

MAY 2019

CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS

MAY IS
NATIONAL
ELECTRICAL
SAFETY
MONTH

In the wake of the April storm that left miles of power lines down and thousands without electricity in southern Minnesota, Dakota Electric sent crews and equipment to assist People's Energy Cooperative and BENCO Electric Cooperative in rebuilding their systems. That's the cooperative way. See story on page 3.

Photo credit: Federated Rural Electric Association



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SAFETY

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Contact Us

Member Service & Drive-Up Window

7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday – Friday
651-463-6212 or 1-800-874-3409
Minnesota Relay Service 711

Lobby 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday
4300 220th Street West, Farmington, MN 55024

24-Hour Outage & Emergency Service

651-463-6201 or 1-800-430-9722

Underground Cable Locations

Gopher State One Call 811 or 651-454-0002
or 1-800-252-1166

Tree Trimming & Street Lights

651-463-6287

*Dakota Electric is an equal opportunity/
affirmative action employer*

dakotaelectric.com

customerservice@dakotaelectric.com

*Dakota Electric Association® and Dakota Electric®
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Dakota Electric Association

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Dakota Electric's top priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy. Since May is National Electrical Safety Month, and with storm season approaching, I'd like to share a few safety tips that could save your life.

Life-saving tips

If your car collides with a utility pole, the vehicle could become energized so it's critical to stay in the vehicle until emergency crews say it's safe to exit. If the vehicle is on fire or you must exit for other safety reasons, jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothing touch the vehicle and ground at the same time. Land with your feet together and shuffle away (in small steps with your feet still together) to avoid electric shock. Keep moving until you are at least 40 feet away.

Likewise, if you come upon a car accident involving a utility pole, stay at least 40 feet away and keep others away. While you may be concerned about injuries to those involved, the best action you can take is to alert emergency officials, who will coordinate with the power provider. And never drive over a downed power line or through water that is touching a downed power line.

If you have a downed power line on your property as a result of a

Safety First!

Safety tips that can save your life.

fallen tree, storm or other event, do not go near. Always assume a downed line is energized and dangerous. Never try to move a power line, even if you think it's not energized. We recognize that you may be anxious to clear your property of tree limbs or other debris, but please wait until a utility crew or emergency officials confirm it is safe to do so.

May is Electrical Safety Month

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, each year thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or die as a result of electrical contact, fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable.

We know first-hand how dangerous electricity can be. To me, safety is more than a catch phrase. I view it as everyone's duty and responsibility to keep our communities and employees safe.

Visit www.dakotaelectric.com/safety/power-line-safety for additional safety tips, or contact us to request a safety demonstration at your school or community event.

It is no accident that safety is our top priority.

— Brandon Lunde
Manager of Safety Services



Dakota Electric crews assist co-ops in restoring power

The first request came about 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, from People's Energy Cooperative of Oronoco, Minn. The second request came on Friday afternoon, April 12, from BENCO Electric Cooperative in Mankato.

Both co-ops had hundreds of poles down and thousands of members without electricity from the April storm that brought snow, ice, rain, thunderstorms and high winds to Minnesota, and they needed help rebuilding miles of power lines.

"Once we knew the storm had passed and our system was in good shape, we were comfortable sending help," said Jeff Schoenecker, vice president of utility services at Dakota Electric. Another consideration is the location of the co-op requesting help. "Both requests came from co-ops that are relatively close by, so we could easily call back our crews if needed."

Dakota Electric sent eight men, four line-trucks with trailers and dozens of power poles to People's Energy early Friday morning, April 12. Another five-man crew with trucks and equipment went to BENCO Electric early Saturday morning, April 13.

Prior to crews leaving Friday morning, Dakota Electric held an important safety meeting. "Storm restoration is some of the riskiest work there is," said Bernie Kolnberger, Dakota Electric's utility services manager. "When we're in someone else's territory, it's even riskier and our safety rules must be followed."

"We are part of a mutual aid agreement with other Minnesota co-ops," reported Schoenecker. "Given the extent of the damage, I fully expect our crews to work throughout the weekend."

Damage and power outages from the storm were extensive throughout southern Minnesota, and other co-ops also received mutual aid from utilities across the region.



Dakota Electric employees head to People's Energy, April 12 (L-R): Eric Gehrke, Greg Nelson, Alex McCutcheon, Kyle Ryman, Tim Vanderlinde, Mark Matthees, Ethan Leibel and Shane Thompson.



Dakota Electric employees head to BENCO Electric, April 13 (L-R): Shane Klotz, Jordan Saunders, Pat Emond, Jake Majeski and Luke Waxon.





POWER LINE SAFETY

Always stay away from power lines, meters, transformers and electrical boxes. If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Don't climb trees and don't fly kites, remote control devices or balloons near power lines.



Don't touch anything that is touching a downed wire, such as a vehicle, or anything stuck in a power line.



40 ft.

If a power line falls across or near your vehicle while you are in it, stay inside until help arrives. If you must exit, jump so no part of your body is touching the car when you land. Keep both feet together and shuffle or hop at least **40 feet** away.

Call **911** or **Dakota Electric** (651-463-6201) to report downed power lines.

Call **911** for power line-related injuries.

Call **Dakota Electric** if something gets stuck in a power line.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



Always keep children, pets and ladders away from power lines.

Source: ESFI.org



Cut it out and hang it up somewhere!



REBATES & OFFERS

Energy Wise® promotions save energy & money

With rebates on everything from LED bulbs to heat pumps, it's easy and cost effective to make your home energy efficient. Combine your purchase with a low-cost Energy Wise® off-peak electric rate to save even more!

Contact the Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243 or email EnergyServices@DakotaElectric.com.

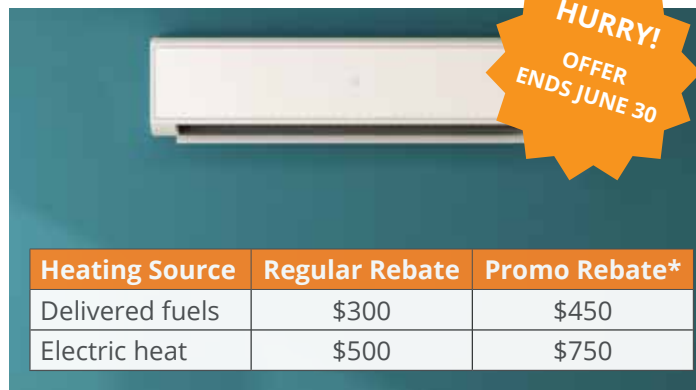
DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE
WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM




HURRY!
OFFER
ENDS JUNE 30

ASHP	Regular Rebate	Promo Rebate*
15 SEER	\$580	\$1,250
16+ SEER	\$630	\$2,000

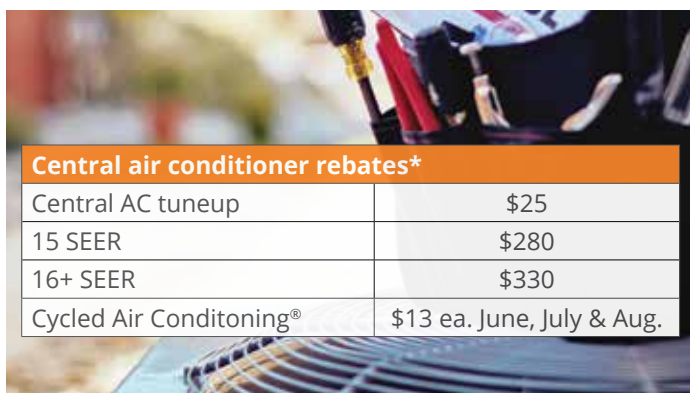
- 1. Air-source heat pumps** provide home cooling and supplemental heating, using 72% less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces.



HURRY!
OFFER
ENDS JUNE 30

Heating Source	Regular Rebate	Promo Rebate*
Delivered fuels	\$300	\$450
Electric heat	\$500	\$750

- 2. A ductless air-source heat pump** is a good solution for homes with non-ducted heating systems, or for room additions where installing ductwork is not feasible.



Central air conditioner rebates*

Central AC tuneup	\$25
15 SEER	\$280
16+ SEER	\$330
Cycled Air Conditioning®	\$13 ea. June, July & Aug.

- 3. Save on central air conditioner** costs with these cool rebates. Consider a tuneup and Cycled Air Conditioning® to save money on your existing cooling system.



\$50 OFF smart thermostats through May 31

EnergyWiseMNstore.com

- 4. Shop our new online store** and get instant rebates on energy-efficiency products for you home. Check each month for special promotions at **EnergyWiseMNstore.com**.

**Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice.*

Summer pole inspections

Utili-Tech, a pole inspection contractor hired by Dakota Electric Association, is conducting annual pole inspections in our service area throughout July and August.

Areas included are Ravenna and Welch townships, Red Wing, New Market Township and Elko New Market. The pole inspector will be identified as a Utili-Tech employee, contracted by Dakota Electric to gather pole data as it relates to the above-ground distribution system.

The inspector will attempt to contact each member before performing inspections. The inspector will walk through backyards and private properties, as well as use an ATV to access certain pole locations.

Please contact Dakota Electric at 651-463-6272 if you have questions or concerns about pole inspections in these areas.



Plan ahead when landscaping and planting trees

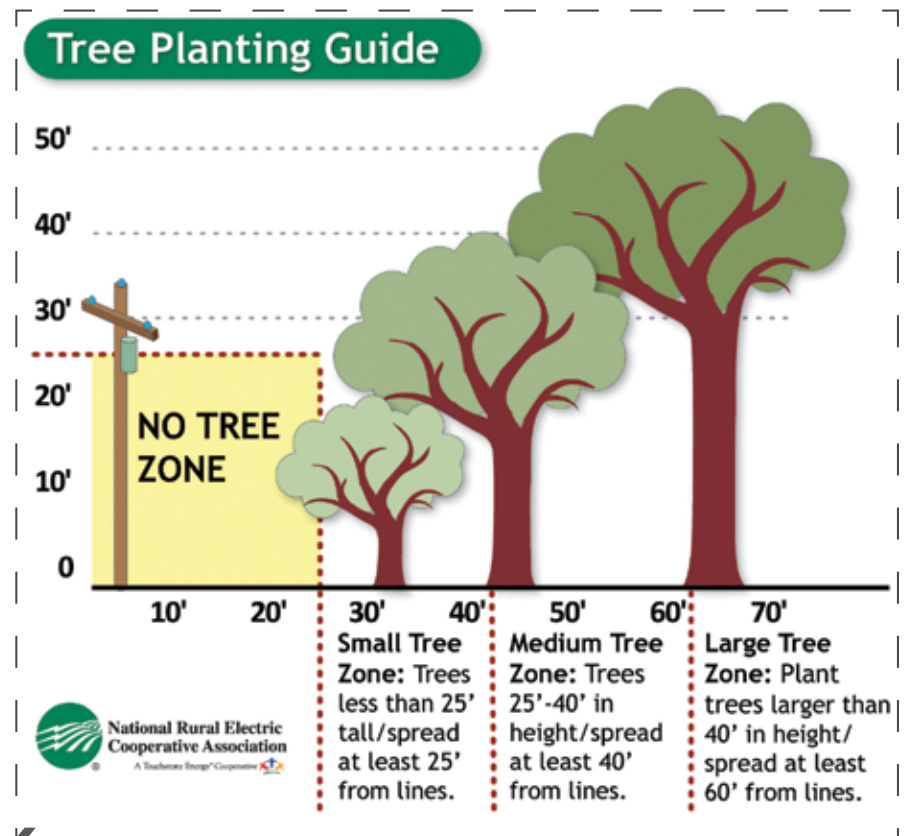
It's not always easy to visualize how a few years will change your landscaping. That's why you must plan ahead, especially when planting trees.

Consider the height the tree will reach at maturity. Please see the chart below. Research the size the tree will become and calculate how far away from the power line it should be planted. Anything closer is not safe and the mature tree might eventually need to be removed.

Please do not landscape or install fences near the cooperative's padmount transformers, junction boxes or the base of power poles. Visit www.dakotaelectric.com/tree-trimming-and-planting-guidelines for specific measurements.

And remember: Know what's below. Always call Gopher State One Call at 811 prior to digging in your yard. It's the law.

TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT TRIMMING TREES AND TO DOWNLOAD A TREE-PLANTING BROCHURE, VISIT: DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM/TREE-TRIMMING-AND-PLANTING-GUIDELINES



National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
A TruGreen Energy Cooperative



Cut it out and hang it up somewhere!



Dakota Electric wins prestigious 2019 Cooperative Purpose Award

Dakota Electric's commitment to serving the communities in which we live and work recently earned the co-op the prestigious 2019 Cooperative Purpose Award from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Dakota Electric, one of more than 900 NRECA electric co-ops, was recognized for significant community contributions.

"Innovative projects ... require outstanding leadership and an impressive ability to leverage new partnerships to improve lives. Dakota Electric clearly has both," former NRECA President Phil Carson said upon presenting the award.

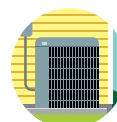


Final reminder to take in Dakota Electric's Energy Trends Expo

Thursday, May 9 | 6 - 8 p.m. | Eagan Community Center

This event is free and open to members interested in learning about the latest energy trends and technologies.

- Vendor tradeshow
- Demonstration of battery-powered yard tools
- Electric vehicle car show
- Breakout sessions:
 - 6:30** Home audits: Opportunities, tools and DIY tips
 - 6:50** Resiliency in a changing climate
 - 7:00** Electricity: The key to sustainability



Sponsored by Dakota Electric Association in cooperation with Lakeville Friends of the Environment.

Students win free trip to Washington D.C. this June



Five local high school students have won a free trip to Washington D.C., sponsored by Dakota Electric, to participate in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual Youth Tour, June 15-20.

Electric co-ops across the U.S. sponsor more than 1,800 students annually for the Youth Tour. Students tour the city, meet with elected officials, and learn about government and electric co-ops during the week.



Davin Blix
Burnsville H.S.



Sanjana Molleti
Eastview H.S.



Nils Peterson
Eagan H.S.



Emma Veldhuis
Eagan H.S.



Sarah Zipf
Eastview H.S.



Alternate
Darby O'Neil
Eastview H.S.



4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **GreenTouch**
May 4, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- **Energy Trends Expo**
May 9, 6-8 p.m.
- **Board Meeting**
May 30, 8:30 a.m.
- **Member Appreciation
at the Minnesota Zoo**
July 25, 4-8 p.m.

dakotaelectric.com/event-calendar

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WINS CO-OP PURPOSE AWARD

DAKOTA ELECTRIC



Dakota Electric's board members accept the Cooperative Purpose award at the NRECA annual meeting: NRECA CEO Jim Matheson (left) and (former) board president Phil Carson (right); representing Dakota Electric's board from left to right: Jack DeYoe, Margaret Schreiner, Chair David Jones and Janet Lekson. See story on page 7.