

CHIPPEWA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2003

SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY

Hopefully spring is here now and with it comes storms. Severe weather and downed power lines are definitely summer phenomena. And, you can be sure that during any summer in Wisconsin you will see at least some severe weather. If you experience power outages for any reason including during severe weather, be sure to contact us as soon as possible 24 hours a day 7 days of the week by calling 715-239-6800 or 800-300-6800.

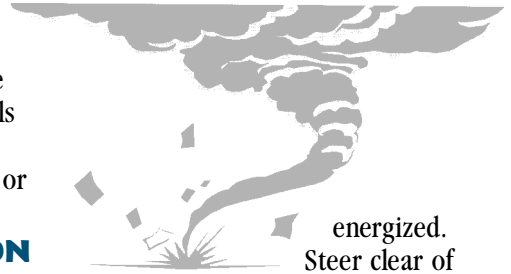
Our Operations Department develops a profile of which members are out of power based

on where the outage calls are coming from. Your phone calls help us find the most likely location of the damaged line or underground fault.

TAKE EXTRA CAUTION DURING SEVERE WEATHER

An electric power line on the ground could still be energized with 7,200 volts or more even when you see only one end of the wire. You could be electrocuted if you walk into a downed energized power line.

Power lines that have fallen onto a vehicle could also be



energized. Steer clear of vehicles that are in contact with power lines. If you are actually in a vehicle that has made contact with a power line, **STAY IN THE VEHICLE!** If you should attempt to exit, you stand a very high risk of being electrocuted if you touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time. If fact, do not ever drive over a fallen power line. Stay clear of all power lines.

DISPOSE OF OLD APPLIANCES RESPONSIBLY

So you've finally replaced that old, inefficient dryer, washer, refrigerator, or freezer with a new, super-efficient electric appliance. Great! But just as your new appliance helps you use electricity responsibly, you need to make sure that you dispose of that old appliance responsibly, too. That means you should make sure those appliances are made childproof or safely disposed of in the appropriate manner.

Although The Refrigerator Safety

Act became effective October 30, 1958, requiring a mechanism (usually a magnetic latch) that makes it possible to open the door from the inside, many older appliances are still around, and children continue to die of suffocation each year after hiding

in these appliances and being unable to get out.

The easiest way to safeguard an old refrigerator is to take off the door completely; usually this requires only a screwdriver. If the door will not

come off, chain and padlock the door permanently and tightly closed, or remove or disable the latch completely so the door will no longer lock.

Remember, in many areas it is illegal to discard old refrigerators without first removing the door. Even if it's not against the law, unsafely junking old appliances is a serious hazard to the children in your community. If you have an old appliance, or know of one that's been discarded inappropriately, contact your local government to make arrangements to have the appliance disposed of properly. You could save the life of a child.

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
www.cpsc.gov

"The easiest way to safeguard an old refrigerator is to take off the door completely..."

WHY IS MY ELECTRIC BILL HIGHER THAN MY NEIGHBOR'S?

Some members ask: "Why is my electric bill so different from my neighbor's bill?"

The answer is simple. It is YOUR electric bill. It is not the energy bill for your neighbor - it is a bill for electric energy consumed by YOU and YOUR FAMILY in YOUR HOME or YOUR FARM. Yes, your homes may be similar in size, but your homes and the ways in which you use electrical energy are still different.

Your homes are different in many ways - in square footage, wall insulation properties, ceiling and attic insulation, leakage around windows, ceiling heights, positioning or lack of ceiling fans, furnace and air conditioning and thermostats, air flow in you home, etc. Your own family does not use electricity exactly as your

neighboring families. Your family may stay up later using lights, watch television more, use multi televisions and use more computer time. If you change the thermostat many times during the day, you are not utilizing your furnace or air conditioner to its most efficient advantage

And, while you are thinking about it, discuss with your family ways to reduce your electric energy bill. Do some brainstorming. How can they help cut down on energy usage? You may be surprised at what they come up with.

For more energy-saving tips, call Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative at 715-239-6800 or 800-300-6800 or stop in and pick up a helpful booklet to evaluate your electrical usage and appliances.

"Your family may stay up later using lights, watch television more, use multi televisions and use more computer time."




STRANGE BUT TRUE FACTS

- ◆ It is impossible to lick your elbow.
- ◆ Recycling one glass jar saves enough energy to watch TV for 3 hours!
- ◆ There wasn't a single pony in the Pony Express, just horses!
- ◆ Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying!
- ◆ Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.
- ◆ The names of all the continents end with the same letter that they start with.
- ◆ You're more likely to get stung by a bee on a windy day than in any other weather.
- ◆ The average adult stands 0.4 inch taller in the morning than in the evening, because the cartilage in the spine compresses during the day.
- ◆ In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. That's where the phrase, "goodnight, sleep tight" came from.
- ◆ Coca-Cola was originally green.
- ◆ Over 75% of people who read this will try to lick their elbows!

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

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(715) 239-6800 or 1-800-300-6800

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DIGGERS HOTLINE

Toll-free: 1-800-242-8511

Milwaukee area:

(414) 259-1181

TDD for Hearing Impaired:

1-800-542-2289