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OFFICE HOURS
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STREET ADDRESS
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Peru, IN 46970

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P.O. Box 168
Peru, IN 46970

POWER OUTAGES
To report a power outage,
call 844-473-6668. We are available
24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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Be prepared *before* the storm



It's your worst-case scenario. A major storm was predicted, and this time, the predictions were right. Many power lines are down, and your electricity may be out for several days. You are low on everything — food, pet supplies, toilet paper, batteries, diapers, and medication.

Imagine how you would feel in this situation. While you can't predict which weather forecast will come true, you can plan ahead so that you have the tools and resources to effectively weather the storm when a severe weather event strikes. The Department of Homeland Security offers several resources to help you prepare for significant weather events and natural disasters. Visit ready.gov/make-a-plan.

PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS AND ITEMS

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water, and other essentials.
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies, including towelettes, soap, and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your first aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages, and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside essential household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener, alternate phone chargers, and a portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are together in an accessible location.

WITH ADVANCE WARNING

If a severe storm, such as a snow or ice storm, is expected, you may need to take extra steps to prepare. If possible, have

a backup source of heat. Fully charge all cell phones, laptops, and other devices to maximize power during an outage. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of energy you will need, and review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

DURING A PROLONGED OUTAGE

Turn off appliances, TVs, computers, and other sensitive electronics during an outage. This will help avert damage from a power surge and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored.

Consider using LED holiday lights to illuminate a living area if utilizing a small household generator. A strand of 100 white lights draws little energy yet produces considerable light. Solar lights also work if they can receive some sunlight during the day for charging. After the storm, avoid downed power lines. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs — including on your property.

POWER IN PLANNING

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings on your phone. Check the Miami-Cass REMC Facebook page and website to stay abreast of restoration efforts and other important co-op news and information. Act today because there is power in planning.



ROB SCHWARTZ
CEO

How cold weather affects your energy bills



Frigid temperatures can cause heating systems to work overtime, and since heating and cooling can make up nearly half of your electric bill, your bill may be higher than normal in the winter.

HERE'S WHY

- Even those with the most efficient HVAC systems will see more use in extreme weather.
- When extreme cold temperatures hit, our heaters work overtime. For example, even if you set your thermostat to the recommended 68 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter, when it is 19 degrees Fahrenheit outside, your system has to work hard to make up that 49-degree difference.
- Because your heater works harder and cycles on and off more often, your use will be much higher. That means your bill will be higher.
- Space heaters can also raise electric bills. Use them strategically to keep the room you're in warm and turn down your furnace thermostat to accommodate the additional electric use.
- Outdoor hot tubs, for example, are out in the cold and are set to maintain a certain temperature. The hot tub will use more energy and run more frequently as the temperature drops to keep the water from freezing.

- Remember, there is value in comfort. For us to be comfortable in our homes, our heaters are going to work harder, but it may be worth the additional cost to you.

ADDRESSING SOME HIGH BILL CULPRITS

- **Drafty doors and windows:** An easy fix with a big payback is weatherstripping. Caulk or apply weatherstripping around all window and door seams, especially those leading to the basement or the attic. Weatherstrip your attic access door.
- **Dirty filters:** Dirty filters make your HVAC system work harder to heat the air. Aim to change the filter every three to six months.
- **Leaky ducts:** A contractor can test your ducts for leakage and repair any problems. Repair visible or accessible leaks with aluminum foil tape — not duct tape.
- **Chilly water heater:** If your water heater is older or not well insulated, wrap it in an insulating jacket.

HOW YOUR ELECTRIC CO-OP CAN HELP YOU

Your electric cooperative has programs to save you money. A few that could help you this winter include:



Rebates on a new, energy-efficient heating and cooling system.



Replacing your water heater with a more energy-efficient model.



Discounts on lighting. Replace those older bulbs with energy-efficient LEDs.



APPLY FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS

CAMP KILOWATT

JUNE
5-8

Camp Kilowatt is a fun, powerful, and unique camp experience designed for students entering seventh grade in 2024.

Activities include horseback riding, zip lining, archery, swimming, and learning about electrical safety.

APPLY: Apply by March 1 at CampKilowatt.org.

INDIANA YOUTH TOUR TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE
16-23

Miami-Cass REMC is sponsoring a week-long, all-inclusive trip to Washington, D.C., for students entering their senior year of high school. The trip includes visits to historic monuments and museums, meetings on Capitol Hill with Indiana's congressional delegation, and the opportunity to make lifelong friends.

APPLY: Apply by March 1 at IndianaYouthTour.org.

MEET OUR *student board*

In the December magazine, we announced the formation of our student board. The purpose of the board, comprised of students who attend area high schools, is to learn about the cooperative, develop leadership skills and understand the co-op business model.

In this and future issues of Indiana Connection, we will introduce a member of the student board to our readers. This month, we'll start with **Kyler Hanson**, president of the student board.



FACTS ABOUT KLYER

Grade: 12

School: Maconaquah High School

College Plans: To study mechanical engineering

NOVEMBER Board Meeting

1. Counted seven board members present. Attorney Jeremy Fetty also attended.
2. Jim Savage presented the WVPA monthly report.
3. Fetty presented monthly legal report.
4. Rob Schwartz presented monthly CEO report.
5. Minutes from previous board meeting were approved.
6. Financial reports reviewed and approved.
7. October monthly operating, member services, human resources and safety reports were reviewed and approved.
8. Set next board meeting for Tuesday, Dec. 19, 6 p.m. at the REMC headquarters.

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