

Spotlight

July 2020



FROM THE MANAGER — JESSE SINGERHOUSE

Ready to respond

While we work hard each year to make sure the lights stay on, we also realize that sometimes mother nature, a rogue tree, or random squirrel have other ideas. And right now, we are in peak thunderstorm season in Wisconsin. I want our members to know that Dunn Energy Cooperative employees stand ready 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to respond to any power outages you may have.

Technology and strategic partnerships greatly help us to respond to outages when they occur. Our after-hours call center takes outage calls for many Cooperatives around the country. They are able to page our local lineman and help us manage the outages as the crews work to restore them. We can also utilize our meters to verify power outages on the system. This may help us pinpoint the cause of an outage. In the event of a large outage, we are able to call on our Cooperative partners from across Wisconsin, or even the country, to come help us restore power. If you haven't been to our website in a while, we also have an outage map to help keep members informed. You can find it at dunnenergy.com.

If you experience an outage, first check your breakers to make sure the issue isn't on your side of the meter. Then, with your address and account number handy, call 800-924-0630 to report your outage. Even if you think your neighbors have called it in, it's a good idea for you to call as well. Dunn Energy will work hard to restore power as quickly and safely as possible should an outage occur. As always, we appreciate your patience.

Think Summer Storms are Harmless? Think Again

You might joke that you have a better chance of getting hit by lightning than winning the lottery, and you would be right.

According to National Weather Service (NWS), there are an estimated 25 million lightning flashes in the United States each year, killing 28 people and injuring 252 annually (averages based on data from 2008-2017).

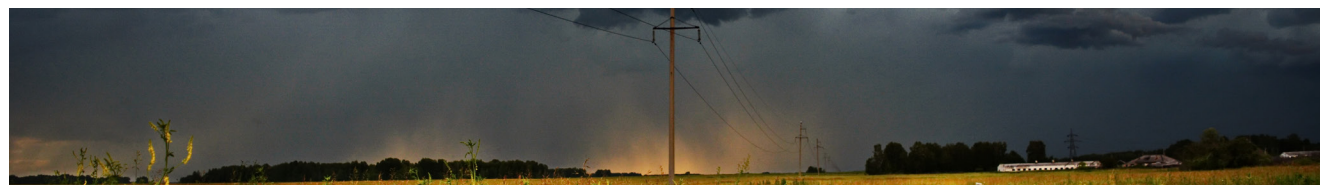
Your odds of being struck by lightning are 1 in 1,171,000 in any given year.

Before you deny that might ever happen to you, consider a person's average lifespan (estimated at 80 years) and the odds drop to around 1 in 14,600. Lest you think these numbers are bogus and fabricated to make a point, the NWS tracks all kinds of storm data and actually publishes the odds of becoming struck by lightning. (Oh, and just so you know, the odds of winning the Mega Millions jackpot is 1 in 302.6 million and the Powerball, 1

in 292.2 million. And that's according to Lottery USA.)

While there is little you can do to increase your chances of becoming a multi-millionaire by winning a huge lottery windfall, there are proactive steps you can take before and during a storm to stay safe. Safe Electricity offers the following weather-related reminders from FEMA, the Red Cross, and other safety organizations:

(continued on back...)





Summer Storms

(...continued from front)

- Never seek shelter under an isolated tree, tower or utility pole since lightning tends to strike tall objects.
- Immediately vacate elevated areas, such as hills, mountain ridges and peaks.
- Get away from ponds, lakes and other bodies of water.
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity, including wires and fences (and golf clubs!). (Approximately 5 percent of annual lightning deaths and injuries in the U.S. happen on golf courses, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association.)
- Never lie flat on the ground.
- Learn about your community's emergency warning for severe thunderstorms.
- Pick a safe place in your home for family members to gather during a thunderstorm. The location should be away from windows, skylights and glass doors that could be broken by strong winds or hail.
- Protect your animals by ensuring that any outside buildings that house them are structurally sound.
- Your mom was right: never talk on a landline telephone during a thunderstorm. Lightning could strike whatever building you are in, and the electricity will look for the quickest route to the ground via wiring. Although many homes don't have landlines anymore, many businesses still do.
- Know the difference between a watch and a warning. A severe thunderstorm watch means that they are possible in and near the area. A severe thunderstorm warning means that severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. A warning is serious and means that there is imminent danger to life and property.

The best way to protect yourself against lightning or other storm-related injury or death is to monitor the weather and cancel or delay outdoor activities when thunderstorms are forecast. Lightning can strike from 10 miles away, so if you can hear thunder, you are at risk for being struck by lightning.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Shed some light on lightning

According to the National Severe Storms Laboratory, lightning can strike in the same place twice (or pretty darn close), contrary to folk wisdom.

Also, according to the Storms laboratory and the National Weather Service:

⚡ It is not possible to have thunder without lightning; thunder is a direct result of lightning. However, it IS possible you might see lightning and not hear the thunder because it was too far away. Some people call this phenomenon "heat lightning" because it occurs most often in the summer.

⚡ Lightning can occur within the thunderstorm cloud (intra-cloud lightning) or between the cloud and the ground (cloud-to-ground lightning).

⚡ Lightning can have 100 million to 1 billion volts and contains billions of watts.

⚡ When lightning travels down a tree trunk, its heat turns water to steam. If it gets under the bark into the surface moisture of the wood, the rapidly expanding steam can blast pieces of bark from the tree and the wood along the path is often killed.

⚡ Lightning is hotter than the surface of the sun, and it can reach temperatures around 50,000 degrees F.

⚡ People are struck by lightning in one of five ways: by a direct strike, by a side flash or from a streamer; or via ground current or conduction (metal). Metal does not attract lightning, but provides a path for the lightning to follow.

A thunderstorm is considered severe if it produces hail at least 1 inch in diameter or has wind gusts of at least 58 miles per hour, according to the American Red Cross. Heavy rain from thunderstorms can cause flash flooding and high winds can damage homes and blow down trees and utility poles, causing widespread power outages.



Don't Let Tragedy Strike

30 Around 30 people are killed each year from lightning strikes.

2/3 of lightning fatalities are associated with outdoor recreational activities.

WAIT 30 minutes ...after the last rumble of thunder before heading back outside.

SEEK SHELTER in a four-sided building or an enclosed hardtop vehicle at the first sight of lightning.

TOP 3 sports-related lightning fatalities
1) Soccer 2) Golf 3) Running

Never swim when lightning is in the area.

SafeElectricity.org
Source National Weather Service, NOAA



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

This newsletter is published for the members of Dunn Energy Cooperative. If you have questions or comments please give us a call. Visit the Energy Professionals at your local energy cooperative.



N5725 600th Street/ P.O. Box 220
Menomonie, WI 54751-0220

Phone: (715) 232-6240 or 1-800-924-0630

Web site: <http://www.dunnenergy.com>

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

