



By **Jesse Singerhouse,**  
General Manager

## COOPERATIVE SAFETY

**M**ay is Electrical Safety Month and each year we highlight the importance of being safe around electricity. This year our safety message is a little different as we focus on the COVID-19 virus and its impact at Dunn Energy Cooperative (DEC).

Safety is the highest priority here at DEC. With that in mind we took several steps to protect the safety of our employees, our members, and the community. We are designated as an essential business. With that said, our priorities during this pandemic are to keep the lights on and our employees safe. We closed our office to the public in mid-March.

Members are still able to put payments in our drop box, pay over the automated phone system, or pay online using SmartHub. Our next step was to split our staff into two teams. Each team worked a two-week period in the office and a two-week period remotely. This was done to lessen the chances of our entire staff becoming infected. This helped ensure that we would be able to respond to members and restore power quickly should an outage happen.

We implemented other things as well, like enhanced cleaning of the office and vehicles, and limiting deliveries to the cooperative. As the situation unfolds, we will make changes to our pandemic plan and hopefully be open to the public soon. Look for the most up-to-date information on our website and Facebook page. We do all these things with the mission of providing you reliable power and to

keep our employees safe. (2688002)

We also had to make adjustments to our annual meeting to keep our members safe. Originally scheduled for late March, we have decided to move the annual meeting to Saturday, June 27. Watch our website and Facebook page for more details as we get closer to that date. Mail-in voting for the director election is closed and the ballots received remain sealed in our vault. The day before the annual meeting our nominating committee will convene to count the votes. Members can still bring ballots to the annual meeting when it takes place.

**Our priorities during this pandemic are to keep the lights on and our employees safe.**

As we move forward from this pandemic, we know the days, weeks, and months ahead will be challenging for many of our members and the cooperative. Please stay in contact with us in regards to any issues you are having with payment of your electric bill. We will work with you on developing a reasonable payment plan. You can also take advantage of our budget billing program, which allows you to have a more leveled bill amount throughout the year. We also have our Energy Sense rebates and load management program, which can help reduce your energy costs.

Your cooperative has been here for over 80 years. We've gotten through things like recessions, wars, and natural disasters together. Together we will get through this global pandemic. Together we will show the resilience of our community. Together we will keep the lights on and work to help our community recover.

## ANNUAL MEETING RESCHEDULED

Out of an abundance of caution, the Annual Meeting of Members has been tentatively rescheduled for Saturday, June 27, 2020. Shortly after the coronavirus pandemic caused the cancellation of our scheduled annual meeting, we tentatively rescheduled the meeting for May 16. However, with the ongoing crisis and Governor Evers' Safer at Home order in place, we've pushed the meeting out to June 27 in the hopes this crisis will have waned and life will be closer to normal at that time. We will keep you apprised of any changes, should we have to make any more. Thank you for your understanding and patience.



## Congratulations, Scholarship Winners

**A**t Dunn Energy Cooperative we are excited to again award 15 - \$1,000 scholarships to local youth whose parents are members of our cooperative. The quality of all of the applicants was impressive. They each displayed the level of community involvement and achievement it takes to be a success.

Our mission at Dunn Energy is to make a difference one member at a time. We hope that our scholarships make a difference in the lives of the recipients and we challenge them to continue to make a difference throughout their lives.

**On behalf of all of our members, we are honored to present \$1000 scholarships to:**

**Alison Wahl** (Richard & Tonya Wahl) from **Eau Claire** is interested in studying at UW-River Falls

**Garin Garlie** (David & Maria Garlie) from **Eau Claire** is undecided in his plans

**Leah Hayden** (Bruce & Joy Hayden) from **Chippewa Falls** is interested in studying at UW-La Crosse

**Jayna Bowe** (Jan & Amy Bowe) from **Colfax** is interested in studying at Winona State

**Wesley Kallstrom** (James & Dana Kallstrom) from **Colfax** is interested in studying at UW-Eau Claire

**Kayla Schofield** (Sherri & Craig Schofield) from **Colfax** is interested in studying at UW-Eau Claire

**Lincoln Hurt** (Roderick & Sarah Hunt) from **Elk Mound** is interested in studying at UW-Stout

**Chase Rhude** (David Rhude & Shannon Rhude) from **Elk Mound** is interested in studying at CVTC

**Elizabeth Lindquist** (Karl & Sandy Lindquist) from **Eau Claire** is interested in studying at U of M - Twin Cities

**Samuel Skillings** (Randy & Angela Skillings) from **Menomonie** is interested in studying at U of M

**Abigail Pomasl** (Ben & Theresa Pomasl) from **Menomonie** is undecided in her plans

**Daniel Hermann** (Thomas & Sara Hermann) from **Colfax** is interested in studying at U of M - Duluth

**Jasmine Windsor** (Kelly & Shanon Windsor) from **Knapp** is interested in studying at UW-River Falls

**Jordan Nelson** (Randy & Melinda Nelson) from **Boyceville** is interested in studying at CVTC

**Steven Rasmussen** (Brad & Laura Rasmussen) from **Boyceville** is interested in studying at UW-River Falls

**Non-traditional Student Scholarship Winner:** Roger Larson, Colfax, is going back to school for Marine, Motorcycle, and Outdoor Power Products at CVTC

# ELECTRICAL SAFETY: WHAT YOUR TEEN SHOULD KNOW

## May is Electrical Safety Month. Here are some safety items to go over with your student.

Parents of teens can relate. You want to share the important 4-1-1 (info) with your teen, but he or she braces for the next lecture. Your teen may give you the quintessential eye roll, but sharing this safety information could help save his or her life.

So, when the time is right, relay this information to your teenager to prevent electrical shock.

### At Home

- **Do not** use a cell phone near the bathtub or sink or with wet hands while it is plugged in and charging.
- **Do not** use an extension cord in the bathroom to extend your phone's reach closer to the tub. Teens have died after a charging phone dropped into bath water.
- **Do not** sleep with your charging cell phone under your pillow or in bed with you. The phone can overheat, causing bedding to catch on fire or burns to the skin. Also, a short in the charging cord can cause electrical shock when you are using your phone. This is especially a risk when using generic or incompatible charging equipment. Always replace charging equipment with brand name/matching items. They cost more, but they are less likely to malfunction.
- **Do not** charge your cell phone, tablet, or other devices on soft surfaces such as a blanket, pillow, or bedding.

### On the Road

- **THIS ADVICE CAN SAVE YOUR TEEN'S LIFE:** If you are in an accident involving a downed power line or damaged padmount transformer or other electrical equipment, **DO NOT** get out of your car and call 9-1-1. Only get out if there is smoke or your car is on fire. If that is the case, make a clean exit from the vehicle (make a solid jump out without touching the car) and hop with feet together. **DO NOT WALK** as far as you can. If there is damaged power equipment, the ground and anything else the lines touch could have electrical current running through it.
- If you approach an accident with a downed power line, **DO NOT** attempt to help the victims and do not go near the scene. Instead, call 9-1-1 and warn others not to approach the area. (1459003)

### Outside

- **Do not** use plugged-in devices (e.g. a charging cell phone) near water like a pool or hot tub or in damp conditions.
- If you are swimming in a lake and feel odd sensations in your body, such as tingling or zaps, swim away from the dock or other source of electricity (e.g. lights). Sometimes electrical currents can leak into the water and can cause

electric shock drowning. If you feel odd sensations in a wading pool, hot tub, or swimming pool, get out.

### In the Dorm Room

- **Do not** hang decorative light strands with metal tacks or nails.
- **Do not** overload outlets or extension cords.

(Continued on following page)

**ELECTRICAL Safety for Teens**

- DO NOT use generic chargers or cords.** They could **overheat** or shock or burn you.
- DO NOT** put your cell phone **under your pillow** or take it to bed with you.
- DO NOT** use charging cell phones or other electrical devices **with wet or damp hands.**
- DO NOT** bring a charging cell phone or other electrical devices **near water**, including a **bathtub or pool.**
- If you are in a car accident involving a downed power line, **DO NOT get out of the vehicle** unless you see smoke or fire.
- If you must exit a burning vehicle** near or on a downed power line, make a **clean exit from the car and land on both feet**; then **hop** with feet together, **DO NOT WALK**, to safety.

Safe Electricity.org



# 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.

If you are a member who uses SmartHub, you can also change your contact information through the app or desktop site.


**KEEP**  
**SEND** Please do not staple, tape, or paperclip to check Do we have your correct contact information?  
 Phone number:  
 Mobile number: 715-867-5309  
 Email address: willie.wiredhand@email.com

**PAY YOUR BILL 24/7**


**SMARTHUB:** The FREE online payment system! Access at dunnenergy.com or download the app on a compatible mobile device.


**BY PHONE:** Call 844-749-3050  
 To comply with industry standards, payments (other than by check or in person) need to be processed by the member through DEC's Pay-By-Phone system or other online means.

Statement Date	06/04/2018
Account Number	54321001
Total Amount Due 06/15/2018	\$140.00

 Willie Wiredhand  
 1234 Main St.  
 Anywhere, WI 12345

Dunn Energy Cooperative  
 P.O. Box 220  
 Menomonie, WI 54751-0220

1 



530490005892003000014000000014140060420189

## Electrical Safety (Continued from previous page)

- Do not run extension cords under a rug or use them if they are frayed or cracked.
- Use extension cords with care: They are for temporary use only.
- Use reputable laboratory-tested cords.
- Only use appliances allowed by your dorm/campus.

Although you can't cover all these tips with your teen in one sitting (we don't recommend you try), they are important to convey and could prevent injuries and save lives.

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

## Hidden Account Numbers

The incentive to find your account number has increased! If you find your account number hidden in the pages of this magazine and you call and tell us before the next issue is mailed, we'll put a \$50 credit on your electric bill. Happy hunting!

Last month's winners were Allan and Mary Wait and Randy and Melinda Nelson.

### Jesse Singerhouse, Manager

N5725 600th St., P.O. Box 220, Menomonie, WI 54751

715-232-6240

www.dunnenergy.com

### Jolene Neisius, Editor



"Energy Through Excellence"

## Dunn Energy Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 