


The
SOUTHEASTERN

Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Wishing You a Very Merry Christmas & the Happiest of New Years

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Readership Prize Winner: Dianna Kimbro, Mulkeytown, IL

Stay safe and warm this winter

As the colder months hit, many of us are not prepared for Old Man Winter's potential wrath.

Although our number one goal at SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc. is to provide safe and reliable service — to do all we can to keep the power on — heavy snow and accumulating ice can easily bring tree limbs down onto power lines, cutting off power to homes and businesses.

The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) advises everyone to ready their home and cars, prepare for possible power outages, and to check on older adults. Be sure to have plenty of non-perishable food on hand and extra water stored in clean containers. If bad weather is forecasted, avoid travel, fully charge your cell phone and keep an up-to-date emergency kit on hand.

Specifically, the CDC recommends taking the following steps so that you will be more likely to stay safe and healthy when temperatures start to fall:

Winterize your home

- Install weather stripping, insulation and storm windows.
- Insulate water lines that run along exterior walls.
- Clean out gutters and repair roof leaks.

Check your heating systems

- Have your heating system serviced professionally to make sure that it is clean, working properly and ventilated to the outside.
- Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.
- Install a smoke detector. Test batteries monthly and replace them twice a year.



- Have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available.

Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) emergencies

- Install a CO detector to alert you of the presence of the deadly, odorless, colorless gas. Check batteries when you change your clocks in the fall and spring.
- Learn symptoms of CO poisoning that include headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain and confusion.
- Keep grills, camp stoves and generators out of the house, basement and garage.
- Use fuel-powered generators at least 20 feet away from the house.
- Leave your home immediately if the CO detector goes off and call 9-1-1.

Prepare your car for cold weather

- Service the radiator and maintain antifreeze level.
- Check tire tread or, if neces-

sary, replace tires with all-weather or snow tires.

- Keep the gas tank full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Use a wintertime formula in your windshield washer

Prepare emergency kits

Avoid driving, but in case you get stuck in bad weather or become stranded, an emergency kit for your car should include: cell phone, portable charger, extra batteries, blankets, food, water, booster cables, flares, tire pump, a bag of sand or cat litter (for traction), maps, flashlight, battery-powered radio, a first-aid kit, and plastic bags (for sanitation).

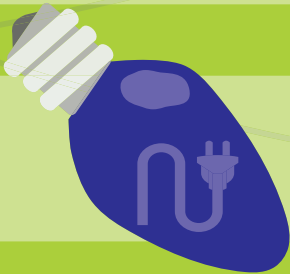
Start with these items for an in-home emergency kit: a flashlight, a NOAA Weather Radio, extra batteries, a pre-charged portable phone power source, first-aid kit with extra medicine and baby items, if necessary.

Don't forget specific items you or members of your family might need during an emergency.

For additional winter prep tips, consult the CDC (cdc.gov), Red Cross (redcross.org) or ready.gov. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Holiday LIGHTING Safety

Use only holiday lights that have been safety tested and have the **UL label**.



Before using, **check each strand** for broken sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs.

Don't string together more than **three** standard-sized incandescent sets of lights or you could **overload the circuit**.



Don't throw lights over tree branches that are **near power lines** and service connections.

Always unplug lights before leaving your home or going to bed; a timer can help with this.



Learn more at

**Safe
Electricity.org**

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip:

Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter clothing. You'll spend less time drying the lighter-weight items.



*Our office will be closed on
Wednesday, December 25
for Christmas and Wednesday,
January 1 for New Year's Day.*



POWER OUTAGE

If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions

1. Check the fuses or circuit breakers in your service panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole, check the main breaker panel just below the meter socket. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all of your wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears to be okay, reset the breaker to the "ON" position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 1-877-399-8405. This phone number is monitored around the clock, 365 days per year to accept your outage and emergency calls.
5. Your phone call will be handled by SouthEastern's automated outage reporting system and will be identified automatically through ANI (Automatic Number Identification). An outage record will then be generated

for your location. Please note that the phone number from which you place the call will be the number used to generate the record. If the system fails to recognize your phone number, members having touch-tone phones may simply enter their seven-digit phone number (without area code) in order to report the outage. Members not having touch-tone phones will be asked to leave a message. It is important you leave your name, phone number and location of the outage. Retrieving messages and entering them into the system is time consuming; therefore, please leave only a message that will help in restoration of electric service. Do not remain on the line for an operator because a live operator is not there to respond. In order to keep a current listing of all numbers, it is important that you notify the Cooperative of any changes in your telephone number.

6. Handling outage calls electronically allows you to report power failures very quickly. Once your outage has been reported, it will be dispatched to repair personnel who will restore your outage as soon as possible. Calling back repeatedly will not shorten the length of the outage, but may hinder the efforts of other members who are trying to report outages.

OUTAGE CALLS ONLY 1-877-399-8405

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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618-273-2611 or 800-833-2611 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F