

## STAY SAFE ON WINTER ROADS

Winter months can bring snow, ice and windy conditions, which create additional hazards for drivers.

Should an accident occur, it is important to be prepared. Automobile crashes always present danger, but when electricity is involved, decisions made in the moments after the accident are especially crucial.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Highway Administration, 24 percent of weather-related vehicle crashes occur on snowy or icy pavement.

Here are tips to help drivers stay safe on the roads this winter.

### Before the winter storm

Prepare ahead for cold temperatures, snow and ice with seasonal maintenance on your car to ensure:

- Batteries are charged.
- Tires have sufficient tread.
- The spare tire is inflated.
- Jumper cables are in good condition.
- A winterized car emergency kit is on board.
- Windshield wipers work.
- Headlights, brake lights and turn signals work.
- The gas tank is at least half full.

### Create a car emergency kit

Be especially cautious driving, and keep an emergency kit in your vehicle, which should include:

- Blankets
- Flares
- Ice scraper
- Portable shovel
- Sand or kitty litter for traction
- First aid kit
- Phone charger
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Warm hat
- Non-perishable snacks
- Bottled water

**If you are stranded in your car after an accident, watch for signs of frostbite or hypothermia. Observe the following precautions:**

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## Ready Your Home FOR WINTER

Prepare your home for winter now to ensure safety, efficiency and comfort. Here's a checklist you can use.



### INSPECT HEATING SYSTEM:

- Have your heating system professionally serviced.
- Replace air filters if needed.
- Ensure vents and radiators are unblocked for efficient heat distribution.

### TEST AND MAINTAIN SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS:

- Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Test detectors to ensure they function properly.

### PREPARE PIPES AND WATER SUPPLY:

- Insulate exposed pipes to prevent freezing.
- Drain and shut off outdoor faucets and irrigation systems.
- Know the location of water shut-off valve in case of emergency.

### PREPARE YOUR HOME'S EXTERIOR:

- Clear gutters and downspouts to prevent ice dams.
- Trim trees away from the house to avoid damage.
- Ensure downspouts extend away from the foundation.
- Service and store equipment such as lawnmowers and trimmers.
- Gather winter tools such as snow shovels and ice melt.

### INCREASE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY:

- Seal gaps at windows and doors with weatherstripping or caulk.
- Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to circulate warm air.
- Lower your thermostat a few degrees to save on heating costs.

Learn more at: 

- Do not stay in one position for too long.
- Stay awake.
- Do not overexert yourself to avoid strain on your heart.
- Watch for signs such as a change in skin color, numbness, shivering, slurred speech, loss of coordination or confusion.

### Downed power lines

Due to the potential for a winter storm to bring down power lines, individuals should only venture outside if necessary.

Slow down when driving in icy conditions, and always keep your eyes out for hazardous conditions or downed power lines. Also, watch for debris near down poles and lines, as it may be energized as well.

If you see a car in an accident with a power pole, your first instinct may be to rush toward the vehicle to offer help.

Always remember to keep your distance from the vehicle and all electrical equipment that has been damaged. Instruct those in the car to stay inside until the power has been shut off.

If you must exit the vehicle because it is on fire, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Keeping your feet together, shuffle or

“bunny hop” to safety.

Doing this will ensure that you will not have different strengths of electric current running from one foot to another.

Keep in mind that a downed line does not need to be sparking to be energized. It is best to assume that all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous.

Never drive over a downed line because that could pull down a pole or other equipment, causing additional hazards.

If you see a downed line, do not get out of your car. The safest place is inside your vehicle. Contact 911 to notify the utility immediately.

For utility crews, repairing damaged power lines is especially dangerous during storm conditions. The increased hazards mean that extra time and attention must be dedicated to ensure power is safely restored.

Have patience while linemen work in these adverse conditions to turn the power back on, and remember to observe safety precautions and be prepared for driving in dangerous winter conditions.

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



Please be advised the **Winter Test for Interruptible Heat (Dual Fuel) Members is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20**. This date is the Wednesday of the week before Thanksgiving, the same test day as prior years. This load control test is performed in advance of the winter Full Load Control season to ensure member familiarity with the control sequence and to ensure that backup heating systems have been validated for proper function.

Residential Interruptible Heat load classes will be controlled as follows:

#### Control Start

- All Interruptible Heat load classes will begin control at 6:55 a.m. without pre-alert.

#### Restoral

- All Interruptible Heat loads will vary in restoral, beginning at 10:30 a.m. with full restoral at 11 a.m.

## FROM THE BOARD ROOM

# September 2024 Board Meeting Highlights



### Monthly Reports:

The Operations report included an update on contractors and projects. The County Highway T project is coming along, but there is still a couple of months of work to do. Pole testing has started and will take

place over the next few months. New services continue to come in and day-to-day work is being completed.

The Information Technology report updated board on some software improvements for the Operations Department and cybersecurity improvements made.

The CFO led a discussion on year-to-date energy sales. August was another poor performing month, with energy sales 8.37% below budget. Year-to-date sales are 6.15% below budget, but margins remain strong for the year.

The CEO/General Manager had various updates for open session, including discussion grant efforts, past and upcoming meetings, phase two remodel project, and announcing the DEC Safety and Compliance Officer will be awarded the 2024 WECA Herman C Potthast Award

for Safety for her dedication, leadership, cooperation, and service.

### 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 124 regarding the DEC line of credit.
- Selection of audit firm for the next three years.

### 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 Governance podcast on Practical Conversations about Artificial Intelligence.

Reviewed the monthly educational piece from the NRECA Governance series on Strategic Planning.