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Ready or not, winter is here! Mor-Gran-Sou Electric encourages members to take time to prepare for potential outages.

While you can't predict which weather forecast will come true, you can plan ahead so when a severe weather event strikes, you have the tools and resources to effectively weather the storm. The Department of Homeland Security offers several resources to help you prepare for major weather events and natural disasters. Visit www.ready.gov/make-a-plan.

PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS AND ITEMS

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location.
- If there is a severe storm you may need to take extra steps to safeguard your home. Fully charge all cell phones, laptops and devices so you have maximum power in the event of a power outage. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

DURING A PROLONGED OUTAGE

In the event of an outage, turn off appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If utilizing a small household generator, consider using LED holiday lights to illuminate a living area. A strand of 100 white lights draws little energy yet produces considerable light. Solar lights also work, if they can receive some sunlight during the day for charging.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs – including on your property.

POWER IN PLANNING

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings and follow us on Facebook to stay abreast of restoration efforts and other important co-op news and information. Act today, because there is power in planning.

STEPS TO RESTORE POWER

When a major outage occurs, our crews restore service to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible – until everyone has power!



High-Voltage Transmission Lines.

These lines carry large amounts of electricity but rarely fail, but must be repaired first.



Distribution Substation.

Crews inspect substation which can serve hundreds of people.



Main Distribution Lines.

Main lines service essential facility like hospitals.



Individual Homes and

Business. After main line repairs are completed, we repair lines that serve individual homes and businesses.

HOW TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

- 1. Check your breakers to make sure they are energized.
- 2. Have your meter number or account number available.
- 3. Call us at 800-750-8212, 701-663-0297, or 701-597-3301 to report a power outage.