

the Messenger

January 2017

A monthly publication of North Arkansas Electric Cooperative

Stay safe: Prepare in advance for winter weather

Heavy accumulations of ice and snow coupled with fluctuating winter temperatures can bring down utility poles, trees and limbs. With this comes a threat to property and to people's safety.

North Arkansas Electric Cooperative is devoted to restoring power to our members as quickly as possible, but severe damage can take days or weeks to repair. The co-op wants you to know how to stay safe and comfortable in case of a winter power outage.

Preparation for power outages begins before cold temperatures arrive. Your home should be properly insulated with caulking and weather-stripping around doors, windows and other cracks. If you have trees with limbs that could fall on power lines, the limbs should be trimmed by a professional.

You also should have an emergency kit ready to go. The kit should have flashlights, a radio, batteries, nonperishable food, water, medicines and extra blankets. (See sidebar at right.)

If you have done all this preparation, a winter power outage will be less stressful for you. When a storm hits and you are without power, keep the following in mind:

- Avoid going outside. Power lines and other energized equipment could be hidden by snow, ice and debris.
- Treat downed lines as energized and dangerous. Downed power lines do not have to be sparking, arcing or moving to cause harm.
- Switch off lights and appliances to prevent damaging appliances and overloading circuits when power is restored. Leave one lamp or light switch on as a sig-

nal for when your power returns.

- To prevent water pipes from freezing, keep faucets turned on slightly so that water drips from the tap. Know how to shut off water valves just in case a pipe bursts.
- Check on elderly or disabled friends and neighbors.
- Stay inside and dress in warm, layered clothing.
- Close off unneeded rooms.
- When using an alternative heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards and be sure to ventilate properly. Always keep a multipurpose, dry-chemical fire extinguisher nearby and know how to use it.
- Stuff towels and rags underneath doors to keep the heat in.
- Cover windows at night.
- Keep a close eye on the temperature in your home. Infants or people over age 65 are more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends, relatives or in a shelter if you can't keep your home warm.
- Consider installing ground fault circuit interrupters for electrical outlets in areas that might be affected by melting snow or ice. This will help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries. Portable GFCIs that do not require tools for installation can be purchased for winter emergency supply kits.

NAEC employees will do our best to ensure you do not experience an extended power outage this winter, but we encourage you to be prepared.

— *SafeElectricity.org*



DAWSON PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

Preparing in advance for winter outages can keep you and your family safe and comfortable.

Emergency Kit Checklist

- Three-day supply of water – one gallon per person, per day
- Three-day supply of food, such as canned soup, dry pasta and powdered milk
- Manual can opener
- Basic utensils to prepare and serve meals
- Three-day supply of all medicines, at a minimum
- Medical supplies, such as syringes, a walking cane or hearing aids with extra batteries
- Soap
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Baby wipes and hand sanitizer
- Contact lenses or glasses
- First aid kit
- Emergency blanket
- Multipurpose tool that can act as a knife, file, pliers and screwdriver
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-labeled weather radio
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Copies of important documents, cash and spare keys

— *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

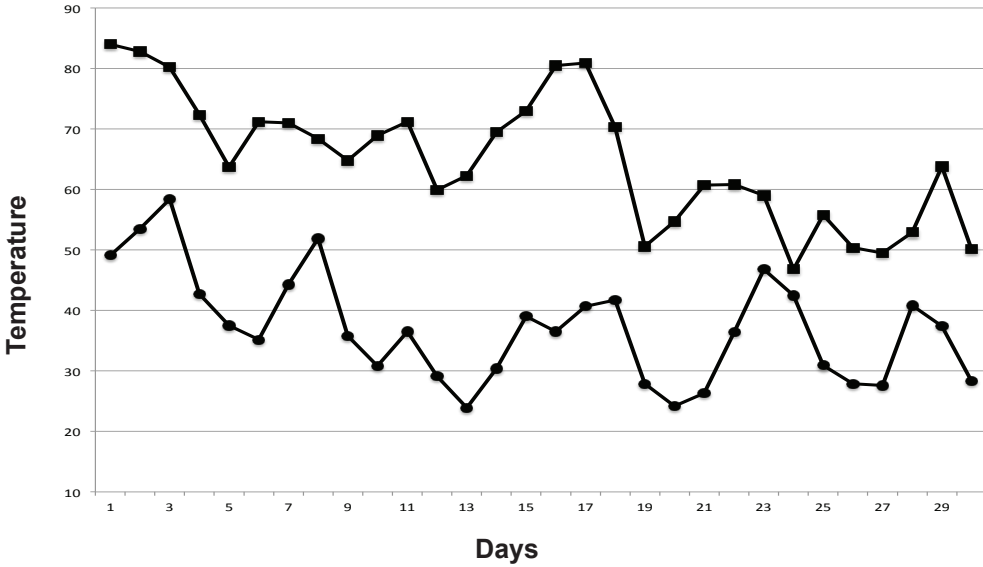
Guidelines for operating generator safely

If your generator connects to the wiring in your home or business, make sure your electrician installs a double-pole, double-throw switch. That keeps the generator's electricity from flowing back onto the power lines. These devices protect line workers, who may be restoring power, and others who may encounter downed power lines.

Never run a generator in the basement, garage or any enclosed space. Also, don't run it outside near an open window of your home.

A generator can help you weather some unexpected power outages, but NAEC encourages you to use it carefully. For more generator safety guidelines, please see the January issue of *Arkansas Living*.

Daily Highs & Lows — November 2016



Average Daily High:
65 compared to 61.43 in 2015

Average Daily Low:
37.3 compared to 38.73 in 2015

Total Rainfall Amount:
3.04" compared to 1.21" in 2015

Warmest Day:
Nov. 1, 84 degrees at 3:30 p.m.

Coollest Day:
Nov. 13, 23.9 degrees at 6:30 a.m.

Efficiency Tip of the Month



According to the Consumer Electronics Association, the average household owns 24 consumer electronics products, which are responsible for 12 percent of household electricity use.

ENERGY STAR-certified audio and video equipment is up to 50 percent more efficient than conventional models.

— *EnergyStar.gov*

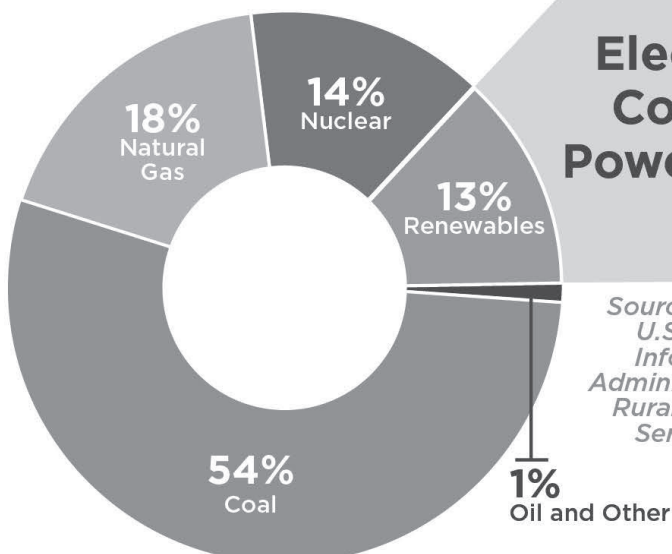
Right-of-Way Locations

West Tree Trim Crews:
Buford, Gassville, Buffalo City and Lakeview areas

Electric Cooperatives Focus on Renewable Energy

Electric cooperatives use a diverse mix of fuels to supply members with safe, reliable and affordable power.

Renewable resources provide 13 percent of cooperative power needs nationwide, in line with the national average.



Electric Co-op Power Mix

Sources: 2014 U.S. Energy Information Administration, Rural Utilities Service and NRECA.

