

Current Matters



Nobles Cooperative
Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

October 2023
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Beware of power equipment: Energy can spread like ripples on a pond

Electrical lines are safe and reliable much of the time. However, storms, critters and car accidents can damage energized utility equipment such as power lines, poles and padmount transformers (green boxes). Not only can this cause minor inconveniences, like service interruptions and road closures, it can also create life-threatening situations when energy invisibly spreads like ripples on a pond.

Here is what can occur when utility equipment is damaged:

- **Step potential** happens when a person walks from one voltage “ripple” to another and their feet experience a difference in voltage.
- **Touch potential** happens when someone touches something at one voltage and steps on or contacts something else at a different voltage.

Both types of potential can cause serious internal and external injuries and death, since electric current enters the body at one point and exits at another.

How to stay safe

Take precautions near downed power lines, poles or other damaged power equipment. Always assume damaged power equipment is energized; it can look lifeless and harmless and still be live.

Besides accidents, storms and animal

interferences, another hazardous situation may occur when equipment or extensions get too close to or contact power equipment. To stay safe around damaged utility equipment:

- Stay inside your vehicle or cab.
- Call 9-1-1.
- Report damaged power equipment to a dispatcher.
- Only exit if you see smoke or there is a fire.

If you must exit due to a fire, carefully do the following:

- Cross your arms and make a clean jump out.
- Do not touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.
- Make solid hops with your feet together as far away as you can.
- If you are unable to hop, shuffle away without lifting your feet.
- Do not return to the vehicle.
- If you are near the scene:
 - Do not approach the scene to help.
 - Stay at least 50 feet away.
 - Do not lean on or touch anything.
 - Never approach a downed power line or pole or a damaged pad mount transformer.

For (516-37-114) more electrical safety tips, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Energy saving tip

Did you know ceiling fans can make a room feel 4 degrees cooler? To save energy through ceiling fan use, remember to raise your thermostat a few degrees while fans are turned on. Ceiling fans can help improve comfort year-round. In the summer, operate ceiling fans in a counterclockwise direction. Reverse the direction to clockwise during winter months and set fans on a low speed so warm air can circulate from the ceiling to the lower levels of the room. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not spaces. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: energy.gov

Mark your calendar

Oct. 30 Electric bills due
Oct. 31 Happy Halloween!
Nov. 5 Daylight savings time ends
Nov. 11 Veterans Day

August Auto Pay Winner Wade Garms

Take a minute to sign up for Auto Pay and you may win a \$25 bill credit. A winner is chosen each month.



Manager's Message



Helpful tips on how to
stay safe online



Keep safety in mind
during harvest season



General Manager
Adam Tromblay



Electric co-ops grow for the communities they serve

Co-ops come in all shapes and sizes, but they each have a common goal: to provide goods or services for the members of the co-op.

(15-34-45) Our priority is to provide affordable, reliable energy to our local communities. Because we are led by you, the members we serve, we can evolve to meet your needs.

This October, as we celebrate Co-op Month, we're focusing on the ways "Co-ops Grow" for their members.

Co-ops Grow Communities: Co-ops help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment, fostering community engagement and supporting the unique needs of co-op members. "Concern for Community" is one of our core principles—and being community-focused is essential to everything we do.

Co-ops Grow Together: Co-ops are all about cooperation, not competition. That's why electric co-ops work together to share lessons learned, successful strategies and better ways to serve our members. We're better when we grow together!

Co-ops Grow Tomorrow's Leaders: Electric co-ops serve as fertile ground for growing tomorrow's leaders through a variety of youth engagement programs. Whether through school demonstrations, community events or the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, we're committed to providing opportunities for local youth to learn and thrive in our community and beyond.

Co-ops Grow for You: At NCE, your satisfaction is our number one goal. It's why we were formed many years ago to fulfill a uniquely local purpose. We've come a long way since then, and your needs continue to evolve. That's why we'll never stop growing for you!

If you have electric heat, you may be sales tax exempt

If electricity is your primary source of residential heat, the kilowatts used for heating your home are exempt from sales tax. Primary means 50 percent or more of your heating. The heating season is six months long from November to April.

If you have signed a fuel exemption form in the past, your record is automatically retained. To sign up for exemption, please give our office a call at 507-372-7331, 507-836-6107, 800-776-0517 or fill out a form online.

Complaint process for lowa members

If you have a concern or complaint regarding NCE, the (27-14-33) complaint should be addressed to Adam Tromblay, General Manager, Nobles Cooperative Electric, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187-0788, phone 507-372-7331, 507-836-6107 or 800-776-0517. If your complaint is related to services of NCE, rather than its rates, and NCE does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Utilities Division, Department of Commerce, Lucas State Office Buildings, Des Moines, IA 50319, phone 515-281-5979.

Playing it safe online

In today's world, most of us don't leave the front door unlocked. We protect our homes, loved ones and valuables from intruders with locks, alarms and other security measures. Cybersecurity is no different. It's the practice of protecting other valuables such as your identity, banking and health records and other sensitive information from digital attacks and theft.

In addition to pumpkin-spice lattes, crisper air and Halloween festivities, October is the time of year we recognize Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Given our increased reliance on internet-connected devices and gadgets, here are a few cybersecurity tips. NCE is also working to boost our own cybersecurity efforts.

According to (12-15-35) the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA), an agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security that is responsible for strengthening cybersecurity and infrastructure protection, these are the four best ways to keep you and your family safe online.

1. Implement multi-factor authentication (also known as two-step verification) on your accounts. The additional layer of protection makes it much harder for criminals to access your information. Even if a hacker obtains your password, they may be unable to access your accounts if multi-step verification is enabled.

2. Update your software. This is one of the easiest ways to protect your personal data. When downloading a software update, make sure it's coming straight from the company that created it. Beware of fake pop-ups that request urgent downloads. Better yet, turn on automatic updates.

3. Think before you click. Most successful cyber attacks start with a phishing email. Don't take the bait when cyber criminals go phishing. Avoid

AVOID PET NAMES AS PASSWORDS.

Make it something stronger.

Good catch,
1t1s@4^hek\$de63



emails (or texts) that look too good to be true, oddly urgent, poorly crafted or include unusual requests.

4. Create strong passwords, using long, unique and complex words or phrases. Consider using a password manager to save time, work across all devices, protect your identity and notify you of potential phishing websites.

For the young people in your household

Just as you would talk with your children about safety in the physical world, discuss ways to stay safe online. Help them understand the public nature of the internet. Young people need to know early on that what is shared online stays online and is difficult (if not impossible) to take back. Just as you would guard your money or valuables, children need to learn to guard their personal information, especially on social networks. As a parent or guardian, help your children learn about and use the privacy and security settings on so-

cial networks and gaming sites.

Keeping the electric grid and your data secure

We're doing our share on the cyber front. Part of offering excellent service is keeping that service secure and reliable. For NCE, reliability means repairing wear-and-tear, upgrading our equipment to withstand storms and severe weather and using technology and best practices to keep our system secure from cybersecurity issues.

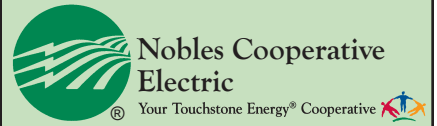
We also work together with co-ops across the country to develop new technologies and infrastructure, learn from each other and keep the grid's network secure.

While we can't stop a storm or predict every disruption, as a co-op, we do everything we can to keep the lights on and our members protected. Because if we all do our part, our interconnected world will be safer and more secure for everyone.

The cooperative would like to remind farmers to be safe this fall



Harvest season is an especially dangerous time for farmers. Power lines that we see every day can often fade into the background, posing a threat to farmers operating heavy machinery. Be vigilant and aware of overhead power lines as you work on the farm.



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22636 U.S. Hwy. 59
P.O. Box 788
Worthington, MN 56187-0788
Phone: 507-372-7331,
507-836-6107 or 800-776-0517

Website

www.noblesce.coop

Email address

nce@noblesce.com

Office hours

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday
Oct. 1 - April 30

24-Hour outage service

800-776-0517

Gopher State One-Call

800-252-1166 or 811

Electrical inspectors

Nobles & Murray County
Luke Pieske - 507-316-8664

General Manager

Adam Tromblay

Board of Directors

Ronald Schwartau, President - 220-8148*
Lee York, V. President - 879-3497*
Cindy Hokeness, Sec./Treas. - 478-4965*
Jerry Beckering, Director - 227-4074*
Timothy Bickett, Director - 605-670-5294
Gary Clarke, Director - 605-201-1903
David Dorpinghaus, Director - 605-695-7816
*Telephone prefix 507

Next Board Meeting

October 20, 2023

This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Country Cupboard

Calico Ham and Bean Soup

**Debra Horne
Fulda**

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 lb. dry bean mix, rinsed and drained | 1 tsp. dried oregano |
| 6 c. water | 3/4 tsp. salt |
| 2 1/2 c. cubed ham | 1/4 tsp. pepper |
| 1 c. chopped onions | 2 bay leaves |
| 1 c. chopped carrots | 1 tsp. liquid smoke, optional |
| 1 tsp. dried basil | |

Combine beans and 6 c. water in large sauce pan. Bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer uncovered for 10 minutes. Drain, discarding cooking water and rinse beans. Combine all the ingredients in a slow cooker. Cover. Cook on low for 8 to 10 hours (26-18-27) or high 4 to 5 hours. Discard the bay leaves before serving.

My Favorite Calico Beans

**Debra Horne
Fulda**

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1/2 lb. ham | 1/2 c. brown sugar |
| 1 med. onion, chopped | 14 1/2 oz. can red kidney beans, drained |
| 1/4 lb. bacon, diced | 28 oz. can pork and beans, not drained |
| 1/2 c. ketchup | 15 oz. can butter beans, drained |
| 2 T. cider vinegar | |

Brown onion and bacon. Drain. Combine all ingredients in a slow cooker. Cover. Cook on low for 8 hours.

Send your favorite recipe with **green peppers** to Nobles Cooperative Electric, ATTN: Tracey, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187-0788. Entries must include your name, address, telephone number and NCE location number. All entries must be received by October 25. The winning recipe will be featured in the next edition of *Current Matters* and the winner will receive a **\$10 credit** on their electric bill.