


# ACEC NEWS

JUNE 2022 | VOLUME 25 | ISSUE 06



## MAY HEATWAVE EXPOSES GRID VULNERABILITIES

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## STORM SEASON IS IN FULL SWING

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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE SELECTS BOARD CANDIDATES



A Year in Review





## A MESSAGE FROM *Your General Manager*

**Hollie McCormick**  
EVP/General Manager

## KNOW THE SIGNS OF A SCAM

It's no secret that consumers with a water, gas, or electricity connection have long been targets of utility scams, but fraudsters have changed their tactics since the Covid-19 pandemic. As consumers became more reliant on technology for work, school and commerce, scammers noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changing environment.

Imposter scams are the number one type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker who works for the "power company," in today's more connected world, attempts are more likely to come through an electronic device, via email, phone, or text.

### COMMON TYPES OF SCAMS

A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if you don't pay immediately. The scammers want to scare you into immediate payment, whether the threat is in person, by phone, text, or email, so you don't have time to think clearly.

If this happens over the phone, hang up. However, if you're concerned about your bill, call us at 888-788-1551. Our number can also be found on your monthly bill and our website, [arec.com](http://arec.com). If the scam is by email or text, delete it before taking action. If you're unsure, you can always contact us or go to your SmartHub account to check the status of your account. Remember, ACEC will never attempt to demand immediate payment after just one notice.

Some scammers may falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give a refund. It sounds easy.



- Our employees will never show up at your door to demand payment.
- Never give personal information to an unknown caller or visitor. Our representatives have access to the details they need to service your account.
- Demands for immediate payment by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, gift cards or cash reload cards should immediately raise red flags.
- If you think you've been contacted by a scammer falsely representing the co-op, please let us know as soon as possible.

You have to click or press a button to initiate the process. If you proceed, the scam will prompt you to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, scammers can drain your account and use personal information such as a social security number for identity theft.

If this "refund" scam happens over the phone, hang up and block the phone number to prevent future robocalls. If this scam attempt occurs via email (known as a "phishing" attempt) or by text ("smishing"), do not click any links. Instead, delete it and, if possible, block the sender. When in doubt, contact us.

### DEFEND YOURSELF AGAINST SCAMS

Be wary of calls or texts from unknown numbers. For example, be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a utility worker who requests banking or other personal information.

Never let anyone into your home that you don't know unless you have a scheduled appointment or reported a problem. Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative employees drive company vehicles. When we work on our members' property or come into your home, our employees are professionals and will always identify themselves.

We want to help protect our community against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential scams to us so we can spread the word to prevent others in the community from falling victim. ■

## BOARD BRIEFS | May 23, 2022 Meeting

- Approved a RLF to the City of West Union to replace the North Vine pavers with concrete
- Scheduled Annual Meeting for September 12, 2022
- Received an update regarding fleet; order delays, timelines, and future plans
- Received a visit and an update from Roger Solomonson, IAEC Board President, about the happenings at the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives
- Discussed and evaluated current substation agreements with Dairyland Power Cooperative
- Received an update regarding load shed procedures
- Approved participation in Cooperative Finance Corporation's Integrity Fund

# Safety Tips for Before, During, and After the Storm

Storm season is in full swing. Many summer storms have the potential to produce tornadoes—they can happen anytime, anywhere, and can bring winds over 200 miles per hour.

In April, a video of NBC Washington chief meteorologist Doug Kammerer went viral. During a live broadcast, Kammerer called his teenage son to warn him of a tornado that was headed straight for their home. Knowing the kids were likely playing video games and not paying attention to the weather, he told them to head straight to the basement. Kammerer debated if he should call his family on-air, but he knew it was the right thing to do. Luckily, the kids made it safely through the storm.

As adults, we understand the importance of storm safety, but younger children and teens may not realize the dangers storms pose. That's why it's so important to talk to your family and have a storm plan in place. Here are a several tips you can share with your loved ones.

## BEFORE THE STORM

- Talk to your family about what to do in the event of a severe storm or tornado. Point out the safest location to shelter, like a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of your home. Discuss the dangers of severe thunderstorms; lightning can strike 10 miles outside of

a storm. Remember: when you hear thunder roar, head indoors.

- Make a storm kit. It doesn't have to be elaborate—having a few items on hand is better than nothing at all. Try to include items like water, non-perishable foods, a manual can opener, a First-Aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries, prescriptions, baby supplies and pet supplies. Keep all the items in one place for easy access if the power goes out.

## DURING THE STORM

- Pay attention to local weather alerts—either on the TV, your smartphone or weather radio—and understand the types of alerts. A thunderstorm or tornado watch means these events are possible and you should be prepared; a warning means a thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted in your area and it's time to take action.
- If you find yourself in the path of a tornado, head to your safe place to shelter, and protect yourself by covering your head with your arms or materials like blankets and pillows.
- If you're driving during a severe storm or tornado, do not try to outrun it. Pull over and cover your body with a coat or blanket if possible.

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## Summer Storm Safety Reminders

Have a plan in place and make a storm kit.

Listen to local alerts and know where to shelter.

Stay off the roads if trees and power lines are down.



## AFTER THE STORM

- If the power is out, conserve your phone battery as much as possible, limiting calls and texts to let others know you are safe or for emergencies only.
- Stay off the roads if trees, power lines, or utility poles are down. Lines and equipment could still be energized, posing life-threatening risks to anyone who gets too close.
- Wear appropriate gear if you're cleaning up storm debris on your property. Thick-soled shoes, long pants, and work gloves will help protect you from sharp or dangerous debris left behind.

Summer is a time for many fun-filled activities, but the season can also bring severe, dangerous weather. Talk to your loved ones about storm safety so that everyone is prepared and knows exactly what to do when a storm strikes.

## 2022 SAFETY DAY – CLAYTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Area 4th graders were eager to learn about safety at an event held in Clayton County last month. One station at the 2022 Safety Fair was electrical safety, where these youngsters heard from ACEC's Ryan Wagner and Steve Gehling about the dangers of electricity and how to keep themselves and their families safe. Students also learned what to do if they're ever in a vehicle that crashes into a utility pole.

**Do you know what to do? Visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://SafeElectricity.org).**



## COOPERATIVE MEMBERS SELECT CANDIDATES FOR THEIR BOARD

Each year, the ACEC Board of Directors appoints a nominating committee to select candidates to run for the board of directors. This year's Nominating Committee gathered early this month to select director candidates to run for the Board of Directors election in September.

*Serving on the 2022 Nominating Committee are, l-r: John Rea, Lansing; Justin Grove, Monona; John Orr, Fayette; Secretary, Joni Spies, Hawkeye; Chair, Jean Pape, Maynard; Vice Chair Person, Mike Jacobson, Clermont, and Diana Gunderson, Postville.*



# PLUGGED IN: Electric Vehicle Update

Electricity is our business. There is no denying that. Therefore, we are intrigued and have been paying attention to EVs for the past few years. We want to be in the know as the EV market changes, expands, and improves. We've shared exciting articles about the EV horizon, where we are now, and where we are going.

ACEC just passed the one-year mark of electric vehicle ownership and have put 7,200 miles on our Tesla. The co-op purchased the EV with the intent to learn, educate and spread awareness. So, we thought we would provide our members with "A Year in Review". Although many of the Co-op staff have had the chance to drive the Tesla, the Co-op's member services manager, Ryan Wagner, has been heavily involved from day 1. So, we asked him to share about his Tesla experience over the past year.

## Driving Range

Battery electric vehicles are very efficient, and most newer models have enough range to satisfy the needs of a typical driver for multiple days without fully recharging. For example, the range of our standard battery in our Tesla Model 3 is 265 miles with a 100% battery charge and the maximum range suggested for a "trip".

## Drivability

Driving this vehicle is much like driving any other. The main difference is getting used to the screen and all the available settings and navigating around the software. In addition, ACEC's EV has the auto-steer capability, which will hold you between the yellow and white line while traveling with an alert every 15 seconds to move the wheel ever so slightly to keep this engaged.

## Driving in the summer compared to the winter

Winter - The effects of winter driving under 10 degrees F° have been noticeable. The car's driving range is affected by as much as 25%. This reduction is directly related to using the cabin heat and seat heaters. A way to help with this is to reduce seat heat and preheat the car while tied to a charger. This rear-wheel car handled surprisingly well in the snow.

Summer - Summer driving and air conditioning use have had a much smaller effect in our experience.



## Range Anxiety

This is the biggest fear we hear, and we had it too. Charge daily, and plan ahead when traveling far distances. Chargers are being added across the nation and the battery technology is improving, so we believe things will only get easier for EV charging in the future. 4027-7

## When to Charge

Tesla recommends keeping the car always plugged in when not in use, and they recommend daily charging.

## Charging Duration

The charging time depends on the size of the charger and the duration. The general guideline for each kW of charger rating is to multiply that by 3 to 3.5 miles for each hour you charge. So, for



ACEC picked up our Tesla in Minneapolis, MN on April 30, 2021



On display for members during ACEC's Annual Drive-Through – September 2021, September 2022



On display at Big Four Fair, Allamakee, Clayton, and Fayette County fairs - July and August 2021



By appointment, check it out and take a drive - National Drive Electric Week – Sept. 25 – Oct. 3, 2021



# YEAR IN REVIEW



over a year with a total charge cost of \$217.

## Maintenance

We haven't needed any maintenance on the Tesla. The only "fixing" was to replace a trim

piece next to the driver's door that was bumped loose. We ordered the replacement piece using a cell phone app and the "find my part number" via an online diagram available on a Tesla site. A Tesla technician might be able to travel to your home for repairs. However, if that is not an option, you will need to visit your nearest repair shop in Des Moines, Iowa; Council Bluffs, Iowa; Madison, Wisc., Milwaukee, Wisc., or Minneapolis/St Paul, Minn.

## What surprised us

1. How recognizable the Tesla is to the younger generations. Kids astonishingly flock to this car.
2. How well it handles and the responsiveness of the EV.



example, if you are charging with a 10kW charger for 1 hour, you can expect to drive 30 to 35 miles for each hour charged.

## Where to charge

When at home, charge - Homes with EVs will want to have a level two charger installed by a qualified electrician. Level 2 provides a full charge overnight, even on an empty charge. When traveling, access the PlugShare app, the ChargePoint app, or use the Tesla screen or software in the vehicle.

## Cost to charge

Our charging costs for the 50-kWh battery with 265 miles of range for this model is \$6.15 at our current residential rate of 12.3 cents per kWh. The Co-op has put 7,200 miles on the Tesla in just

3. Not having light from an instrument cluster in front of you during night driving for me has been an adjustment.
4. The lack of the need to use the brakes takes time to get used to. Due to the regenerative braking feature, the car will stop if you can anticipate your stop.

## What's Next?

The Cooperative will continue to learn and educate. The Cooperative is also considering purchasing an EV truck.

The Co-op's intent with our EV purchase is to learn and educate community members. So, we are learning, and others are too. Our Tesla is available by appointment if you want to check it out and go for a test drive.



Students explore Tesla during Cooperative Career Day -- November 2021



On display for members during Member Appreciation Picnic June 27, 2022



Fire Departments -- Safety overview with local Fire Departments to educate in the event of an auto accident resulting in the need of a rescue




NICC Auto Tech students Explore Tesla at NICC -- April 5, 2022

On display publicly at Big Four Fair, Allamakee, Clayton, and Fayette County fairs -- July and August 2022







# May Heatwave Exposes Grid Vulnerabilities

ACEC's power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, is part of the Mid-continent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO), which is one of seven regional transmission organizations in the United States. MISO was created in 1998 to provide safe, cost-effective delivery of electric power across all or parts of 15 U.S. states and the Canadian province of Manitoba. Through MISO, Dairyland sells the power it generates and purchases the power it needs for its members – including Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative.

Although the official start to summer is near, a mid-May heatwave impacted thousands of members in our service territory. Dormant air conditioners weren't the only things being put to the test as record heat hit the region.

The regional electric grid, managed by MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator), was strained with high electricity demand and limited generation resources. On May 12, MISO declared a Maximum Generation (Max Gen) Warning. MISO uses Max Gen procedures to help address grid constraints. In some circumstances, system conditions during a Max Gen scenario will call for electricity demand reduction measures, such as the use of our load management program. Annually, ACEC works closely with Dairyland Power Cooperative to be prepared in case there is a need to reduce our cooperative's electricity. **5440**

"Although there was no call [from MISO] to shed load outside of normal daily energy management programs, plans were being put in place to reduce demand if needed," said Ben Porath, Dairyland Power Cooperative's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. "Depending on the weather and available generation resources, we could have quickly advanced to a Max Gen Event and, possibly, needed to implement our load management resources to achieve load reduction."

"Every Max Gen Warning or Event scenario is unique. We must react to emergency grid conditions in a real-time manner and may have to call upon our members to start reducing their electricity demand at a moment's notice," said Hollee

McCormick, General Manager. "Using our load management program for this purpose ensures we can quickly reduce demand to avoid overloading generation resources."

**This use of load management is different than non-emergency full load control events which help avoid purchasing power during the most expensive times of the summer or winter. Using load management for Max Gen purposes supports grid reliability by reducing our electricity demand to levels that can be met by available generation resources. If demand exceeds what the grid can fulfill, rolling blackouts can occur."**

Experiencing a Max Gen Warning so early in the season could be a sign of things to come. A press release from MISO in late April and the short-term outlook from the U.S. Energy Information Administration this spring warn of an expected shortage of available generation resources during peak electricity demand this summer.

Some key reasons for the projected:

- Higher, volatile natural gas prices in the United States
- Coal-fired and nuclear power plant retirements outpacing the installation of new generation resources
- A significant amount of new generation resources coming online are wind and solar, which are intermittent and not always available when needed
- Electricity consumption continues to return to pre-COVID-19 pandemic patterns, increasing in the commercial and industrial sectors.

JT Smith, MISO's executive director – market operations, said a 2022 seasonal assessment indicates about a 5-gigawatt (GW) deficit between an expected peak forecast of 124 GW vs. 119 GW of expected "regularly available generation." For comparison, 1 GW is 1,000 megawatts (MW) of power or 1 million kilowatts (Kw), which is approximately the size of the entire Dairyland Power system. Dairyland's 24-member cooperatives serve 284,000 homes and businesses in a four-state region.

This deficit leaves MISO's North and Central regions – the regions where Dairyland's member cooperatives serve – at an increased risk of rolling blackouts to help keep the grid online.

Dairyland runs annual drills with its members to prepare for a potential rolling blackout event. To date, load reduction measures have not reached the point of load shedding – including during the February 2021 Polar Vortex where Texas and other states did endure rolling blackouts and partial grid failures. Dairyland's System Operations Center also works closely with MISO to ensure the power grid remains stable and reliable each day.

"Our System Operators are in daily contact with MISO to understand where power needs are and how Dairyland's resources can best support the regional grid," Porath said. "We can't control the weather or other generation resources, but we do take maintenance and preparedness of our own generation stations as seriously as we do safety."

If you have any questions, please contact the ACEC at 888-788-1551.





## FAIR BOUND THIS SUMMER?

**Skyways is offering FREE Wi-Fi at the  
Fayette County Fair July 19 - 23**

**and the**

**Allamakee County Fair July 20-24**

**Enjoy fast, reliable internet on us!**



## VISIT US AT THE COUNTY FAIRS!



**Explore our  
Tesla Model!**

Ryan Wagner and Brenda Hackman will be at  
the county fairs on these dates:

**Big Four Fair | June 17, 4-6 p.m.**

**Allamakee County Fair | July 21, Noon – 4**

**Fayette County Fair | July 22, Noon – 4**

**Clayton County Fair | Aug. 4, Noon – 4**



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## MEMBER RECIPES



### STRAWBERRY SPINACH SALAD

- 8 to 10 oz. Bagged baby spinach
- 1 qt. Fresh strawberries sliced
- 1 sm. Red onion, julienned
- 2 T. Poppy seeds
- 1 c. Miracle whip
- 1 c. Sugar
- ¼ c. Heinz gourmet salad vinegar

Mix poppy seeds, miracle whip, sugar, and vinegar in a quart jar  
shake, and chill. Immediately before serving, pour over spinach,  
strawberries, and onion. Toss gently.

*Sheri Orr, Elgin*

### STRAWBERRIES AND FRUIT SALAD

- 2 lbs. Strawberries, washed, stemmed, and cut up
- 1-pint Blueberries, washed and drained
- 1 can Pineapple tidbits, drained

*Glaze*

- ¾ c. Sugar
- 1 c. Hot water
- 2 T. Corn starch
- 2 T. White corn syrup
- 3 T. Dry strawberry Jell-O

Mix fruit together in a large bowl. Combine glaze ingredients and  
cook over medium heat until thick, while stirring. Remove from  
heat and let cool. Pour over fruit and stir to coat. Refrigerate.

Any combination of fruit can be used. This combination is very  
eye-appealing and makes a great salad for the Fourth of July  
holiday.

*Nancy Moon, Monona*

#### Looking for a PAST newsletter recipe?

We've uploaded every recipe that we have printed in our newsletters to  
[acrec.com/member-recipes](http://acrec.com/member-recipes). Search through hundreds of recipes by  
a specific name or by category.

Send your favorite recipes and/or recipe topics to  
Jenny McIntyre, ACEC, PO Box 715, Postville, IA 52162  
or email [jmcintyre@acrec.coop](mailto:jmcintyre@acrec.coop).

You'll receive a \$5 bill credit if your recipe is printed.  
Please note – recipes must be received by the 25<sup>th</sup> day  
of the month before intended publication.

**July-PEPPERS September-COLESLAW**

## FIND YOUR SERVICE NUMBER

Congratulations to **Gregory and Rebecca Lower, Elkader**, who found their service number in a past newsletter; the Cooperative awarded them a \$5 bill credit.



ACEC has hidden three Service Location numbers within this newsletter. The numbers are from three different regions of our service area – all three are each worth a **\$5 bill credit** if found. The Service Location number must be yours to claim the bill credit, and you need to notify us when you find it.

## CONTACT ACEC

### HEADQUARTERS

229 Highway 51 • PO Box 715  
Postville, IA 52162

### PHONE NUMBERS

**LOCAL** 563-864-7611

**TOLL-FREE** 888-788-1551

**PAYMENT LINE 24/7** 833-284-5051

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### WEBSITE

acrec.com

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### OUTAGES

888-788-1551 or 563-864-7611

### IOWA STATE ONE CALL

811

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### MANAGEMENT STAFF

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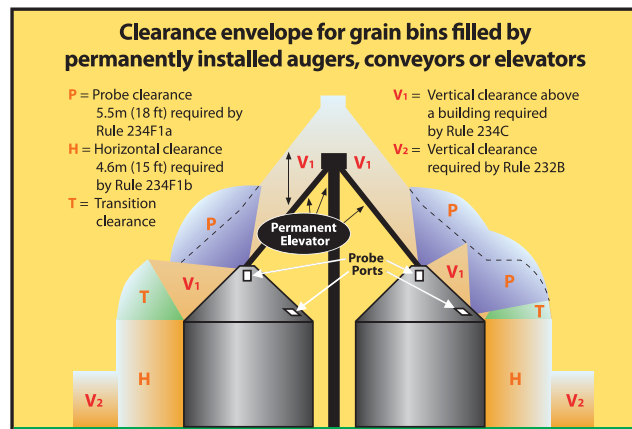
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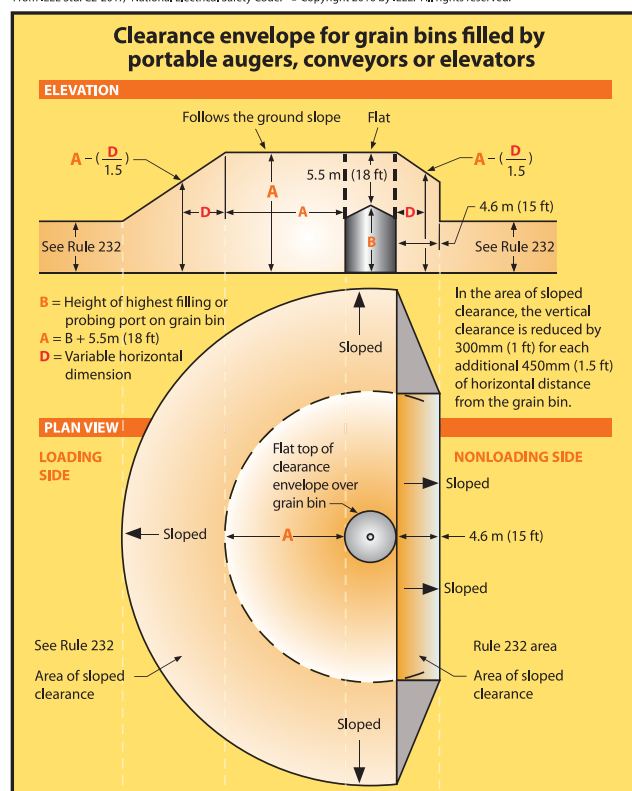


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