McDonough Power Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

www.mcdonoughpower.com

The Wire

McDonough Power Cooperative • Macomb, Illinois 61455

Mike Smith
President and CEO

Minimal 2024 rate adjustment

McDonough Power Cooperative's mission is to provide high quality electric and related services in a safe, reliable and financially responsible manner. With the increased costs of wholesale power, substantial price increases for essential equipment, increased shipping costs and supply chain issues, it goes without saying that we need to make a small adjustment to our rates.

To meet our financial obligations, the board of directors approved a minimal rate adjustment that will be effective on your February 2024 billing statement. Those changes are as follows:

- Energy Charge rate increase of $0.003 per kWh (kilowatt-hour) for all rate classes.
- General 3-phase demand rate increase of $0.50 per kW (kilowatt).

For the average McDonough Power residential member, the rate adjustment means paying $3 more per month. A typical member using 1,000 kWh in a billing period will see an increase from $178.20 to $181.20. If your usage is more or less than this average, the increase will vary accordingly. **4131C5A-1116C**

The decision to raise member rates is never easy. This adjustment is necessary to ensure we can maintain the services our members have come to expect and support ongoing enhancements to our infrastructure.

Maintaining dependable service at an affordable price remains the cornerstone of a cooperative's business. We have a strong internal focus on containing costs and operating efficiently to control costs for our members. As a not-for-profit cooperative, McDonough Power Cooperative collects just enough revenue to cover its costs, with a small margin to operate the business. All margins are returned to the membership in the form of capital credits over the long term.

Every month we feature four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a $10 credit on your next electric bill.

McDonough Power Cooperative

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844-405-1145

www.mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Weekdays

Find us on Facebook:
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All Co-op Electric Outages 309-837-1400

Horses gallop — and so can power lines

How can galloping lines impact power transmission and distribution?

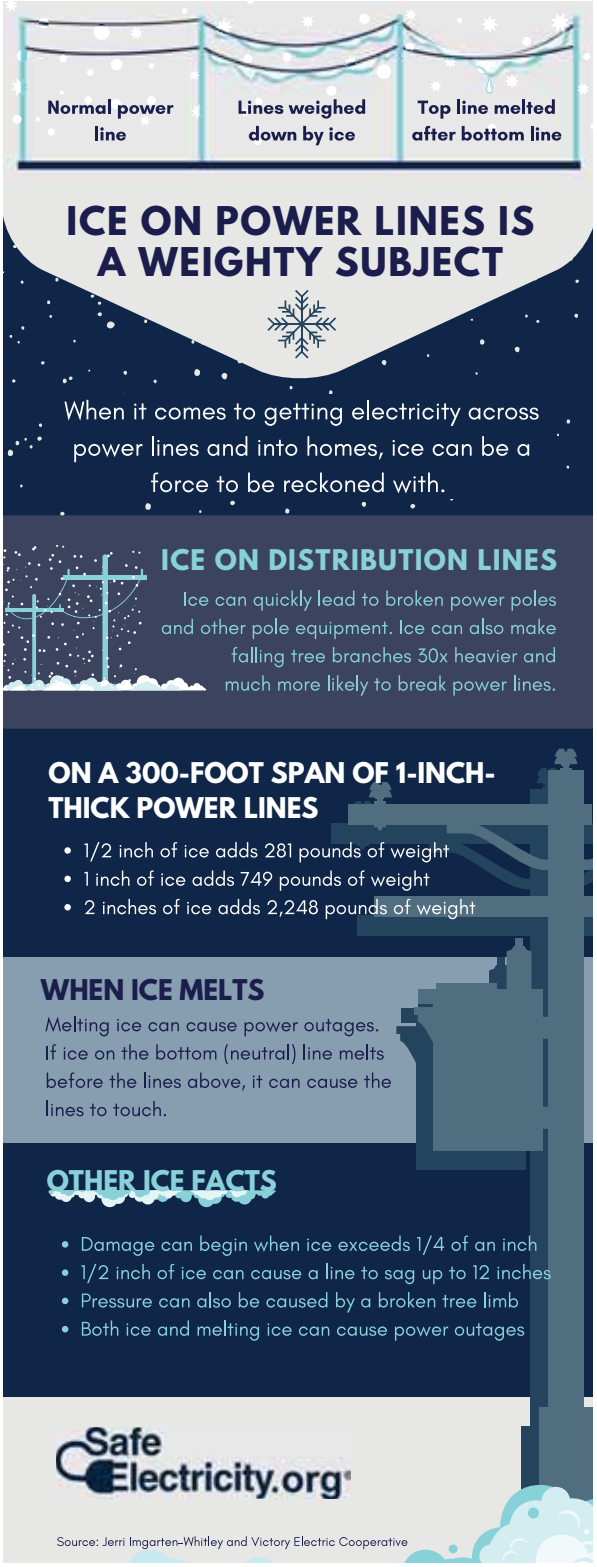
Galloping power lines are typically caused when ice and high winds occur at the same time. Freezing rain creates icicles and odd-shaped ice formations on power lines and conductors. The ice buildup changes how wind and air impact the now misshapen, ice-covered line. This change in airflow can cause the power line to start to bounce. **6220A3-704B**

Once the lines get going, they can bounce and buck enough to hit another line, damage themselves enough to cause a power outage or even fall to the ground.

There is not much a power company can do to alleviate galloping lines, since the wild motion is caused by Mother Nature. To help prevent this, many power lines have special mechanisms, such as twisted wire or round or angular pieces of metal, attached to the line. While they can help, sometimes they are no match for severe ice and whipping winds.

Aside from ice storms, year-round storms can cause damaging winds, which can knock down power lines and blow trees and limbs onto power lines. Keep the following safety tips in mind:

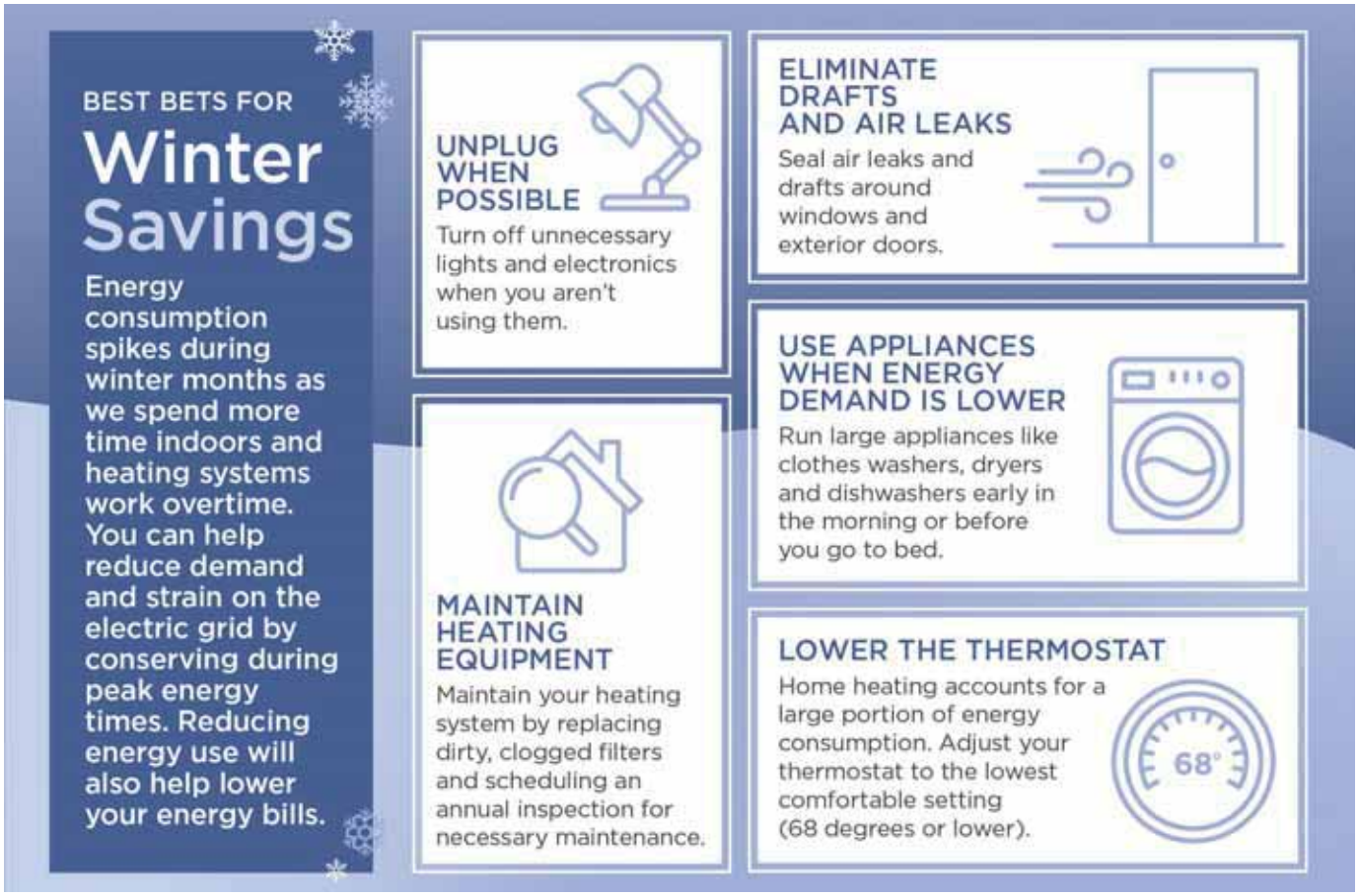
- When you see power lines on the ground, stay away, warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility or 911. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.
- Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines that are sagging or down, could be in contact with an energized power line, also making it dangerous. Do not try to guess the type of line — stay away from all lines.
- Be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide



electrical hazards. Downed power lines can energize objects around them, such as chain-link fences and metal culverts.

- Keep in mind that a dead line could become energized during power restoration efforts or with improper use of generators.
- Never drive over a downed line. It could start a chain reaction and cause additional poles or other equipment to collapse.
- If you are in a car that has contacted or is near a downed power line, stay in your vehicle. Wait until the utility crew has arrived and deenergized the line. Warn others not to approach the car.
- Only exit a vehicle near or on downed lines if there is a fire. If this happens, cross your arms over your chest and make a solid jump out and away from the car with both feet together. Then hop away at least 50 feet or more while continuing to keep both feet together.

For more electrical safety information, visit SafeElectricity.org.



How extreme winter weather impacts reliability

When outdoor temperatures drop, our electricity use increases. That's because we're doing more activities inside, and our heating systems are running longer and more often to counteract colder outdoor temperatures. Factor in that we all tend to use electricity at the same times — in the morning and early evenings — and that equals a lot of strain on our electric grid.

At McDonough Power Cooperative, we work closely with our local generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative in resource and infrastructure planning to ensure you have the power you need whenever you flip a switch, but the electric grid is much larger than your local co-op and G&T. **9117B2-458B**

In winter months, when even more electricity is being used simultaneously across the country, it is possible for electricity demand to exceed supply, especially if an unexpected event like a sudden snow or ice storm or equipment malfunction occurs. If this happens, which is rare, the grid operator for our region of the country may call for rolling power outages to relieve pressure on the grid, and McDonough Power will inform you about the situation.

McDonough Power and our G&T take proactive steps to create a resilient portion of the grid and ensure electric reliability in extreme weather, including regular system maintenance, grid modernization efforts and disaster response planning, but it takes everyone to keep the grid reliable.

To help keep the heat on for you, your family and your neighbors, here are a few things you can do *Continued on 18D*

Extreme Weather continued from 18C

to relieve pressure on the grid (and save a little money along the way):

- Select the lowest comfortable thermostat setting and turn it down several degrees whenever possible. Your heating system must run longer to make up the difference between the thermostat temp and the outdoor temp.
  - Pro tip: Seal air leaks around windows and exterior doors with caulk and weather stripping. Air leaks and drafts force your heating system to work harder than necessary.
- Stagger your use of major appliances such as dishwashers, ovens and dryers.
  - Pro tip: Start the dishwasher before you go to bed and use smaller countertop appliances like slow cookers and air fryers to save energy.
- Ensure that your heating system is optimized for efficiency with regular maintenance and proper insulation.
  - Pro tip: Make sure your furnace filter isn't clogged and dirty. Replace it as needed.
- When possible, use cold water to reduce water heating costs.
  - Pro tip: Setting your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees can help you save energy and reduce mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.
- Unplug devices when not in use to eliminate unnecessary energy use. Even when turned off, electronics in standby mode consume energy.
  - Pro tip: Plug devices into a power strip so you can turn them all off at once with the push of a button.

As we face the challenges posed by winter weather, understanding its impact on energy demand is crucial for maintaining a reliable power supply. By adopting energy conservation practices during periods of extreme cold, not only can you save money on your electric bills, you can also contribute to the resilience of the power grid, keeping your local community warm and connected. **9233D6-804A**

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

Area rugs are an easy, cost-effective solution to cold floors. Adding area rugs to hard-surface flooring can add warmth to any room and keep your feet cozy on cold winter days.

Choose rugs made from wool or other natural fibers and plush or high-pile textures for the most insulation. Place rugs in areas where you need additional warmth, like the foot of a bed or under a coffee table. Area rugs can enhance the aesthetic of your home and keep you cozier.