



**Dunn Energy
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



LEARNING FROM THE PAST, OPERATING TODAY, AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

There is a quote by Albert Einstein that I have always admired, it says “Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.” I believe that quote can be applied to many different things and I find it to be very fitting for the times we are in. Today I wanted to use this quote in relation to Dunn Energy Cooperative and how we approach running your cooperative.

Learn from Yesterday

We’ve learned a lot from the generations that have gone before us at the cooperative. There is such a rich and storied history of this cooperative and the “REA.” One important legacy value is to treat each user of electric service as an equal member, from the retired couple who use \$75 worth of electricity each month to the largest business member we serve. We have always and will always treat each account as a member. We also learn from our past experience. We look for ways to become more efficient in everything we do from outage restoration to the materials we purchase. We know we will make mistakes. Everyone one does, but we hope to not make the same mistake twice. That is how we learn from yesterday to deliver you great service today. (140018520)

Live for Today

We operate in the present, serving the energy needs of close to 9,000 unique members in parts of several counties. Sometimes businesses spend too much time analyzing the past and planning for the future. Don’t get me wrong—those things are very important, but for us it needs to be a balance. First

and foremost, we must be attentive and responsive to our current members who use energy on a daily basis. To Dunn Energy that means simple things like getting a live person when you call during the day, restoring outages as quickly as possible, promptly returning emails, and having energy solutions available that make a difference in your daily lives. Being present with our members is critical to achieving a high level of member service.

Hope for Tomorrow

As an eternal optimist, I embrace the challenge of putting all these things together. We prepare for the future by training our staff and planning line construction projects and business opportunities that will benefit the cooperative down the road. We work with our cooperative partners to develop and build future power generation to meet your energy needs with energy that will be more sustainable and renewable.

Last but not least, we invest in the generation of cooperative leaders that is to come, through scholarships, youth leadership opportunities, and Operation Round Up grants for our community. Many of the things we work on today won’t materialize for 5 or 10 years down the road. But we are doing our part to prepare the cooperative for future success.

Einstein went on to end that quote by saying “The important thing is to never stop questioning.” I believe what he means is to never stop looking for ways to learn and improve, this is something that is very important to your board of directors and employees. We didn’t get here as a cooperative by accident. It was years of hard work and dedication by former board members, employees, and members of Dunn Energy.

Our commitment to our members is to always learn from our past, operate with excellence in the present, and prepare your cooperative for the future!

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SEPTEMBER IS N

Here at Dunn Energy Cooperative we always try to be prepared for what might happen. We have plans in place for dealing with a possible COVID-19 exposure, and tornado and fire evacuation plans, and we've done active shooter training.

One of our most important preparedness plans, however, is the continuing education and training of our linemen. Throughout the year they have safety meeting days where they talk about close calls or injuries within the industry, going over the cause and what preventative measures should have been taken. They also use the time to maintain and test their equipment.

As a part of their safety training, our linemen occasionally have to train on pole top rescue situations. In the event their partner becomes injured or loses consciousness while on a pole, linemen have to be confident in their ability to rescue them.

Take time this month to get yourself prepared. Do you have a checklist for what you need in the event of an outage that takes more than a couple of hours to restore? How about for a winter storm?

Winter Storm Preparedness

If your power goes out due to a winter storm, you might be in for a prolonged power outage as crews work through the harsh weather to get your power back on. If you find yourself in this situation, make sure you contact your power provider as soon as you can so they know you have lost power.

Other actions you can take to stay safe and comfortable are:

- Stay inside and dress warm in layered clothing.
- Close off unneeded rooms.
- When using an alternative heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards, and be sure to properly ventilate.

Always keep a multipurpose, dry-



NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

One of the best ways to stay one step ahead of storms, power outages, and other emergencies is to plan ahead with an emergency preparedness kit. Assembling and maintaining an emergency kit before a disaster strikes is one of the easiest steps someone can take to reduce many of the risks associated with severe weather.

The exact contents of your emergency kit may vary according to the dangers and weather most relevant to your region, but Ready.gov recommends that every emergency kit contain these basic items:

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA weather radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help

- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger

Checklist

chemical fire extinguisher nearby and know how to use it.

- Place a rolled-up rug or heavy towel in front of the bottom of doors to minimize any cold drafts from entering the house.
- Cover windows at night.
- Keep a close eye on the temperature in your home. Infants and people over the age of 65 are more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends or relatives or go to a shelter if you cannot keep your home warm.

For more information on how to prepare for a winter storm and how to keep your family safe during and after a winter storm, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org).



In early August Peter (left) and Brian (right) were two of our linemen who participated in pole top rescues as a part of their continued training.



HOW TO SAVE MONEY IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM



Ah, the joys of having a washer and dryer in your home. There's no waiting for a machine, no coin slots, and no one taking out your wet load if you aren't right there when the cycle ends.

Although it's cheaper per load and much more convenient to do laundry at home, there's a

somewhat hidden cost to consider, and that's the energy it takes to run your washer and dryer.

What appliances in your home use the most energy? The hot water heater is the appliance that costs the most to run. Right behind it is the washer and dryer's combined energy use. (Although not considered appliances by many, heating/cooling tops the list, followed by the hot water heater.)

A dryer requires more energy to run than a washer, but there are ways to reduce your washing costs, too (think hot water versus cold). To save money in your laundry room, consider these tips:

- When using your washing machine, select the right amount of water for the load—that is, don't select the "extra-large" setting for a small load. Consider waiting to do laundry until you have full loads to conserve water.
- Use cold water to save the money you spend heating water. Some laundry detergents are designed to tackle stains in cold water.
- Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load's energy use in half, and using cold water will save even more, according to energy.gov.
- Use dryer balls, which help separate clothes and get more air to them, cutting drying time.
- Utilize lower settings when you use the dryer. Even if

your dryer runs longer, you'll use less energy and be less likely to over-dry your clothes.

- Clean the lint out of your dryer between loads and scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.
- Put like items together; lighter-weight clothes take less time to dry. Towels and heavier cottons take longer.
- Use the moisture sensor option on your dryer if it has one.
- Take a clue from your teenage boy and wear clothes more than once between laundering them (although don't wait until your jeans can stand by themselves).
- When purchasing a dryer, consider an Energy Star version, which uses 20 percent less energy than a conventional model.
- Energy Star-certified washers use about 25 percent less energy and 33 percent less water than regular clothes washers. (11938002)
- Thoroughly clean your dryer's vents and duct system at least twice a year.

To learn more about how much you are spending to run your washer and dryer each year, refer to the energy.gov appliance energy use calculator. For more information about safety around electricity, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Hidden Account Numbers

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 Christina May and Regina Gibson.



CHECK BACK SOON!

A smart thermostat promotion is on the horizon!
Check the ElectricSense Online Store
Oct. 1-3, 2020
to see what the excitement is about.

<https://ElectricSense.amcgmarketplace.com>

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