



ANDREW MOLT

THE POWER OF PREPARATION

BY ANDREW MOLT
DIRECTOR OF MEMBER SERVICES

With severe weather events occurring now more than ever, it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, I want to remind members of our community about the power of preparation. You don't have to go overboard, but there are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress and anxiety while lessening the impact of an emergency. We recommend starting with the basics.

Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, a first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.
- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (via text, social media, third party, etc.).
- Have extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- Store important documents such as birth certificates and property deeds in a safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).
- Keep neighbors and coworkers informed of your emergency plans.
- Fill your car with gas.
- Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

CARING FOR VULNERABLE FAMILY MEMBERS

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a neighbor to check in on them. If a severe weather event is expected, consider having your relative stay with you, if feasible; otherwise, call them daily.

If you have an infant or young child, have ample formula, diapers, medication and other supplies on hand to sustain an outage lasting several days or more.

KEEPING FOUR-LEGGED FAMILY MEMBERS SAFE

For families with pets, having a plan in place in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will help reduce worry and stress, especially if you need to make a decision during an emergency.

- Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened in severe weather and may wander off during an emergency.
- Microchip your pet and ensure that the contact information is up to date.
- Store pet medical records on a USB drive or in an easy-to-remember location. [Riverside Farms, 1183502901]
- Create an emergency kit for pets (include shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications and other supplies).

Here at Y-W Electric Association, Inc., we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

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MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box Y
Akron, CO 80720



STREET ADDRESS

26862 U.S. Hwy 34
Akron, CO 80720



ph 970-345-2291
tf 800-660-2291
fax 970-345-2154
web www.ywelectric.coop

Y-W Electric Association, Inc., is dedicated to providing high-quality, reliable electric service and related products to our members at competitive prices. Our members deserve and shall receive quality service unexcelled in our industry. We are committed to maintaining an environment where the Board of Directors and employees can perform at maximum potential to benefit our Y-W community.

SMART HUB BILL PAY AND MORE

For convenience, Y-W Electric offers the ability to pay your account with the SmartHub app. This service allows you to pay your bill electronically with a credit or debit card or checking account. This is also a great place to go to get account information on billing history, usage, payment history and past billing invoices is available. There is also a link to sign up for auto payment.

Reporting an outage is also available on SmartHub. This information goes directly to our operations department in an email, leaving our phone lines open for those who do not have SmartHub available. [Don Keller, 222800802]

The app is compatible with iPhones as well as Androids. Check our website at www.ywelectric.coop for more information.

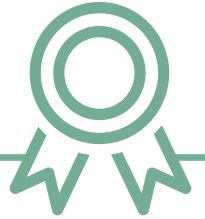
CLAIM YOUR CREDIT

Each month, Y-W Electric offers consumer-members a chance to earn a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. If you find your name and account number in this magazine, call 800-660-2291 and ask for your credit. It couldn't be easier.

Get acquainted with your account number, read your *Colorado Country Life* magazine and pick up the phone. You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine. (Check the date on the front cover.)

Consumer claiming \$20 from the July issue:

- Richard Hellyer III



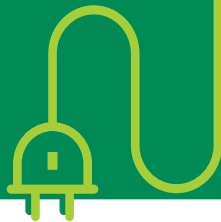
Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills. To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines.

When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are Energy Star-certified.

Source: Dept. of Energy



We at Y-W Electric Association welcome Brandon Baker to the cooperative. He started his employment with Y-W on July 25. Brandon was raised in the Sterling area. He graduated from Sterling High School, then continued his education at Northwest Lineman College in Denton, Texas. Brandon started his career on a contracting crew, then moved to Mountain View Electric in Falcon before coming to Y-W Electric. His hobbies include spending time outdoors hunting, fishing and enjoying other outdoor activities. Welcome to the family, Brandon!

WATCH THE WEATHER

Severe weather can occur in September in Colorado: lightning storms, rain and snow. Stay tuned to storm information from the National Weather Service and remember that lightning presents a danger 10 miles ahead of a storm front.

RECEIVE REBATE MONEY FOR BEING SAFE

Install all your double-throw generator transfer switches and collect a sizable rebate as a reward for safety. Y-W Electric Association reminds those members using standby generator sets how important it is to connect them into the electrical system correctly.

The Y-W directors sponsor a rebate program to encourage all members with standby generators to install the proper double-throw transfer switches. [Rodney and Bridgette Mason, 590100101]

The program was initiated to provide safety for linemen working on downed power lines following storms.

Previously, transfer switches were provided at cost for Y-W Electric members. However, even at cost, the purchase price discouraged some from installing the safety devices. The Y-W board reasoned that providing a rebate that covers more of the cost of the panel would encourage members to install the switches for safety.

The provisions for receiving the rebate are as follows:

1. A member may purchase a double-throw transfer switch with a Underwriters Laboratories approval rating for service entrance equipment from any source and present the purchase invoice within 180 days of purchase.
2. A member may install equipment or hire others to install the equipment.
3. Switch installation must be inspected and approved by a Y-W Electric employee.
4. Rebate is to be paid based on the schedule shown below.

Y-W Electric has contacted the electrical contractors in the area and discussed the program with them. All of them expressed

support for the program. Y-W Electric has no intention of competing with the contractors. We will gladly advise the consumer who wishes to do his or her own work, but will not install any of the equipment.

If you have any questions, you may call your electrical contractor or Y-W Electric at 800-660-2291 or, in the Akron calling area, 970-345-2291.

SAFETY REBATES FOR DOUBLE-THROW SWITCHES



- 100 ampere, single phase . . . \$250
- 200 ampere, single phase . . . \$325
- 400 ampere, single phase . . . \$600
- 100 ampere, three phase . . . \$425
- 200 ampere, three phase . . . \$500
- 400 ampere, three phase . . \$1,300

USING A GENERATOR?

8 DANGEROUS MISTAKES PEOPLE MAKE




1



IN ENCLOSED SPACES
Always use it in a well-ventilated area.

2



NEAR WINDOWS OR DOORS
Place it at least 20 feet away from windows and doors.

3



IN A GARAGE
Even if the door is up, never use a generator in a garage.

4



IN THE ELEMENTS
Run it on a dry surface under a canopy-like structure (but not in a carport).

5



PLUGGED INTO A WALL OUTLET
This can be deadly to you, family members, neighbors or utility workers.

6



WITH THE WRONG EXTENSION CORD
Use a properly rated cord to plug appliances into a generator.

7



WITHOUT CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) TESTERS
CO detectors should be on every level of your home (test them monthly).

8



IN DISREPAIR
Make sure your generator is well-maintained and in good working order.

LEARN MORE AT:





Stay Safe on Your Farm or Ranch

There are all types of precautions that ranchers and farmers take to stay safe. Electrical hazards, however, can sometimes be overlooked since electricity is not seen or heard and overhead power lines can become part of the landscape.

IMPLEMENT THESE ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS ON YOUR FARM OR RANCH:

- In general, look for exposed energized parts and unguarded electrical equipment that could become energized unexpectedly. [Alan D. Welp, 1151000701]
- Take care when operating watering tanks with electric pumps. In addition, sprays of water from irrigation systems should not be near overhead power lines.
- Inspect electrical fencing regularly to ensure that everything is tight and secure so that no parts are frayed. A sagging fence means not only animals could escape, but it can also create electrical issues.
- Ensure that your electric fence is well-supported. A lack of support can cause it to sag.
- Make sure electric fencing is visible by using electric fence tape, warning signs or other methods.
- Cap posts, especially metal T-posts, to prevent an animal (or human) from becoming impaled.
- Be aware of overhead power lines when moving bales of hay.

- Do not store hay bales under power lines.
- Be aware that tarps that cover hay can come loose and blow in heavy winds, sometimes causing an outage if the tarp gets too close to or contacts a power line.
- When using a generator and double throw switch, make sure they are in good working order and up to code.
- Check electrical center pivot equipment before and after use to ensure that it is grounded, that the housing is protected and that the wiring is sound (this protects livestock and people).
- Ensure that irrigation equipment is regularly inspected. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for inspection and maintenance directions.
- Always turn off the power before working on an irrigation system. [Rob Church, 5361009501]
- After a storm, make sure the system has not become ungrounded due to lightning.
- Position irrigation pipes at least 15 feet away from power lines; also, store unused pipes away from power lines.
- Always be aware of overhead power line locations and use a spotter when working close to lines or poles.
- Follow safe digging procedures. Call 811 to have underground utilities marked before breaking ground.

To learn more about electrical safety on the ranch or farm or in general, visit SafeElectricity.org.