



LOAD REDUCTION PROGRAM

A VOLUNTARY WAY FOR YOU TO *MAKE A DIFFERENCE!*

For decades we've been reducing, reusing, and recycling physical waste to limit the need for landfills. While we can't reuse or recycle electricity, have you ever considered reducing your energy use during times of high demand for electricity to help avoid the need for new power plants?

Much like land space, electrical energy is a limited resource. It is generated based on the real-time demand of those who consume it. When demand is high, supply can become an issue. If you enroll in our *Power Down Program* and reduce your use of electricity during times of peak demand you can help lessen the need for new power plants, help reduce shared cost to your Cooperative, and keep future rates stable.

'Peak demand' occurs when the need for electricity is highest. For us, this is typically during the evening

when families return home, cook dinner, and use appliances. Weather can also play a big factor in the demand for energy. High demand generally occurs on hot, humid days in the summer or extreme cold days in the winter. It is typically from 2-6pm in the summer and 5-8pm in the winter.

Using electricity during these peak demand periods costs more because more generation is required. The good news is you can help reduce demand for electricity by conserving energy when you 'power down' during times of peak demand.

YOU CAN HELP! By reducing your use of electricity during times of peak demand, you can help reduce the need to build new generation sources,

such as power plants, lessen the impact on the environment, and reduce PEC's wholesale power cost, which is our largest expense.

In 2018, we spent nearly \$28 million on purchased power, which accounts for almost 60 percent of our expenses. Of that \$28 million, a little over half is related to demand charges. By participating in this program and reducing peak demand, members are teaming up to conserve energy and reducing the need for more power generation.

Since PEC is a not-for-profit utility, these savings are ultimately passed on to our members in the form of stable and affordable rates.

(continued on page 4)

POWER DOWN

for energy conservation



inside:

03. Keep Your Phone Number Up-To-Date

05. Lessons Learned From Recent Winter Storms

08. GSOC: The Process For Safe Excavation

10. Energy Efficiency Rebates For New Homes

CEO MESSAGE

FROM ELAINE J. GARRY, PRESIDENT & CEO



Elaine J. Garry

egarry@peoplesrec.com

May is "National Electrical Safety Month". To ensure the safety of both employees and the public, our Board of Directors adopted a safety statement that is as important as our mission statement. It states, "We shall foster a culture of safety within the organization by training and motivating our employees to recognize risk, safeguard themselves, protect others, and promote safe work practices."

To "live" this safety mission, we do our best to prevent accidents from happening, respond as quickly and skillfully as possible when an accident does occur, and review what happened to prevent it from happening again.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION: To avoid accidents, we keep safety top of mind by beginning all cooperative meetings with a safety share, regularly training employees on safe work practices, and maintaining our safety manual which defines safe work practices and rules. This manual is referred to during safety training and reviewed regularly to ensure it is kept up-to-date with current practices.

We hold regular safety training for all employees on many different topics that include dealing with unrestrained dogs, rescuing someone from a pole top, CPR, and dealing with violence. Our safety committee meets regularly to review incident reports, review work processes, address safety concerns, and identify and implement new safety rules and practices.

Supervisors and industry experts conduct regular inspections of field operations and building safety to ensure that we are following our safe work practices. These include inspections by our own safety committee, our statewide association, our insurance provider, and OSHA.

ACCIDENT RESPONSE: All employees are trained in first aid and CPR so they can render aid in the event of a medical emergency. Our service territory spans over 1,000 square miles and some areas are remote, so it's important that employees can aid an injured employee until first responders arrive. Most of the trucks our lineworkers operate out of have an automatic electronic defibrillator (AED).

ACCIDENT REVIEW: All incident or close-call reports are reviewed by the supervisor and the Safety Committee to identify the root cause of the accident. Ideas to eliminate the hazard and prevent it from happening again are developed and the best alternative is implemented.

Accidents can be very serious in our industry. We all know that accidents have direct costs related to medical bills, equipment repair or replacement, and property damage. However, there are also unseen costs. These include reduced productivity of employees, administrative time, lost time by supervisors and accident investigation teams, negative publicity, and damage to member relations.

The greatest impact of an accident to me is the impact it can have on someone's life. In my 32-plus years working in the electric industry, I have been involved with two very serious accidents. Both changed the life of someone I respect and care about. Those accidents happened because some very basic safety rules were forgotten or overlooked. Regardless of the reason, accidents change lives, and it is not for the better. That's the reason we take safety very seriously at People's and focus on preventing accidents.

Sincerely,
Elaine J. Garry,
President & CEO,
507-367-7000

MEMBER PERK: HIGH SPEED INTERNET

Viasat™

All new packages come with unlimited data.

Upgrade to an improved broadband service!
To learn more or sign-up, call 888-559-9120.
Be sure to mention you are a PEC member and ask about any current promotions being offered.



MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

PEC's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on **Thursday, April 30**. Discussions included: annual board training on its role and responsibilities and harassment training; the status of storm recovery from Winter Storm Wesley; cooperative safety metrics; and rate philosophy. A quorum of directors was present, and the following actions were taken:

- ▶ **The elections of Jerome Wooner as Board Chair, Art Friedrich as Board Vice Chair, and Kenneth Wohlers as Board Secretary/Treasurer as well as the Dairyland Power Cooperative Director.**
- ▶ **The allocation of the 2018 operating margin and capital credits to members based on their patronage.**
- ▶ **Renewal of the audit firm contract with Brady, Martz and Associates.**
- ▶ **Policy revision to the CEO living requirements.**
- ▶ **Approval of employee appreciation plans for those who worked Winter Storm Wesley.**
- ▶ **Set budget for a search firm to aid in hiring a new CEO upon Elaine Garry's retirement.**



KEEP YOUR PHONE NUMBER UP-TO-DATE IN CASE WE NEED TO CALL

During Winter Storm Wesley, we found several members had not kept their contact information on file with us up-to-date.

Therefore, when we tried to reach them regarding restoration efforts, we were unable to do so because we did not have a valid phone number. For us to deliver important information regarding your electric service, we need to have accurate contact information on file.

You can review and update your contact information by:

- Visiting peoplesenergy.coop, and reviewing your account information through SmartHub (you need to be registered to do this).
- Calling the Cooperative at 800 214-2694.
- Sending an email to us at memberservices@peoplesrec.com.

Please help us by taking the time to ensure we have your contact information up-to-date.

highline

Vol. 83 • Issue 05

MANAGEMENT

Elaine J. Garry,
President/CEO

Gary Fitterer,
Director of Engineering

Mike Henke,
Chief Financial Officer

Michelle Olson,
*Director of
Member Services*

Gwen Stevens,
*Director of Cooperative
Relations*

Troy Swancutt,
Director of Operations

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1:

Joe Book

DISTRICT 2:

Ken Wohlers,
Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 3:

Robert Hoefs,
Vice Chair

DISTRICT 4:

Tracy Lauritzen

DISTRICT 5:

Jerry Wooner,
Board Chair

DISTRICT 6:

Art Friedrich

DISTRICT 7:

Jeff Orth

Visit peoplesenergy.coop for a listing of the areas covered by each district.

GENERAL INFO

Office Hours:

7:30 am – 4:00 pm, M–F

Telephone: 507-367-7000

Toll-Free: 800-214-2694

Web Address:

www.peoplesenergy.coop

Gopher State One Call:

1-800-252-1166

(digging & line location)



Please note: You will not see a credit on your bill for conserving energy nor will you be charged more for power if you do not conserve. This is a voluntary program, which benefits all PEC members.

HOW IT WORKS: If you register to participate in *Power Down*, we will text or e-mail you a message within an hour before an anticipated energy peak occurs to remind you to reduce your energy use from approximately 2 to 6 p.m. in the summer. During the months of June, July, and August there will be a maximum of nine peak energy events, with no more than four in a given month. During the months of December, January, and February there will be a maximum of four events, occurring from approximately 5-8pm.

HOW TO REGISTER: You must opt-in, through SmartHub, to be notified of peak energy alerts. If you are not currently a registered SmartHub user, you will need to register on our website using your account number, last name or business name, and a valid e-mail address. If the information you have on file is not current, then you will receive a message to contact our office for assistance. **Sign up by June 14 and be entered into a drawing for one of ten \$25 bill credits!**

HOW TO REDUCE DEMAND: The largest energy users that can affect demand are air conditioners and large appliances such as washers, dryers, stoves, and dishwashers. Hot tubs and pool heaters also place a large demand on the system. The following are a few examples of how a member's small actions can reduce demand charges for the Cooperative each time a peak demand event occurs:

- *Delay drying clothes or dry on a clothesline and help save \$7.11.*
- *Delay washing clothes and help save \$3.88.*
- *Turn up your thermostat by four degrees to help save \$2.33.*
- *Delay running your dishwasher for a savings of \$2.65.*

Do all four and help save your Cooperative almost \$16 per event. If two-thirds of our members did all four we, together could save about \$220,000! The more members that take even the smallest steps to conserve, the greater the impact. Remember, many hands make light work!



LEFT TO RIGHT: Brian Krambeer (MiEnergy), Scott Reimer (Federated Rural Electric), Darrick Moe (MREA), Elaine Garry (PEC), Senator Smith, Adam Tromblay (Nobles Cooperative Electric), Jim Krueger (Freeborn Mower Cooperative Services), and Patrick Murray (Cooperative Network).

SENATOR SMITH VISITS CO-OPS HIT BY Winter Storm Wesley

On April 25, Senator Tina Smith spoke with electric cooperative leaders from southern Minnesota about the aftermath of Winter Storm Wesley. People's Energy hosted the meeting and President/CEO Elaine Garry was in attendance.

Senator Smith told the group that she introduced a bill to make sure cooperatives do not lose tax exempt status if they receive FEMA recovery funds following a disaster. Recent changes to the Internal Revenue Code created an unintended consequence for electric cooperatives. Government grants may now be considered non-member income. As not-for-profit, member organizations, electric cooperatives must comply with the 85 percent-15 percent income test. No more than 15 percent of gross income may come from non-member sources.

As it stands, it means that an electric cooperative struck by disaster may have to consider whether it can afford to use FEMA's Public Assistance Program to help repair damages. Cooperatives could be forced to choose between maintaining their tax-exempt status or accepting FEMA assistance when recovering from a major storm or other disaster. Twenty-two thousand nine hundred forty.

We thank Senator Smith for her leadership on this issue and for taking the time to meet with cooperative leaders. Cooperatives are encouraging Congress to take action to amend Section 501(c)(12) to retain tax-exempt status of nearly 900 rural electric cooperatives across the country.



REMINDERS & LESSONS LEARNED FROM RECENT WINTER STORMS

This past winter presented many challenges with the extreme cold, massive amounts of snow, and ice storms. Below are some reminders and lessons we learned during this eventful season.

SAFETY IS ALWAYS THE TOP PRIORITY. Extreme weather conditions can make the work to restore power difficult. You can do your part by always slowing down and moving over, if possible, when you see our crews working along the roadside. This is especially important when road conditions are less than favorable.

Another safety concern are generators, especially those that members may have installed without notifying the Cooperative. If a generator is feeding power into your home and has not been properly connected by a licensed electrician, it can create back feed on our primary line, causing serious, and potentially fatal, consequences. If you have a generator installed, and we do not know about it, please let the Cooperative know by emailing memberservices@peoplesrec.com or calling 800-214-2694.

SOCIAL MEDIA IS AN IMPORTANT TOOL FOR KEEPING MEMBERS INFORMED. Our number of “likes” and “followers” increased by over 1,000 people this past winter. That tells us that people are using social media to stay updated about what is happening at the Cooperative. When major outages occur, you can quickly find updates on the situation on our Facebook or Twitter pages. As we are able, we will continue to respond to private messages sent to the Cooperative through Facebook messenger.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR OUR FELLOW COOPERATIVES. “Cooperation Among Cooperatives” is one of the seven principles guiding the way we operate our business as a cooperative. In April, we were on the receiving end of this commitment to

support fellow cooperatives. At one point, we had 8,750 people without power. If it wasn’t for the assistance we received from the eight utilities that came to our aid, it would have taken significantly longer to get everyone’s power back on.

Our heartfelt thanks to the following utilities that helped us following Winter Storm Wesley: Rochester Public Utilities, Connexus Energy, Dakota Electric Association, East Central Energy, Goodhue County Cooperative Electric Association, Lake Region Electric Cooperative, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative, and Stearns Electric Association.

OUR MEMBERS ARE FANTASTIC! Oftentimes, the most difficult situations bring out the best in people. When we experienced outages this winter, along with a complicated restoration process, our members were quick to help their neighbors and our lineworkers in whatever ways they could.

During the February blizzard, lineworkers were called upon to restore an outage at the Evers family farm, but they couldn’t gain access due to five-foot drifts. Helpful friends of the Evers family responded with a plow and cleared a path for them that was nearly two miles long. They then stayed with the crew until they were able to restore power and plowed a path back out because the roads had already drifted shut. During the same storm, John Shoenfelder helped pull out a couple of our trucks that got stuck in the snow.

We also received reports of members bringing our crews cookies and food while they worked to restore power after the April storm. Stories like these remind us how fortunate we are to have such caring and helpful members!



OPERATION ROUND UP®

April Grants

To be considered for third quarter grants in 2019, applications must be submitted no later than June 20, 2019. Program guidelines and applications for Operation Round Up® donations are available at www.peoplesenergy.coop or by calling the Cooperative at 800-214-2694.

People's Energy Cooperative Operation Round Up® Trust Board provided \$29,673 in grants to the following area organizations in the second quarter of 2019:

- **\$500: PEM Backpack for Food Program in Zumbro Falls** – To help with food purchases.
- **\$2,000: New Life Family Services / First Care Pregnancy Center** – For their new Rochester office location.
- **\$1,500: PEM Boys Soccer Booster Club** – For the purchase of soccer goals to provide the residents of Plainview a soccer field.
- **\$3,000: Zumbro Valley Food Shelf** – To help with food purchases
- **\$2,738: Southeast MN Back Country Horsemen in Hayfield** – For the construction of benches and hitching rails at Forestville State Park.
- **\$1,600: Catholic Charities of Southern Minnesota in Rochester** – To support the program Financial Literacy for Adults, Young Adults, and Teens.
- **\$1,000: Women's Shelter and Support Center in Rochester** – To help provide transportation for domestic violence victims.
- **\$2,084.40: City of Oronoco** – To assist in the restoration of Allis Park.
- **\$1,000: Camp Victory in Zumbro Falls** – For the construction of a slippery slide.
- **\$500: Theilman Sportsman's Club** – For the purchase of new event tables.
- **\$1,000: Plainview Community Pool** – To assist in the purchase of a sound system.
- **\$1,950: American Cancer Society in Rochester** – To support the Relay for Life of Olmsted County.
- **\$3,500: Jeremiah Program Rochester and SE Minnesota** – To support the program Life Skills and Empowerment for Educational Success.
- **\$300: Byron Community Education ECFE** – To support the Little Cubs Library Class.
- **\$500: Kasson-Mantorville School Readiness PreK/S.M.A.R.T.** – To assist the purchase of playground equipment.
- **\$1,500: JOY (Justice and Opportunity for Youth) in Rochester** – To support after-school programming.
- **\$1,000: The Reading Center / Dyslexia Institute of MN in Rochester** – To assist in the purchase of tutoring materials.
- **\$750: Exercisabilities, Inc. in Rochester** – To help with the cost of staff training for a young adult scoliosis rehab program.
- **\$1,000: History Center of Olmsted County in Rochester** – To support the Living History Fair.
- **\$1,250: Ronald McDonald House in Rochester** – To support their Angels of Inspiration program.
- **\$1,000: Mazeppa Veterans Honor Guard** – In support of their Field of Flags.

Applications for funding are considered on a quarterly basis. The funds are held separately from the People's Energy Cooperative operating accounts and are administered through the Board of Trustees comprised of seven People's Energy Cooperative member volunteers. Two thousand nine hundred eighty-four.





OPERATION ROUND UP® SPOTLIGHT:

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MUSIC & MEMORIES

This year marks 50 years since a group of musicians first got together and formed the Chatfield Brass Band.

"We have a really rich history. When the band was formed, it started out as a brass band with just men. It eventually evolved into a concert band that now includes men and women," explains Carmen Narveson, director of the Chatfield Brass Band.

To celebrate the band's 50-year presence in the community, a 50th Anniversary Celebration and Concert is planned for Saturday, June 29 at 2 p.m. The event will include selections by the Chatfield Brass Band, speakers, recognitions, an audio and video history, and a reception following the program.

Through its *Operation Round Up*® program, People's Energy Cooperative is awarding the Chatfield Brass Band \$1,200 to help fund the anniversary celebration. Funds will be used to create event programs and signage, along with a video that will be premiered during the anniversary program. The video will include tapes, programs, and photos from the first rehearsal until present. These elements will be combined to highlight the sights and sounds of the band's history.

"I think documenting history is a really important thing," Narveson says. "I appreciate the opportunity to use these funds to benefit all of the people who come to hear us play."

Narveson encourages anyone who's interested to join them for the 50th Anniversary Celebration and Concert. The event, which will be held in the historic Potter Auditorium at Chatfield Center for the Arts, is free and open to the public. One of the important objectives of the day will be to recognize the support the band receives from the City, local businesses, and the community as a whole.

The Chatfield Brass Band is a community band based in Chatfield, Minnesota, with a rich history and a strong commitment to free community access to the arts, whether it be as a member or as the audience. "We have players who come from a 40-mile radius around us, from all over southeast Minnesota," Narveson notes. "We also have players of a large variety of ages. Our oldest is 82 and our youngest is 15. We have lots of working people, some retirees; it's a nice mix of people. We are like a family, very close-knit."

In addition to performing in regional parades and at community events, the Chatfield Brass Band also holds an eight-week concert series each June and July. This summer's "Music in the Park" concert series will recognize milestones in the band's history and will feature several special guests.

GET SOCIAL!



A fast, easy way to share Cooperative news and info with members!





THE Process FOR Safe Excavation

Don't assume you know what's below. Protect yourself and those around you. Use GSOC this time and every time.

Whether you are a professional excavator or homeowner, in accordance with Minnesota State law, you must contact Gopher State One Call (GSOC) before starting any excavation project if you are using any machine-powered equipment of any kind, or explosives. You may be simply installing a new mail box or planting a tree, whatever the project may be, contacting GSOC before starting your project may allow you to avoid costly damages to underground facilities.

File Locate Request

Beginning online using ITIC, over the phone by calling GSOC, or from a mobile device using ITIC Mobile, you can file a locate request.

Specific information about the work site and the surrounding area, as well as marking instructions for the work site must be provided. Other information can also be included.

Call GSOC...

Greater MN Area:
(800)252-1166

Twin Cities Metro:
(651)454-0002

Or go online at
www.gopherstateonecall.org

GSOC processes the provided information, and the area gets mapped out using specialized software that detects possible conflicts with underground utilities.

GSOC then contacts each underground facility operator in the excavation area identified in the locate request.

The underground facility operators that requested notification in the excavation area dispatch locators to the described excavation site.

Locators use specialized equipment to determine the underground utilities in the excavation area. They locate and mark the horizontal location of underground facilities within the excavation site with different colored flags and paint that correspond to the specific underground facility.

Excavation



To practice safe excavation, always hand dig within the tolerance zone (see next page).

Remember to wait 48 hours (excluding holidays and weekends) after submitting the locate request. Check facility operator response using positive response on ITIC and inspect the work site for marks. Contact the facility operator if you have questions regarding their marks.



“ When a call is placed to a one call center, there is less than a 1% chance for the underground excavation to result in damage.

- The Common Ground Alliance's (CGA) annual DIRT report provides a summary and analysis of the events submitted into CGA's Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) for the year 2014.



Ticket Types

LOCATE REQUEST

Use this for standard excavation projects.

Locate requests are the most common type of request processed at GSOC. This type of ticket must be requested by the excavator at least 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) and up to 14 calendar days from the planned start of excavation. The ticket is valid for 14 calendar days from the start date and time stated on the ticket, unless the locate markings become obscured or obliterated.

EMERGENCY

As defined by Minnesota Statute Chapter 216D.01 subdivision 3, emergency locates are used for “a condition that poses a clear and immediate danger to life or health, or a significant loss of property.”

GSOC reminds you to first call 911 whenever there is a release of flammable, toxic or corrosive gas or liquid, or a dangerous situation is created. Next, contact the facility operator involved in the emergency, then contact GSOC.

MEET

Use this ticket type to request the facility operator to physically meet at the excavation site.

A meet should only be requested when it is difficult to precisely define the location of the excavation site in a routine locate request. The use of white markings to clearly identify the excavation area can generally be used to avoid the time and cost of a meet.

Excavator Responsibilities – Know the Basics!

PLAN FOR YOUR EXCAVATION

You are required to use white markings to define the entire area where excavation will occur, unless it can be shown it is not practical. Include a safety buffer when marking the area.

NOTIFY GSOC

All Minnesota excavators, including homeowners and farmers, are responsible for notifying GSOC of their proposed excavations so facility operators with underground facilities near the excavation site can be informed of pending excavation.

ALWAYS USE THE CORRECT WORK TYPE ON YOUR TICKET

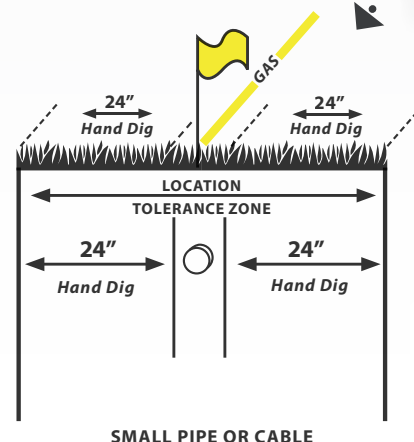
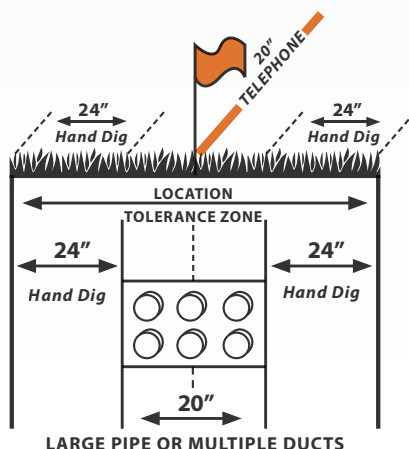
CHECK FOR ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION ON YOUR TICKET

ALWAYS CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR TICKET BEFORE YOU EXCAVATE

HAND DIG WITHIN THE TOLERANCE ZONE



WHITE	Area of Proposed Excavation
PINK	Temporary Survey Markings
RED	Electric
YELLOW	Gas, Oil, Steam, Propane
ORANGE	Communication, CATV, Fiber
BLUE	Water
PURPLE	Reclaimed Water, Irrigation
GREEN	Sewer





TOUCHSTONE ENERGY® HOME PROGRAM

ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES IN NEW HOMES

Have you recently finished building your new home or plan to complete construction on a new home before the end of 2019?

Make sure you review all energy efficiency rebates available to you as a member of People's Energy Cooperative!

In 2015, changes to the Minnesota Residential Energy Code allowed new residential construction to be considered for the Touchstone Energy® Home Program. This program gives members a \$500 energy efficiency incentive above and beyond other energy efficiency rebates a member may be eligible for like new water heaters and appliances. Fourteen thousand eight hundred twenty-six.

To learn more and download the incentive forms, visit our website at peoplesenergy.coop and look under 'Member Center.'

Check the list below for these additional rebates that may be applicable in new residential construction:

- ▶ New Appliances
- ▶ Electric Vehicle Charging Station
- ▶ HVAC – Heat Pump
- ▶ HVAC – ECM Blower Motor
- ▶ Lighting
- ▶ Water Conservation
- ▶ Water Heaters



MONITORING YOUR WATER SENSORS AN ADDED BENEFIT FROM HEARTLAND SECURITY

Did you know your security system can do more than protect from unwanted intruders?

When you include water sensors, they can alert you to potential water issues, such as a failing sump pump, drain back-up, or sewer back-up, before costly damage occurs.

Water sensors have metal pins that trigger an alarm when water is detected across two of the pins. With a monitored security system, a 24/7 response center is notified of the alarm and immediately begins calling people on the owner's contact list. If the power goes out, a back-up battery will allow the system to continue notifications for an additional 12 hours.

As part of your security system, water sensors can provide peace of mind for those who worry about water issues. For more information about water sensors, or to schedule a free, no obligation analysis, contact Heartland Security by calling **888-264-6380**.

888-264-6380 • heartlandss.com

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • AGRICULTURE • MEDICAL

IF YOU FEEL A **SHOCK**...



SWIM AWAY FROM THE DOCK.

With Memorial Day weekend ushering in the unofficial start of summer, many people will be taking part in water recreation activities. Safe Electricity is sharing the message, “If you feel a shock, swim away from the dock,” to help raise awareness of and keep people safe from a hidden hazard called electric shock drowning (ESD).

“ESD is particularly dangerous because you cannot tell by sight if the water is energized,” explains Molly Hall, executive director of the Energy Education Council and its Safe Electricity program. “ESD can occur when electric current is present in fresh water and someone swims into that energized water. If the electrical current is strong enough, the electric shock can cause muscle paralysis, which leaves the affected individual unable to swim to safety. If a swimmer feels anything akin to electric current, such as tingling on the skin or a pulsing sensation in the water, they must swim away from anything that could be energized, like a dock with electrical service or a boat that’s plugged into shore power. If possible, swim to the shore instead.” Eight hundred fifty-one.

Outdated wiring and a lack of proper routine maintenance on docks and boats can cause such situations where electricity “leaks” into the water. According to the Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association, between 10 and 15 milliamps, which is just 1/50 the wattage of a 60-watt light bulb, can cause drowning.

Safe Electricity recommends that individuals do not swim around docks with electrical equipment or boats plugged into shore power. If a person is in the water and feels electric current, that individual should shout to let others know, try to stay upright, tuck his or her legs up to make himself or herself smaller, and swim away from anything that could be energized. If people see someone who they suspect is getting shocked, they should not immediately jump in the water to save them. Instead, throw the person a float and try to eliminate the source of electricity as quickly as possible; then call for help.

Safe Electricity, along with the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers/National Electrical Contractors Association, recommends adhering to these steps to enhance water recreation safety and accident prevention:

- **All electrical installations** should be performed by a professional electrical contractor familiar with marine codes and standards and inspected at least once a year. Boats should also be checked when something is added to or removed from their systems.
- **Docks should have ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) breakers** on the circuits feeding electricity to the dock.
- **The metal frame of docks** should be bonded to connect all metal parts to the alternating current (AC) safety ground at the power source, ensuring any part of the metal dock that becomes energized will trip the circuit breaker.
- **Boats with AC systems** should have isolation transformers or equipment leakage circuit interrupter (ELCI) protection, comply with ABYC standards, and should be serviced by an ABYC Certified Technician.



People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

1775 Lake Shady Avenue South
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

HIGHLINE HI-LITES • May 2019 • Vol. 83 • Issue 05

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Highline Hi-Lites, 1775 Lake Shady Ave. S.
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



24-HOUR OUTAGE NUMBER

WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT, SO DO WE

Call even if you think your neighbors have reported the outage. Leave one light on so you know when power has been restored. Have an emergency kit prepared.

507.367.7000 or 800.214.2694

SPOT YOUR NUMBER

\$30

Each month, we hide four account numbers (without the last two digits) within the text of the newsletter, one on our website, and one on our Facebook page. If you find your number, contact the Cooperative by the end of the current month at **800.214.2694** or **memberservices@peoplesrec.com** to receive a \$30 credit on your electric bill.

GOOD LUCK IN FINDING YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER!

Memorial Day

People's Energy Cooperative will be closed Monday, May 27 to observe Memorial Day. The office will be open for normal business hours on Tuesday, May 28. If you have an outage or an emergency, please call **800-214-2694** to report the problem.

PEC honors the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice serving our nation.



SAVE THE DATE!

2019 MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3RD

Camp Victory • 3:30 to 7:30pm • Near Zumbro Falls

We're excited to enjoy an afternoon with you at our new location! More information to come in our June newsletter!