

August 2017

FROM THE MANAGER— JIM HATHAWAY

Safety and Reliability

Dunn Energy Cooperative is in the business of providing electric service to our members. Our goal is to provide electric service as reliably and safely as possible. Electricity is a powerful partner in our lives. From lighting and entertainment, to cooking, washing clothes and dishes, we use electricity daily.

In today's computer age, having a reliable source of electricity is exceedingly more important. At Dunn Energy, we know just how important reliable electric power is. Every year we make greater investments to ensure the electricity we provide to you, our members, is reliable. That means investing hundreds of thousands of dollars in clearing our rights-of-way. It also means replacing older lines with new higher capacity lines to meet growing demand.

Such a powerful partner can also be dangerous. The power lines that run alongside the roads carry 7200 Kilovolts of electricity; enough to instantly kill anyone who comes in contact with them. At Dunn Energy, safety is our number one priority. Our linemen are continually trained to work safe and think safe. We provide our hotline safety demonstration free to local schools and civic organizations to help remind people of the need to be safe around electricity. We also write about safety in the Wisconsin Energy News magazine and other publications because we don't want anyone to get hurt by electricity.

Our power supplier, Dairyland Power

Cooperative, also focuses on providing reliable and safe electricity. In early July there was an explosion and fire at one of Dairyland's power plants. Thankfully no one was hurt. Dairyland has a Strategic Imperative on Safety, striving for the operational goal of zero incidents for their employees and members. A strong safety culture at Dairyland helps to see that everyone gets home safe, every day.

Reliability is important to Dairyland, too. When the explosion occurred, the power plant had to be shut down. That meant almost 400 megawatts of electricity was shut off, nearly instantly. Nobody lost power though. How did that happen?

Dairyland is a member of a larger organization called the Mid-continent Independent System Operator or MISO. MISO helps make sure that when an incident occurs, like a power plant shutting down, other generating resources can be activated to replace the lost generation. The transition occurs so quickly and seamlessly that there are no outages. Being part of a large regional organization like MISO helps ensure a reliable supply of electricity for Dairyland, Dunn Energy and all other electric providers belonging to the organization.

Dairyland's transmission system is also tied in with other utilities' transmission systems. This also helps ensure a reliable supply of electricity. Just like Dunn Energy, Dairyland is always investing money to strengthen and update their transmission lines. To further strengthen the grid Dairyland

has invested millions in jointly owned transmission lines. These investments help improve the reliability of the electric grid.

There will always be electric outages. The grid is exposed to the worst

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4 4th Annual Pig Roast Extravaganza - Colfax Health & Rehab - Music, raffles, face painting and Food! 4:30 – 7 p.m. – for more information visit www.colfaxhealthandrehabilitation.com

5 39th Annual Irvington Summerfest, Trailside Bar, Irvington – Enjoy volleyball, bean bags and euchre tournaments, live music, raffle drawing, and silent auction – Festivities begin at 9:30 a.m.

26 17th Annual Downsville Day – Celebrate with food, games, and more at this family focused event! Day starts with breakfast at 7 a.m. and ends with fireworks at 9 p.m. – for more information visit www.discoverdownsvillewi.com

If you have any upcoming events you'd like to post in our calendar, please call Jolene at 232-6240 or email her at jolene@dunnenergy.com.

Earn an “A” in College Electrical Safety

The start of each semester comes with a fresh start for college students, along with the potential for new friends and opportunities. Alongside the excitement of college, also comes great responsibility. One of these responsibilities is electrical safety in one's dorm room or apartment. To help with keeping the semester on track and staying safe, Safe Electricity shares electrical safety tips for college students.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, there are an average of 3,870 campus fires each year. Between 2000 and 2015, 11 percent of these campus fires were electrical in nature.

As you move in your books, clothes, and re-arrange your furniture, also make sure to conduct a visual inspection of switches, outlets, and light fixtures. Report any damaged or discolored equipment to the resident assistant or apartment manager for repair or replacement. Also, make sure outlets around sinks are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters

(GFCIs) before use. If they are not, contact the housing staff.

Safe Electricity provides these additional tips for college students:

- Check with campus housing regulations on what electronics are acceptable to bring. Do not bring prohibited items that could create safety hazards.
- Only purchase and use electrical products tested for safety. Some common approved safety labels include: Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA), and MET Laboratories (MET).
- Never block an exit or impact fire sprinklers. It is important that windows and doors are accessible so that escape routes are clear in case of an emergency.
- Never tack or nail an electrical cord to any surface or run cords across traffic paths or underneath rugs where they can be trampled or damaged.

- Be sure to use the correct wattage light bulbs for lamps and fixtures.
- If space heaters are permitted, always turn them off when leaving the room or before going to bed.
- Do not overload your electrical outlets, power strips, or extension cords.
- Use power strips with an over-current protector that will shut off power automatically if there is too much current being drawn.
- Potentially older wiring in student housing and apartments may not be able to handle the increased electrical demand of today's college student. If use of an appliance frequently causes power to trip off or if its power cord or the outlet feels hot, the appliance should be disconnected immediately and the condition reported to housing manager.
- Smoke detectors should never be disabled, and always take all fire alarms and drills seriously.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

“...conduct a visual inspection of switches, outlets, and light fixtures.”



FROM THE MANAGER...

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Mother Nature can throw at it. And there will always be birds and squirrels getting into places they shouldn't be. Investing in improving our electric system and partnering with Dairyland and other electric providers helps us keep those outages to a minimum. Training our linemen to work safely and educating our members on staying safe around electricity helps us follow our mission statement; “Dedicated to efficiently providing safe, reliable energy and superior service to benefit our member and the community.”

Spotlight



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

This newsletter is published for the members of Dunn Energy Cooperative. If you have questions or comments please give us a call. Visit the Energy Professionals at your local energy cooperative.



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