

# JAMMUP

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## Tornado safety and electrical hazards

**T**ornadoes can strike with little warning, leaving behind downed power lines, damaged electrical equipment and dangerous debris. Preparing before a tornado, and knowing how to stay safe afterward, can help prevent electrical shock, fire and injury. Make sure your emergency plan includes electrical safety steps so you and your family are ready to act quickly and safely.

### Before a tornado

- Prepare an emergency kit with water, battery-powered flashlight, radio, extra batteries and portable phone charger.
- Keep your electric utility's phone number handy in case you need to report an outage or downed line.
- Fully charge cell phones and backup power banks before severe weather hits so you can use them in an emergency.

### During a tornado

- Seek shelter immediately in a basement or a small, interior room with no windows, such as a bathroom or closet.
- Turn off and unplug appliances and electronics to protect them from power surges. Leave one light on so you'll know when power is restored.
- Do not stay inside a vehicle or try to outrun a tornado. Exit the vehicle and seek shelter in a sturdy building. If none are

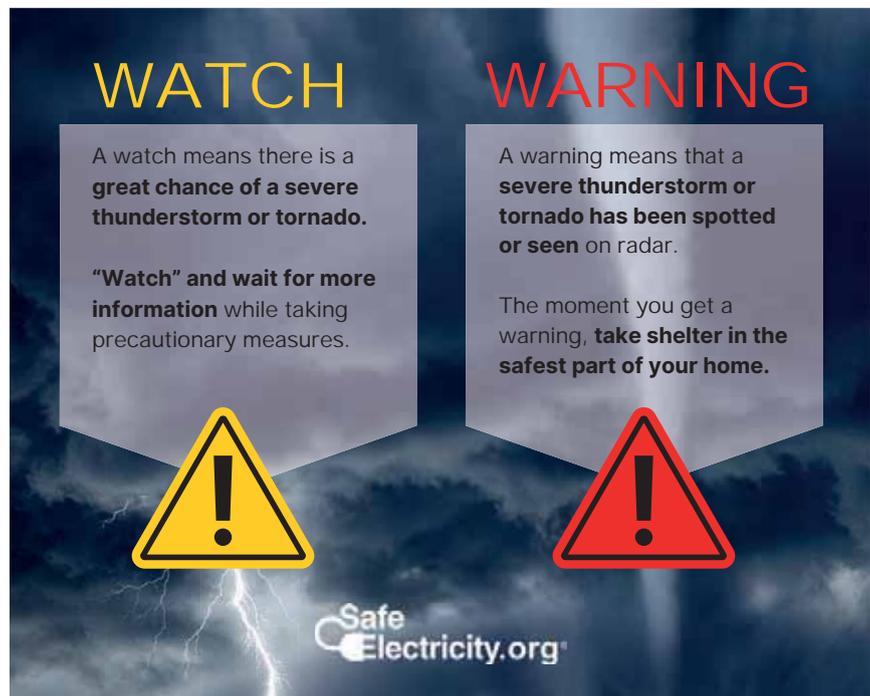
available, lie flat in a low-lying area away from the vehicle and power lines.

### After a tornado

- Stay away from downed power lines and anything they could touch, such as trees, fences or debris. Always assume they are energized.
- If you see a downed line while driving, do not exit your vehicle. Call 911 and your utility, and warn others to stay away.
- Do not touch anyone who is in contact with a power line. Call 911 immediately and wait for emergency responders.

- Do not enter damaged buildings until electricity and gas are shut off by professionals. Never attempt to turn off power if you must stand in water to reach the breaker.
- Avoid flooded areas with electrical outlets, appliances or cords, and never touch electrical equipment when wet or standing in water.
- Have all water-damaged electrical systems, appliances and devices inspected by a licensed electrician before use.

*Continued on page 18B*



## WATCH

A watch means there is a **great chance of a severe thunderstorm or tornado.**

**"Watch" and wait for more information** while taking precautionary measures.

## WARNING

A warning means that a **severe thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted or seen** on radar.

The moment you get a warning, **take shelter in the safest part of your home.**



# Congratulations 2026 \$500 Classroom Grant Winners!



## LICK CREEK CCSD

Ross Pinnon  
*Pickleball: Serving Up  
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## LINCOLN ELEMENTARY

Reading Team: Ginger Staples,  
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*Literacy For All: Working to Build our  
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## LICK CREEK CCSD

Ella Moutria  
*Growing Minds: Greenhouse  
& Irrigation System*



## ANNA JR. HIGH

Angie Hargrave  
*Building a Diverse  
& Culturally  
Responsive Library*



## CENTURY ELEMENTARY

Melanie Blackburn  
*3D Printing STEM Project*



## COBDEN ELEMENTARY

Katie Mueller  
*STEM Sparks:  
Busy Boxes for Little  
Innovators*



## ANNA JR. HIGH

Mandy Smith  
*Library Update*



*"Tornado" continued from page 18A*

### Power outages and generator safety

- Never use a generator indoors or in partially enclosed spaces such as garages, porches, or near open windows and doors. Place it at least 20 feet away from your home to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Keep the generator dry by placing it on a tarp or under a canopy, and follow all manufacturer's instructions.

- Never plug a generator directly into a wall outlet. This can inadvertently energize power lines and pose a lethal risk to you, neighbors and utility workers.

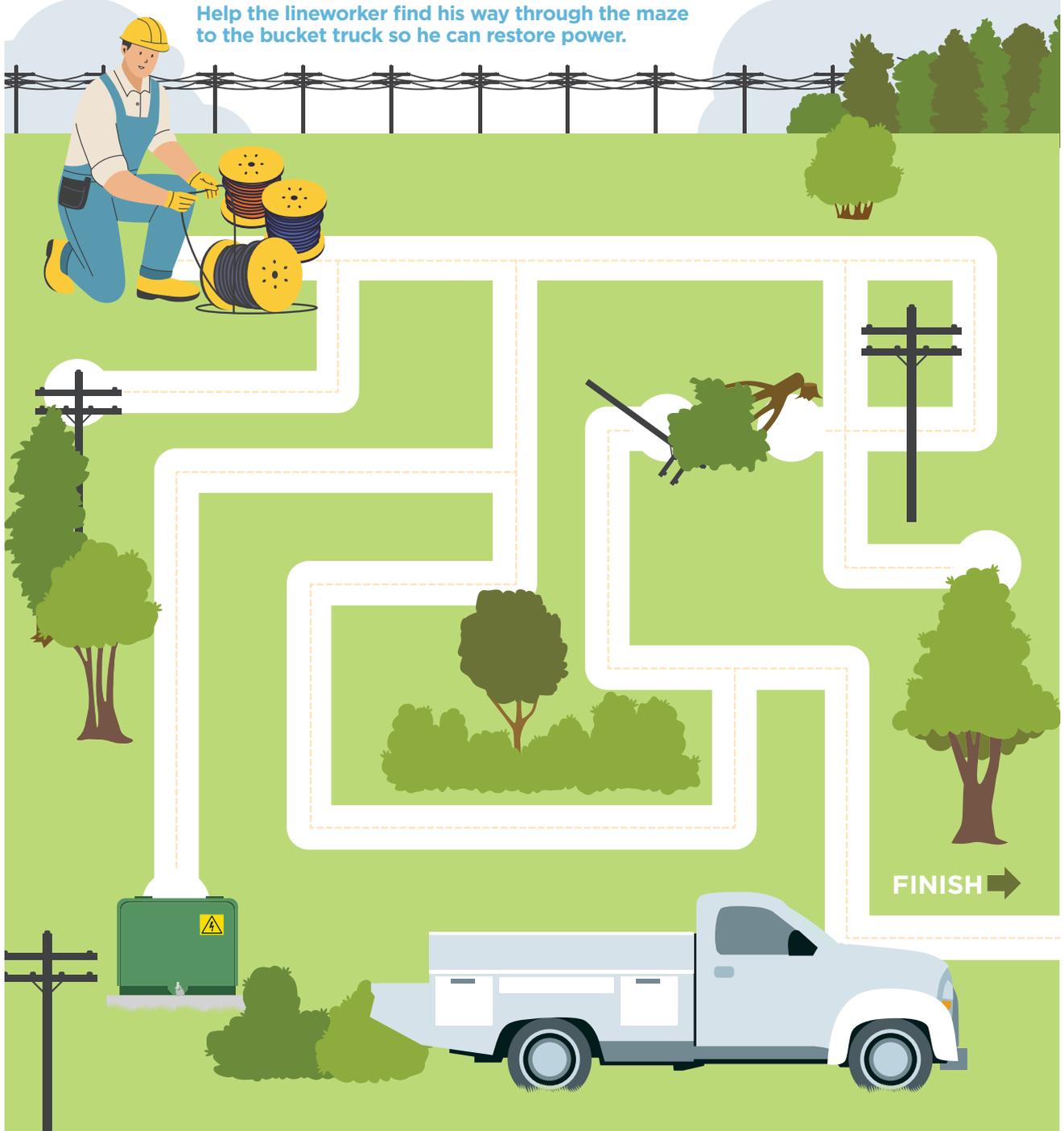
Stay informed, stay alert and share this information to help protect your family and community during severe weather events.

# Help the Lineworker Spring into Action

Did you know March 20 is the first day of spring? This time of year marks new beginnings and fresh blooms, but it can also bring powerful storms that interrupt electric service.



Help the lineworker find his way through the maze to the bucket truck so he can restore power.



## Member prize

In this issue of the JAMUP, we printed the names of three SIEC members who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit toward their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section and it's not part of the story, call Brent with your account number at **800-762-1400** to claim your prize.

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**For Outages Call:**  
800-762-1400 • 618-827-3555

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Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m.  
[www.siec.coop](http://www.siec.coop)

# TORNADO SAFETY & Electrical Hazards

## BEFORE THE TORNADO:

- Prepare an emergency kit and keep your devices charged.
- Know your utility company's contact info.

## DURING THE TORNADO:

- Take shelter in a basement or windowless room.
- Unplug appliances to avoid power surges; leave one light on to signal power return.
- Avoid power lines if outside or driving; seek shelter immediately.

## AFTER THE TORNADO:

- Avoid basements and other flooded areas that are in or near electrical outlets or appliances.
- Do not use water-damaged electrical items until a qualified electrician has inspected them and ensured they are safe.
- Stay at least 50 feet away from downed power lines and any debris they touch.
- Call 9-1-1 for electrical injuries; don't touch victims of electrical contact.

## GENERATOR SAFETY:

- Use outdoors, 20+ feet from the home and away from windows and doors.
- Keep the generator dry by placing it under a canopy.
- Never plug it directly into wall outlets. This could energize power lines and injure you, neighbors or utility workers.

 Safe  
Electricity.org