

Electric Line Newsletter



Stay Warm, Stay Safe:

Safety Tips for using a space heater

With negative temperatures becoming the norm in central Wisconsin it is important to stay warm. One way to do this quickly is a space heater. Although they are convenient to use they can be very dangerous if they are used wrong. The tips below will help you stay not only warm but safe this winter.

- Make sure the heater is clean and in good condition.
- Place the heater out of high-traffic areas and on a level, hard, non-flammable floor surface—NOT on carpets, furniture, or countertops.
- Never leave space heaters unattended. Turn off your space heater and unplug it before leaving the room or going to bed.
- If your space heater is plugged into a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) and it trips, don't assume there is something wrong with the GFCI. Immediately stop using the heater until a professional can check it— if not, a serious shock could occur.
- Purchase only space heaters that have been safety tested and UL approved. Make sure the unit has an emergency tip-over shut-off feature and heating element guards. Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for operation and care.
- Before using a space heater, make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in good working condition.
- Never allow pets or children near an electric heater. Accidental contact could cause serious shock or burns.
- Do not overload circuits. Never use extension cords or multiple plugs with a space heater and make sure not to plug the unit into the same circuit as other electric appliances.

Using these tips will insure you not only have a warm but safe winter!

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Energy Saving Tip:

One inexpensive and smart way to save money on electric is investing in a power strip. Televisions, computers, and even cell phone chargers continue to use electricity even when they are off, but with a flip of a switch devices that are plugged into a power strip can be turned completely off.

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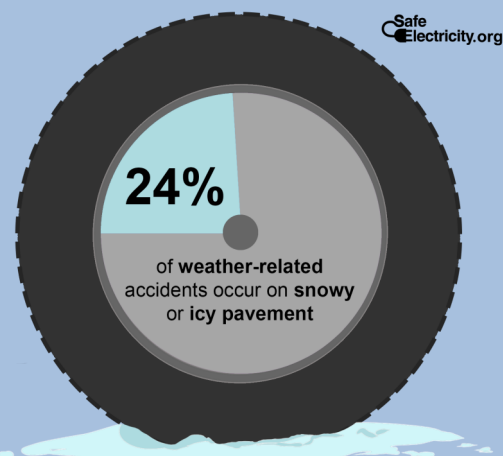
What to do When Fender Benders and Electricity Collide

As winter continues, slippery and snowy roads are inevitable. These conditions make accidents more likely and very dangerous. If you lose control of your vehicle and hit a powerline, an already bad situation can get so much more dangerous. If you find yourself in this situation first and foremost stay in your car and call 911. If the powerlines fall on or around your car and you step out you are opening yourself up to the possibility of getting electrocuted. Even though powerlines may seem to be dead that may not always be the case. Just because they aren't arcing and sparking doesn't mean they aren't still active. Warn those who try to come near your car to help that they must stay far away. They too can get seriously injured if the power lines are still active. The exception to this rule is if your car is on fire. In this case it is more dangerous to stay in your car. If this becomes an issue, jump clear of the vehicle without touching it and the ground at the same time. Then hop away with feet together. This way there will not be a voltage difference between your two feet, which would give electricity the chance to flow through your body.

If you witness a car collision with a power pole do not get out of your car to help. Stay in your car and call for emergency responders.

Heavy ice and snow can down powerlines. Make sure you are vigilant while driving and stay away if you notice them.

When snow and ice happen in Wisconsin it is important to keep yourself and your passengers safe in case of an emergency. Take these tips and apply them if a bad situation becomes worse.



research collected from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration



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Payment Options

For our member's convenience, we have a variety of different methods to pay your electric bill. Our members have the option of paying via any of the following:

Paying online using SmartHub

Recurring credit card payment

Automatic payment via checking card

Pay by phone using checking, credit card, or savings account

Budget billing (for those who qualify)

Night deposit sites (one at the west side of the co-op, one next to the gas pump at the Cenex Convenience Store in Iola)

Non-Sufficient Funds Policy: All NSF checks received will be accessed a \$25 charge and have a week to pay via cash or money order.

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Trivia Contest

Trivia is back! Central Wisconsin Electric cooperative would like to test our members knowledge with Facebook trivia contests. The rules are simple, when you see a trivia post make sure you comment the right answer, like the post and share it! It's that simple. Hardest part is getting the question right! At the end of the week CWEC will randomly pick one winner. The winner will receive a \$25 credit on their next electrical bill.

You must be a member to qualify!

The winner will only be selected if they liked, shared and commented on the post!

Help us get the word out! Good luck!

As spring approaches and the ground thaws it is easy to get excited about new projects and start digging. Before you do call the Diggers Hotline as underground power lines and other obstructions can cause serious injury. Don't risk getting hurt just to beat the clock. Call Diggers Hotline before you start your spring projects.

Diggers Hotline: 811

