

 October is Cooperative Month!

DUNN COUNTY  
*Cooperative*  
**COOKOUT**



**CO-OPS  
BUILD  
ECONOMIC  
POWER**

Lunch includes: **HOT DOGS, BEANS, CHIPS, DEEP FRIED CHEESE CURDS, COOKIES, AND BEVERAGES**





**Saturday, October 26, 2024**  
**11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Dunn Energy Cooperative**  
N5725 600th Street, Menomonie

Enter off County Road B onto 578th Avenue to pass on the north side of Dunn Energy building, exiting onto 600th Street to Highway 12.

Please consider supporting Stepping Stones of Dunn County Food Pantry with a non-perishable food donation

Together, we **CAN** make a difference!

-  Cooperative Displays
-  Raffle Prize Drawing
-  Kids Trick-or-Treating
-  Come in Costume!



# TEEN DRIVER SAFETY *As a parent, you're in the driver's seat*

Parenting teens can be challenging. While some battles aren't worth fighting, protecting your teen behind the wheel is.

And although no one wants to think about teens being in car accidents, it does happen. Protecting your teen behind the wheel is crucial due to their inexperience, which makes them more susceptible to crashes. Car accidents are a leading cause of death for teens in the U.S., with the highest risk in the first year of driving. Common hazards include additional passengers, speeding, drowsy driving and using phones.

Distracted driving is a major issue, with 3,308 people killed in distracted-affected crashes in 2022, including 2,613 teens, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. That's approximately seven teens per day.

Teen drivers often lack the skills and experience needed to avoid fatal crashes, and distractions such as texting can be particularly dangerous. For example, reading a text at 55 mph is like driving the

length of a football field with your eyes closed. For this reason, many states have laws against texting, talking on the phone and engaging in other distractions while driving.

## **There are three types of driving distractions to discuss with your teen:**

- Visual, when you take your eyes off the road.
- Manual, when you take your hands off the wheel.
- Cognitive, when you take your mind off driving.

## **To prevent distracted driving, teach your teens (and emulate) these tips:**

1. Do not text while driving.
2. Block texts and keep your phone out of sight.
3. Avoid eating while driving.
4. Use playlists instead of searching for music.
5. Set up navigation before driving or have a passenger navigate.

Teen drivers report pressure from families and friends to use phones while driving. Many drivers continue

to use phones even when they are aware of the crash risk. Technology can help avoid cell phone use while driving. Use built-in features on your smartphone or cell phone blocking apps to prevent distractions. For the greatest safety benefit, change your phone settings to block hands-free and calls and text messages.

## **Stay safe around power lines**

Ensure your teens know what to do if they encounter downed power lines: stay in the vehicle, call 9-1-1 and stay at least 50 feet away from the scene if they witness an accident.

Make sure they realize that downed lines or other damaged utility equipment can look lifeless and harmless yet still be energized. They do not have to be sparking, moving or sizzling (like you often see in movies) to be energized.

For more safety tips, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org) and consider downloading a Parent-Teen Driving Agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

## FROM THE BOARD ROOM

### August 2024 Board Meeting Highlights



#### **Monthly Reports:**

The Operations report included an update on contractors and projects. Pictures of the progress at the new Sherman Creek Substation were shared and an update on equipment repairs was

given. The contractor has finished their brushing contract and has come in under budget.

The Energy Management report contained updates on the new load management modernization project as well as updates on the EV chargers installed at the shop.

As the summer comes to a close, the board also heard from the summer intern about her experience.

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

The CEO/General Manager had various updates for

open session, including discussion on grant efforts, past and upcoming meetings, employee safety survey results, strategic planning and other items.

#### **The following items were approved:**

- Capital credit estate payout for deceased members.
- Audit committee report of all checks, ACH payments, wire transfers, credit card statements, and investment accounts.
- Change to Policy 214 regarding large load capacity billing

#### **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 from the NRECA Governance series on Strategic Planning.