

# energy update



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JUNE | 23



Each summer, Allamakee-Clayton encourages members to reduce electric use on weekdays between the hours of 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Consumers in our region use more electricity summer weekdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. so it costs more to provide power during those hours. Think of the maximum electricity use in those hours as “electricity rush hour.” Providing the electricity needed during “rush hour” requires every source of power generation to be maximized and transmission routes to reach capacity. Costs can become extremely high, reaching many multiples of our typical rates.

Dairyland Power Cooperative, our energy provider, continues to encourage us to help limit our summer wholesale electricity costs by shifting electricity use to hours of lower cost on summer weekdays—either before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m.

Join us and do the Summer Shift to help control costs. It's easy:

- Shift energy use outside the hours of 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. summer weekdays
- Delay the dishwasher
- Turn up the thermostat
- Shift the start of the laundry
- Be conscientious of the time of day when using computers, televisions and electronic games
- Take advantage of daytime natural light

Join us for  
the Second Annual  
**MEMBER  
APPRECIATION PICNIC**

**Thursday, June 29**

**3:30-6:30 PM**

**Postville**

**Fairgrounds**



# Stay Safe While Spending Time Outdoors



As temperatures increase and sunny days abound, it is easy to be footloose and fancy free. As you spend more time outdoors, keep these safety tips in mind to have a great summer.

## Pools and hot tubs

Before opening your pool or hot tub for the season, ensure there is ground fault circuit interrupter protection on underwater lighting circuits, as well as for lighting around pools, hot tubs and spas. Have your pool's electrical system inspected. Faulty wiring can cause swimmers to experience electric shock drowning.

## Boating and swimming

When boating or swimming, know that faulty wiring can cause the water to become energized. Never go swimming near boats plugged into shore power or docks with an electrical source. Energized water can cause electric shock drowning.

## While recreating

According to the National Lightning Safety Council, approximately 440 people are struck and killed by lightning each year\*. Nearly two-thirds of the deaths occurred while enjoying outdoor leisure activities – 33% of the fatalities occurred during water-related activities such as boating, spending time on the beach and swimming, while 14% happened during sporting activities such as fishing, soccer and running.

## During a storm

When angry clouds roll in, take them seriously. Have a weather app installed on your phone to inform you of weather alerts. Lightning can occur up to 10 miles away from the heart of the storm, so if you hear thunder, take cover. A watch means that conditions are likely for severe weather to develop; a warning means take action.

## When playing

When flying drones, remote-controlled planes, toys or kites, fly them in a wide-open area free from overhead power lines. If a toy or object gets stuck in an overhead power line, do not try to remove it. Instead, call your electric utility and a crew will address the issues safely.

Ensure that overhead power lines do not run through or over a tree before your child starts to climb. Select trees that are in a wide-open space without overhead power lines nearby.

If kids are playing with a ball and it goes inside a substation fence, teach them to never touch or climb the fence to attempt to retrieve it or any other item. Instead, call your electric utility to safely take care of it. The same precaution applies to a pet or animal inside the fenced area of a substation.

## Releasing balloons

Although not an outdoor recreational activity per se, be careful with metallic balloons. If they are released or accidentally let go and get caught in a power line or other utility equipment, they can cause a major power outage. Additionally, be careful during a balloon release regardless of the type of balloon. Be sure to release balloons in wide-open areas far from overhead power and airports.



\* *Analysis of lightning-related deaths in the U.S., 2006-2021*

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for additional ways to save energy this summer? Your laundry room is a great place to start. Wash clothes with cold water, which can cut one load's energy use by more than half. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up when you can. When drying clothes, separate the heavier cottons. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.

Source: Dept. of Energy

