

You play a vital role in keeping our crews safe during winter weather



Winter weather has arrived, but that doesn't slow down our crews. They work along roadsides to build, repair, and maintain electrical power lines during all months of the year, including cold and snowy ones.

While routine electrical line work is done during the daylight hours, emergencies happen anytime including, during snowstorms and often in the middle of the night.

If you see an NREMC truck, warning signs, or flaggers during the day or night, be sure you're slowing down and keeping a safe distance away from all people, trucks, and equipment. Being alert while driving is essential, especially when roadways may be hazardous because of snow and ice.

Indiana is one of many states with a "slow down, move over" law requiring motorists approaching a stationary utility vehicle displaying flashing lights to proceed with caution. If possible, change lanes away from the vehicle. If changing lanes is impossible or unsafe, reduce speed to at least 10 miles per hour less than the posted speed limit. This law applies to police vehicles, ambulances, fire trucks, highway maintenance vehicles, utility service vehicles, and recovery equipment, like tow trucks.

Even though there are laws to protect emergency crews, like utility crews, drivers should keep a close eye out for fellow motorists trapped by the winter weather as well. Always be courteous to those broken down on the shoulder of the road, and give them plenty of room to repair their vehicles safely.

Together, we all play a vital role in keeping crews safe during this winter season.



Learn more about winter safety, outdoors or indoors, by following NREMC on Facebook.

facebook.com/nremc

DID YOU KNOW? WE OFFER
PREPAID BILLING

With prepaid billing, you pay for electricity how and when you choose.



Purchasing electricity before using it allows you to control your budget and pay how much you want, when you want. And there are no security deposits or late fees. Instead of a monthly bill, your usage and balance are calculated daily.

HOW IT WORKS

You purchase electricity before you use it. Payments can be made when you want – online, over the phone, or in-person at our office. When your account runs low, you will get an alert by email, phone call, or text, letting you know it's time to recharge your account.

Members tend to save more money on prepaid plans because they're more aware of their energy usage than standard billing members.

You must maintain a credit while on prepaid billing. If your account runs out of funds, your service is disconnected until you add more, but you are not charged any additional fees.

WHY IT'S A GOOD CHOICE

- Choose your payment schedule.
- Purchase electricity when convenient.
- Monitor electric use.
- No deposits, late fees, or surprise monthly bills.

Learn more at nremc.com/prepaid.

Restrictions may apply.

Cold mornings? Put your smart thermostat to work while you hit the snooze button

If you're like many of us, you turn down your thermostat at night to save energy. Unfortunately, while it seems like a great idea at the time, it certainly makes for a cold morning.



One benefit of a smart thermostat is the ability to control your thermostat from anywhere with your phone — including right from your warm bed! When your alarm sounds in the morning, use your phone to bump up the heat before hitting the snooze button. Plus, learn how you can save even more money with your smart thermostat at the link below.

Learn more about smart thermostats at nremc.com/peak.

NREMC SCHOLARSHIPS

We'll be selecting two students to receive \$1,000 college scholarships!

nremc.com/scholarships

HORSEBACK RIDING • CANOEING • ROCK CLIMBING • ZIP LINING • ARCHERY • SWIMMING

WE PUT THE AMP IN CAMP

ARE YOU AN INDIANA STUDENT ENTERING SEVENTH GRADE IN 2022? Learn about electricity, try cool activities, and make new friends this summer at Camp Kilowatt!

CAMP KILOWATT
CAMP TECUMSEH / BROOKSTON, IND
EST. 2003

APPLY NOW!

Apply online at CampKilowatt.org
APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MARCH 1, 2022

JUNE 8-11, 2022

LEARN MORE: NREMC.COM/CAMP

You must be a junior to apply!

Ready to pack your bags? Go to nremc.com/tour.

INDIANA YOUTH TOUR '22
WASHINGTON, D.C.

MONUMENTS, MUSEUMS, LEGISLATORS, FRIENDS, HISTORY. TRIP OF A LIFETIME.

June 16-23 2022

What are you doing this summer? Your electric co-op wants to send you on a weeklong, all-inclusive trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C.

SPONSORED BY NORTHEASTERN REMC AND INDIANA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

LEARN MORE: NREMC.COM/TOUR

Are you using a space heater to compensate for a cold home?

Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. But unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat large spaces or their entire home, which can really take a toll on your energy bills.

Often, and without knowing, people are using a space heater to compensate for inefficiencies in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an outdated heating system. In that case, space heaters are not a practical solution. Instead, your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home.

Only use a space heater in small spaces that you're occupying and, if possible, try to shut off other rooms to contain the warmth provided by the space heater. If you decide to use a space heater to heat a small area in your home, make sure the heater is properly sized for the space; most heaters include a general sizing table.

We know it's cold out there, but remember that space heaters can significantly increase your energy bills if misused, in addition to creating safety concerns. Be sure to read our space heater safety tips on our blog at nremc.com/spaceheatersafety.



Tips to ditch your space heater

Space heaters are energy hogs, and older models can be dangerous. So this winter, ditch the space heater, and **try these alternative solutions to stay cozy.**

Caulk and weatherstrip around all windows and doors to prevent heat loss. A third of the typical home's heat loss occurs through windows and doors.

Replace your furnace filters regularly to ensure your equipment isn't working harder than it needs to be.

Closing the curtains at night in a warm room will help reduce heat loss, especially if curtains are hung close to the window. However, when the sun is shining, be sure to open the curtains and let the sun help heat up your room.

Sources: NRECA and nredc.org

Find more energy saving tips on our blog at nremc.com/blog.

Longtime employee, Brad Brown, passes away after a battle with cancer



*Brad Brown
1961-2021*



With great sadness, we share the news of the passing of Brad Brown, property maintenance and inventory assistant at NREMC, after a seven-month battle with cancer. Brad was born in Fort Wayne and graduated from South Side High School in 1980 before entering the U.S. Army. After returning from serving his country, he began what would be a 25-year career with us here at Northeastern.

Brad was a simple man who loved the simple pleasures of his life. He loved weekends at the lake, Colts football, and his family. Above all else, he fiercely loved his four grandkids.

A celebration of his life was held in late December. He will be missed by his NREMC family, and we send our condolences to his family.

Have you updated your contact info lately?

Keeping your contact information up-to-date ensures that we can reach you if and when something is going on with your account that you need to know. We want to make your life easier and help you avoid unexpected problems with your service.



PHONE

Is your phone number current? Many members started their service years ago and only had a landline.



EMAIL ADDRESS

By signing up for emails, you can receive billing notifications, account alerts, and even scam warnings.



TEXT MESSAGES

Get notified by text when there are power outages or other information about your account.

Simply go to nremc.com/update to make any changes to your contact information.

From high school to retirement

Diane Johnson retires after 40 years of service to NREMC

One unique aspect of the workforce at NREMC is how many employees get their start during high school. Diane Johnson, human resources specialist, is one of our high school hires who has spent her entire career at Northeastern. Earlier this month, we celebrated her career as she retired.

When asked what she'll miss most, she said she'll miss seeing and talking to her "day time family." She noted that she's very proud of our crews and will continue to stop in and say hello.



Vacationing somewhere warm in the winter, organizing her home, and getting ready for lake life in the summer are on her list of retirement plans. She also looks forward to seeing her grandkids more and taking more vacations.



Congratulations Diane!

DIANE'S 40-YEAR CAREER

- 1981 - Office Trainee (high school)
- 1982 - Member Relations Secretary
- 1983 - Load Management Technician
- 1984 - Energy Management Secretary
- 1987 - Dispatcher
- 2007 to Present - HR Specialist



We're hiring!

This year, we are looking to add to our team at NREMC! We are currently looking for the following positions:

Training and Development Specialist

IT Support Specialist

Browse all career opportunities at nremc.com/jobs.

Make a difference

Don't forget to enroll in Operation Round Up to help local nonprofit organizations in our communities. Learn more: nremc.com/roundup.

Do you have an artist at home?

The Indiana Electric Cooperative's Calendar of Student Art Contest is open to all K-12 students in Indiana. Your child's artwork could be featured in a printed calendar circulated to thousands of people in Indiana! Plus, each grade level will have a first-place prize of \$200 and an honorable mention prize of \$75 each.

Enter by
March
18

Learn more and enter at nremc.com/artcontest.

Contact Us

memberservices@nremc.com

888-413-6111
nremc.com

Call 811 before you dig!



WINTER STORMS

Why you should prepare for dangerous situations before a storm hits

Indiana weather can be unpredictable, especially during the winter months. Heavy snows, freezing rain, and ice storms can create power outages as snow and ice accumulate on power lines. The added weight of the snow and ice may cause power lines to snap off the poles. In severe storms, prolonged outages could occur.

While we do everything we can to restore power as quickly as possible, we want to make sure you know what to do before, during, and after the electricity goes out to help you and your family stay safe.

Before the storm

Prepare a storm kit with essential items, like blankets, flashlights, and more. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. If you hear reports of a winter storm heading your way, get your refills before the storm arrives.

If you have alternative heating sources like fireplaces or wood-burning stoves, be sure they are clean and in working order. Have extra blankets on hand and enough for each family member.

Remember, during an outage you might not always have access to a phone. Phone systems, including landlines, are often overwhelmed following a weather event. Keep important numbers written down and in a safe place.

During the storm

If you can use your phone, be sure to check NREMC's outage map and Facebook page to keep updated on the restoration process.

Be sure to keep your refrigerator and freezer closed as much as possible to keep your food at a safe temperature.

For a prolonged outage, check on your elderly neighbors if it's safe to go outside.

After the storm

After an outage is over, there are still safety precautions to take. First, be sure to determine if you should discard the food in your refrigerator and freezer. Food that has been exposed to temperatures 40 degrees or higher for two hours or has an unusual odor or color should be thrown out.

Electrical power lines could still be down in some areas. If you see downed power lines, do not touch them or go near them. Call 911 immediately and stay clear.

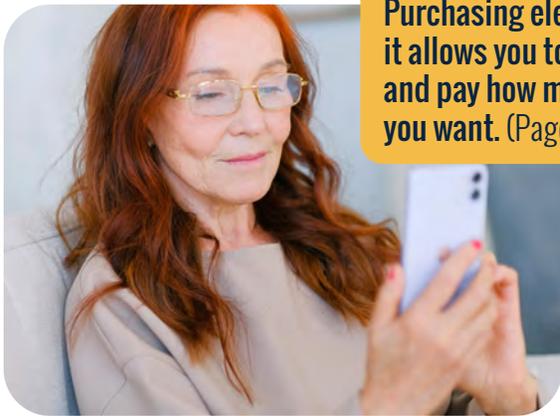
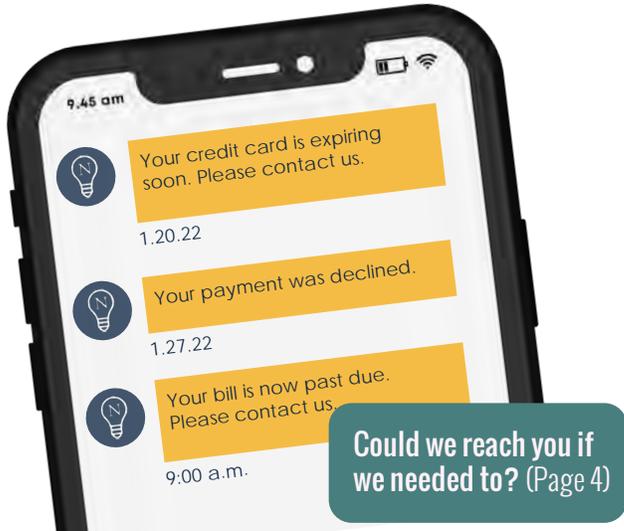
Source: Indiana Electric Cooperatives

How to prepare a storm kit

During this time of year, dangerous conditions could confine families to their homes for days at a time. Keep a storm kit fully stocked to be prepared including:



- Bottled water.
- Nonperishable food.
- Blankets.
- First-aid kit/medicine.
- Flashlight.
- Battery-operated radio.
- Extra batteries.
- Toiletries.



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