



**Dunn Energy
Cooperative**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



By James Hathaway,
General Manager

WINTER POWER OUTAGES

Dunn Energy Cooperative works hard to make sure your power stays on. Summer storms are probably the number-one cause of outages. But sometimes winter weather conditions such as ice, snow, and wind can cause power outages too. While power outages are less common in the

winter, their effects can be more serious because of the need for heat. Remember, whether you heat with wood, propane, natural gas or oil, your furnace fan runs on electricity and if the fan doesn't work, your furnace won't run. To be safe, prepare now for the possibility of severe winter weather ahead. Here are some steps you can take to protect yourself and your family: (5177004)

- Prepare an emergency kit with a battery-powered radio, a flashlight, and candles. Include extra batteries, matches, a first-aid kit, a fire extinguisher, bottled water, and non-perishable food.



- Consider special needs or medical issues in your household; have an ample supply of all medications.
- Remember that in an outage, a cordless phone won't work. Make sure you have a cell phone or at least one regular phone with a cord.
- If your power does go out, check your own fuses and circuit breakers first. Call your neighbors to see if they have also lost power. Then contact Dunn Energy Cooperative to report the outage. Don't assume that the outage has already been reported.
- Report downed wires or other hazards to Dunn Energy Cooperative immediately. Keep away from downed lines as they may still be energized.
- If you have critical power needs, such as a respirator, contact our office and ask to be put on our list of critical accounts. You may also want to consider having a qualified electrician install a backup generator.

When using a portable generator for power, never use it indoors and make sure it is not close to any windows, doorways, or air-intake vents. Do not use it in an attached garage, even with the doors up. Never touch it with wet hands or use in areas with rain, snow, or standing water.

For additional safety tips, go to SafeElectricity.org.

Holiday Safety Tips

Winter also brings the holiday season. Many folks put up holiday lights and decorated trees. You may be interested in plugging into these holiday season safety tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI):

- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration. Cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.
- Don't staple or nail through light strings or electrical/extension cords—you could damage the wire or insulation, which could lead to an electrical shock or fire.
- Don't overload extension cords or allow them to run through water or snow on the ground.
- Before using any light strings, animated displays, or other electrical products outdoors, make sure the product is approved by a nationally recognized certification organization and marked "for outdoor use."
- Don't use electrical ornaments or light strings on artificial trees with metallic leaves or branch coverings. This could create an electrical shock.
- It is important to turn off all electrical light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- Follow the use and care instructions that accompany your electrical decorations.
- For more information visit www.holidaysafety.org.



From everyone at Dunn Energy, we wish our members a happy and safe holiday season!



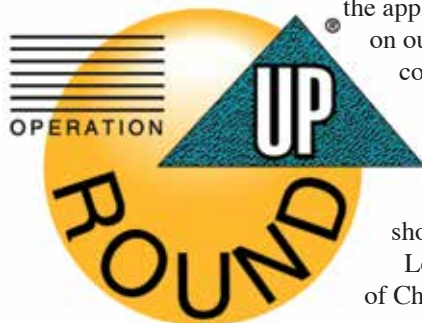
OPERATION ROUND UP: Helping Keep Kids Safe

We recently had the opportunity to visit St. Paul's Lutheran School to see the new fence that was funded in part by Operation Round Up®. The school was looking to enclose the area of the playground that faces 9th St. This will help keep balls, other playground toys, and children from going into the street. Safety is an important factor in education, and we were happy to help the school meet its goal!

Operation Round Up uses the power of cooperation to provide much-needed grant dollars for community projects, 501©3 organizations and non-profit groups within the Dunn Energy Cooperative service territory.

If you, or a group you are a part of, are interested in applying for an Operation Round Up grant, you can find the application and our Giving Guidelines on our website at www.dunnenergy.com or by emailing Jolene for an application at jolene@dunnenergy.com. Grant applications are due March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 and reviewed shortly thereafter. (5941001)

Let's show the community the Power of Change!



How does Operation Round Up work?

Operation Round Up funds are generated from members who volunteer to have their energy bills rounded up to the next dollar.

For example, if your monthly energy bill is \$112.76, it would be rounded up to \$113, with the extra 24 cents going to the Operation Round Up fund.

The average yearly donation is \$6 per account. This may not sound like much, but when your contribution is combined with that of other Dunn Energy members, the resulting total is enough to fund some great local community service projects.

*Season's Greetings
and
Happy Holidays*

*from your friends at
Dunn Energy Cooperative!*

Jim Hathaway
Mike Andraschko
Jesse Singerhouse
Tyrel Blanchfield
Pete Brantner
Brian Jiskra
Josh Millar
Loren Luzinski
Pat Rhude

Chris Marlett
John Hestekin
Dave Hoffman
Lee Longmire
Dan Heit
Mike Frinack
Landan Romsos
Logan Scheel
David Livingston

Jordan Hessler
Tricia Bauer
Diane Harschlip
Heather Boesl
Becky Weber
Jolene Neisius
Becky Gehring
Julie Anderson
Dee Fox

During the holidays Dunn Energy will have some changes in hours of operation to let employees enjoy time with their families.

On Monday, December 24, the office will close at 2:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, December 25, the office will be closed.

On Monday, December 31, the office will close at 3:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, January 1, the office will be closed.

*Have a safe and happy
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

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holidays? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets, like TVs, gaming consoles, chargers, and DVD players use energy when plugged into an outlet, even when they're not in use.

Source: energy.gov



\$\$ FOR HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBERS

If your account number is one of the two hidden account numbers in this issue, it will mean \$10 credit on your account if you call the office before the end of the month. Two customer account numbers have been randomly selected and are hidden in the Dunn Energy Cooperative section of this *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*. Last month's winners were Ryan Kallenbach and Mark Clark.

James Hathaway, Manager

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Jolene Neisius, Editor



"Energy Through Excellence"

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