

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

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 Spoon River Electric 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 anti-freeze level.
- Check tire tread or, if necessary, 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.

Spoon River Electric Cooperative

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Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,272
Number of members served: 5,022
Number of power poles
in territory: 29,361

Deck the Halls SAFELY

- Use only lights, cords, animated displays, and decorations **rated for outdoor use**.
- When decorating outside, **look up and around** for power lines. **Never throw lights** or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- Keep ladders, equipment, and yourself **at least ten feet away** from power lines.
- Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)**.

For more **holiday safety tips** visit:

 Safe
Electricity.org



**Our office
will be closed
December 24 & 25, and
December 31 & January 1
for the holidays.**

\$9,000 donated to local organizations through Spoon River Electric's Operation Round-Up



The Spoon River Electric Operation Round-Up committee recently donated \$9,000 to six deserving organization throughout the Spoon River territory. The organizations that received funding include: Canton FFA, Canton Caring 4 Kids Program, Cuba Fire Protection District, Cuba School Buddy Bags Program, Feed My Lambs Mission and VIT FFA.

The Operation Round-Up committee had the privilege of meeting with all the organizations mentioned above. One meeting in particular was with Colton Downs and the Canton FFA. "Without this generous donation, we would not be able to send our FFA officers to National Convention. We are very thankful for this program," Downs shared with the Operation Round-Up committee. Downs also noted that Canton High School graduate Mikayla Osborne would receive her American FFA degree at the 2019 convention, which is the highest honor one can earn in the National FFA organization.

These donations are made possible by the generous members of Spoon River Electric who voluntarily make the decision each month to "round up" their electric bill to the next dollar and donating this "extra change" directly to the Operation Round-Up Program. All the funds collected are donated back into our communities as charitable grants. The average donation a member makes annually ranges from \$6-\$12.

For more information about the Operation Round-Up Program, visit our website srecoop.org under the Operation Round-Up tab or call Taryn at 309-647-2700.





Electronic gift guide

By Abby Berry, NRECA

This holiday season, give the gift of tech! If you're searching for the latest gadgets and electronics to gift but don't know where to start, we've got you covered. Here's a list of ideas for your tech-savvy friends and family, and with a range of prices and interests, there's sure to be something for everyone.

Gifts for those on the go:

We all have that friend who never stays in one place, so they'll appreciate gifts that keep them charged while on the go.

A portable charger (or power bank) can keep smartphones and tablets juiced, and the good news is this gift won't drain your wallet. You can purchase portable chargers online or at local retailers for as low as \$20. These compact devices can charge an iPhone three times before running out of steam.



A Bluetooth speaker is another great gift for those on the go. Whether they're listening to their favorite tunes or watching the latest flick, Bluetooth speakers can clarify and amplify volume to satisfy any media enthusiast. Prices range depending on features, but you can purchase a quality Bluetooth speaker online or at local retailers for as low as \$30.

Gifts for the chef:

Every foodie knows that temperature matters when mastering



the perfect cut of meat. A Bluetooth-connected thermometer can help your chef ensure a delicious (and safe-to-eat) meal. Just download the associated app and keep an eye on the grill right from your smartphone or tablet. Prices vary from \$30 to \$200, but you can purchase these gadgets online or at any big box store.

A digital kitchen scale is a must for any culinary pro. No more guessing—the easy-to-read digital screen ensures the exact weight or amount required

for that perfect dish. Prices vary but you can find a 13-pound max weight scale for about \$20 on Amazon.

Gifts for the pet owner:

Let's face it—pet owners would be lost without their fur babies. Luckily, pet tracking products continue to advance, so pet owners can always keep a watchful eye on their furry friends. Most trackers attach to your pet's collar. Prices vary depending on the tracker's capabilities. You can purchase pet trackers online or at a pet store.

Speaking of keeping an eye on pets, you can also purchase surveillance cameras for real-time monitoring—some cameras even allow you to toss treats to your pets while you're away. Additional features include a microphone (so you can talk to your pets), a built-in laser toy (for our feline friends) and the ability to snap a photo or take video from your smartphone. Prices vary but you can purchase a pet camera for as low as \$40 on Amazon.

With so many electronics available today, you're sure to find the perfect gift for your tech-savvy loved ones.

