-year load forecast, and miscellaneous other items.

#### The following items were approved:

- 2024-2043 DPC Load Forecast
- Renewable Energy Service Upgrade Fee
- Capital credit estate payout for deceased members
- Audit committee report of all checks, ACH payments, wire transfers, credit card statements, and investments accounts

#### Other Business:

Director Stokke reported on Dairyland Power activities for the month.

Reviewed the monthly report of new Cooperative members.

Reviewed the monthly educational piece, the NRECA podcast on Protecting Co-op Consumers from Scams.

# BEYOND OPENING THE BOX:

## Take steps to operate a generator safely

When the electricity goes out, your initial thought might be to run to the local hardware or big box store and buy a generator. However, using a generator should not be taken lightly, since it can be dangerous and even life-threatening if used incorrectly. There are several steps you should take before ever starting one up.

### BUT FIRST, HOMEWORK

Before purchasing a generator, the first step is to research the best option for your home and budget. The second, and more important step, is to educate yourself on how to use one safely.

Homeowners can choose from two types of generators: standby and portable. Standby generators are installed directly into the home's electrical system and are typically powered by natural gas or propane. These generators start automatically when the power goes out.

A portable generator is usually gas powered and is, well, portable. You can power appliances by plugging them into it. Your generator should

have more output than the wattage of the electronics plugged into it. This way, the generator can create the extra electricity it takes for the initial power surge. Make sure there is nothing plugged into the generator when turning it on.

### SAFETY TIPS

When you refuel a portable generator, make sure the engine is cool. Keep children and pets away from the generator, as it could burn them.

Generators pose electrical risks, especially when operated during inclement weather. Use a generator only when necessary during wet conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure and on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it.

### GENERATORS CAN BE DEADLY

Carbon monoxide fumes emitted by the gasoline engine on the generator can be deadly. Always operate your portable generator outdoors at least 20 feet from your home.

Misusing a portable generator or using a standby generator that is not installed correctly (and does not meet the electrical code) can cause backfeed, which puts others in danger. Backfeed happens when a generator feeds electricity back through a home's electrical system and meter onto the power lines. To prevent this dangerous scenario, standby generators should have a transfer switch installed by a licensed professional. Do not plug a portable generator directly into a home outlet or electrical system. Instead, use a properly rated extension cord to plug appliances into an outlet on the generator for power.

### WHEN NOT IN USE

Operate your generator once a month for 10 minutes to ensure it is running properly. Keep your generator well maintained and follow all manufacturer's instructions. Have a standby generator installed in an easily accessible, weatherproof area.

For more electrical safety information, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org).

## What is a **TRANSFER SWITCH**?

A transfer or throw switch is an essential mechanism that safely shuts off power to the electrical grid before backup power is used. This switch is sometimes referred to as a double-throw switch, as it controls two separate circuits.

The switch's job is to safely transfer power from its primary source to a backup power source, enabling users to maintain power during an outage. It works by connecting a generator to your home's main circuits to provide backup power.

Properly installed transfer switches are essential because they prevent dangerous backfeed into the power grid, which endangers utility workers and others.

Make sure your permanent generator and switch are installed according to code and working properly. Never plug a portable generator into a wall outlet, as this can cause backfeed.

Learn more at:

 SafeElectricity.org®

