

NEWS

May 2009

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Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com



Pole testing in Hook Lake substation area near Hutchinson

Pole Inspection Services of Apple Valley, Minnesota began testing poles in the Hook Lake Substation area in early May and will continue working in this area until mid-June.



Hook Lake Substation serves residents in parts of Acoma, Hale and Hutchinson Townships in McLeod County. Pole Inspection Services has their name on their trucks, as well as a McLeod Cooperative Power sign. Feel free to check with the Cooperative at any time if you question the authenticity of anyone working on cooperative facilities.

Presorted Standard
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #60
HUTCHINSON, MN
55330

Signatures Needed in Support of Ethanol and E15

The American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) is collecting signatures in favor of E15 through a petition on its website, Ethanol.org. Those interested in signing should visit their website at: www.ethanol.org/petition or click the link on the right side of the site's home page.

The ethanol industry has brought a formal waiver to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to allow up to 15 percent ethanol per gallon of gasoline. The scientific research behind using blends beyond E10 in standard vehicles has been overwhelmingly positive. In addition, most gasoline pumps and dispensers are already approved for use with up to E15. Brazil has successfully used blends of 20 to 25 percent ethanol for many years.

"The arbitrary cap of 10

percent ethanol per gallon is stalling growth in America's green energy sector and unnecessarily limiting our energy independence," said Brian Jennings, Executive Vice President of ACE. "It's time for the base blend of ethanol in gasoline to be increased, and we hope all ethanol supporters will take a moment to show their support by signing the petition."

A sizeable economic boost would be felt from this increase in ethanol production and consumption. One study shows that more than 130,000 direct jobs and more than 260,000 secondary jobs could be created just by allowing the base blend to increase from E10 to E15.

More information about E15 and the EPA waiver can be found in the "E15 Action Center" on Ethanol.org.

Cooperative is implementing Red Flag Procedures to keep member's identity safe

To comply with the Red Flag Rule, the cooperative has established an "Identity Theft Prevention Program." This will tighten security on information member's provide to the Cooperative and will include additional measures to verify the identity of new members applying for service.

The Cooperative has implemented additional safeguards to make sure the personal information our members provide to us such as social security number, date of birth, address, etc. are protected from theft. A new plan will also be put into effect this month, requiring additional verification on identity from new members applying for service. For existing members, it may require that the Cooperative ask you a question or two to verify your account information, if you call the office to make changes to your account.



Former employee Bernice Steinbrecher passes away

Many of our members remember Bernice Steinbrecher. She was employed as MCPA secretary from 1976 to 1981 and as Administrative Assistant from 1981-1988. She passed away in mid-April. Bernice is survived by her husband Sam.



**The MCPA office will be closed
Monday, May 25
in observance of Memorial Day.**

**To report a power outage,
you may contact us at
1-800-927-5685.**

Manager's Message —

by Kris Ingenthron, General Manager
McLeod Cooperative Power Association



Board of Directors re-organizes as we look toward future

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our recent Annual Meeting. Without your support McLeod Cooperative Power Association would not exist.

As we close the book on our 74th Annual Meeting, we have already begun our planning for next year's 75th celebration. We have tentatively chosen an evening meeting for April 6, 2010.

Following the business portion of the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors held a re-organization meeting. Doug Kirtz, who has been our Board Chairman for the past several years, decided not to pursue or accept the position of Board Chairman for another year. Gerald Roepke was nominated and has been elected Board Chairman for 2009-2010. Doug will continue to be an instrumental part of our Board of Directors.

I would like to personally thank Doug for the leadership and oversight he provided the Board and staff at McLeod Cooperative Power. But, like anything else, change is good and we look forward to having Gerald lead us into the future.

During this year's meeting, our message focused on the rising cost of power, as well as legislation that will have a direct impact on your electric rates. I was going to reiterate those topics in this article but I decided to wait until next month after I return from Washington D.C. I will be in Washington May 3rd through 6th, speaking to members of Congress on behalf of our Cooperative and I will update you on the discussions and any new information at that

time. Things are heating up on the hill with the main focus on climate change and carbon legislation. Adding insult to injury, the Environmental Protection Agency has indicated that they are taking steps toward regulation of carbon emissions as well.

We will continue working on your behalf, doing everything we can to mitigate the impact of increases on your electric bills, while still providing safe, reliable electricity to your homes, farms, and businesses.

Have a safe planting season and remember to

look up when moving equipment from field to field.

New officers elected after Annual Meeting

Three incumbent directors were each re-elected for another three-year term at the Annual meeting in April. Curtis Rossow of Buffalo Lake, Allan Duesterhoeft of Hutchinson, and Lester Ranzau of Glencoe were re-elected to serve Districts, 4, 5, & 6, respectively.

For the coming year the board elected new officers, with Gerald Roepke of New Germany serving as the Cooperative's president, Doug Kirtz of Hector as vice-president, Dale Peters of Brownton as Secretary-Treasurer, and Bill Polchow of Silver Lake as assistant secretary-treasurer.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1 Oria Brinkmeier, <i>Lester Prairie</i>	District 6 Lester Ranzau, <i>Glencoe</i>
District 2 Dale Peters, Secretary-Treasurer <i>Brownton</i>	District 7 Bill Polchow, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer <i>Silver Lake</i>
District 3 Roger Karstens, <i>Hutchinson</i>	District 8 Doug Kirtz, Vice-President <i>Hector</i>
District 4 Curtis Rossow, <i>Buffalo Lake</i>	District 9 Gerald Roepke, President <i>New Germany</i>
District 5 Allan Duesterhoeft, <i>Hutchinson</i>	

MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER ASSOCIATION NEWS

The McLeod Cooperative Power Association News is published monthly by
McLeod Cooperative Power Association
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Glencoe, MN 55336
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The McLeod Cooperative Power Association News is the official member publication of McLeod Cooperative Power Association and focuses on our members, programs and events. All member story ideas and comments are welcome. Send to Sue Pawelk, editor, at the above address.

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Web site: www.mcleodcoop.com

Gopher State One Call 1-800-252-1166

CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY PYRAMID

A guide to using energy wisely through behavior and technology



*Improving your home's sealing and insulation can present indoor air quality issues. You should regularly test the indoor air quality of your home if you continue to make your home efficient through heating, cooling and remodeling.

CFL bulbs must be recycled

If you have any compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) to be recycled, you may bring them for disposal to your local county household hazardous waste facility or bring them to a county waste collection day site. Recycling of bulbs for a small fee is also available at area hardware stores listed on page 8 of this newsletter. The 50 cent recycling coupons can be used to reduce the cost per bulb you need recycled at these stores.

McLeod County collects bulbs for 50 cents each at their Household Hazardous Waste Facility located at 1065 5th Avenue SE in Hutchinson. They are open Tuesday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. From June 1 through September 1 they also are open Tuesdays until 8 p.m. Call for more info at 1-800-335-0575.

Renville County will be hosting a county-wide clean-up in June at the following collection sites.

- Renville Country Highway Shop in Sacred Heart on Tuesday, June 9, 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
- Renville Country Highway Shop in Buffalo Lake (enter from Borden Avenue

only. No entrance from Highway 212, watch for signs)

Wednesday, June 10, 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

- Renville Country Highway Shop in Fairfax on Thursday, June 11, 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

- Renville Country Landfill and HHW Facility in Olivia on Wednesday, June 10 from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Thursday, June 11 from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

No automotive batteries will be accepted.

Carver County will be accepting CFLs at its mobile collections Saturday, May 16 and Saturday, September 12 from 8 a.m. to noon at Central High School in Norwood Young America. Otherwise, bulbs can be brought to the Carver County Environmental Center at 116 Peavey Circle in Chaska. Call 952-361-1835 for details.

Sibley County residents will be able to bring bulbs to the mobile collection at Gibbon on Thursday, May 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In Gibbon, go to the empty lot on Main Street by the railroad tracks. Check the tricounty web site for other collection times and places: www.geocities.com/tricountyswo/upcoming.html

Tune up your cooling unit and receive a \$25 credit

Announcing the 2009 air conditioning tune-up program.



Just schedule a tune-up of your central air conditioner or air source heat pump (unit must be at least 5 years old and in working condition to qualify) and when your licensed professional HVAC contractor performs the service work, have them complete the rebate coupon on page 3 of this newsletter. Send the completed rebate form to the Cooperative with a copy of the contractor's invoice. His tune up must include the items on the coupon. After the Co-op receives your documentation, we will credit your electric bill \$25 within 4-6 weeks.

Air Conditioner/Heat Pump Check List

Owner _____
 Acct. # _____
 Address _____
 Location # _____
 Phone # _____
 Company doing Tune-Up _____
 Technician's Name _____
 Company Phone # _____

CHECK LIST

Brand Name _____
 Model # _____
 Serial # _____
 Tons/BTU Rating _____ SEER Rating _____

- Clean Outdoor Unit
- Clean and Inspect "A" Coil
- Check Blower Belt
- Compressor Motor Amp Reading Check
- Compressor Amp Reading Check
- Blower & Oil
- Blower Motor Amp Reading Check
- Check Filter
- Check Refrigerant Level & Pressure
- Blow Out Drain Line
- Visual Inspection of Cooling System

Recommendations _____

Technician Signature _____
 Date _____

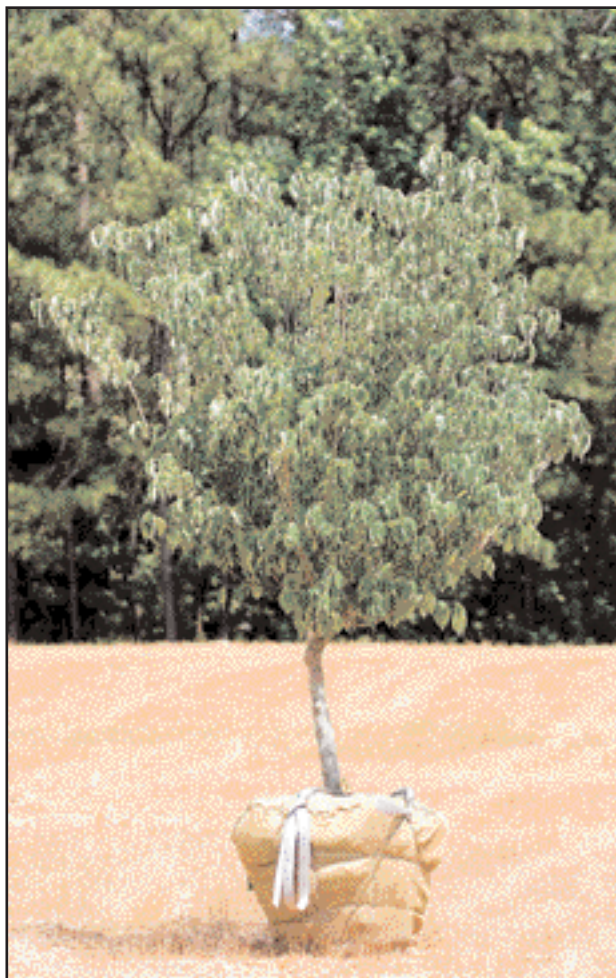
When planting trees, keep electrical safety in mind

Whether planting trees to provide a wind break, reduce carbon in the environment or to beautify your landscape, Safe Electricity and your Cooperative remind everyone of the importance of planting tall-growing trees safely away from power lines. Trees that grow too close to electric lines can create shock and fire hazards as well as power outages.

Choosing the right tree for the right place is crucial, especially when it comes to power lines. Trees, and wood in general, conduct electricity and can create a safety hazard if grown close to electric lines. Power outages or momentary interruptions can occur when branches come into contact with overhead lines. Electrical arcing and sparking from a wire to a nearby branch also can cause fires. But a greater concern is the safety risk when children climb trees near power lines. Accidental contact of electric wires with a tree limb or playing and trimming around the tree can be fatal. Parents and caregivers are urged to teach children the dangers of climbing trees near power lines.

If you have trees that appear to be growing into power lines, contact your electric utility. Never try to prune them yourself. Utilities have, or can recommend, skilled professionals trained to safely prune and trim trees for electric line clearance.

Landowners should educate themselves about utility line clearance practices and why they're important to safe and reliable electric service. Taking the time to research tree selections by consulting your local arborist, tree nursery or Cooperative experts will make sure the money you spend on landscaping will provide the benefits you desire, without posing a safety or power reliability hazard years from now.



To avoid future electrical hazards, safe planting tips to remember include the following:

- Consider mature height of trees. Never plant a tree that could grow to 25 feet or more near a power line. Tall-growing trees should be planted a minimum of 20 feet away from power lines. A mature height of less than 15 feet is recommended for trees planted near power lines.

- Do not plant near underground utility services. Tree roots can grow to interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires. Future repairs to these facilities also could damage the health and beauty of nearby plants and trees.
- Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.
- Before digging, call the local underground utility locator service to mark location of underground utilities so that accidental contact, damage and injuries can be avoided.

An added benefit of trees

Besides the benefit of beauty and shade, trees help combat the effects of pollution by absorbing carbon dioxide (CO₂). When trees grow, they take energy from the sun and combine it with carbon from the air to photosynthesize. They remove carbon from the air and sequester or store it in their biomass, or the wood, and in the ground. This makes trees a natural "carbon sink" or a living source of carbon reduction. Some trees are better suited for this task than others and, according to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), tree species that grow quickly and live long are ideal carbon sinks.

There are many beautiful varieties of trees, low-growing trees and shrubs that provide color, screening and shade, and enhance the quality of life in our communities and environment. Doing your research now will yield many years of beauty, shade and environmental benefits for you and your family.

**ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG**

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident:
Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig. Visit call811.com for more information.

Don't Let This Happen To You!

**Heartland
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Security Pro Heartland Security — 888-264-6380

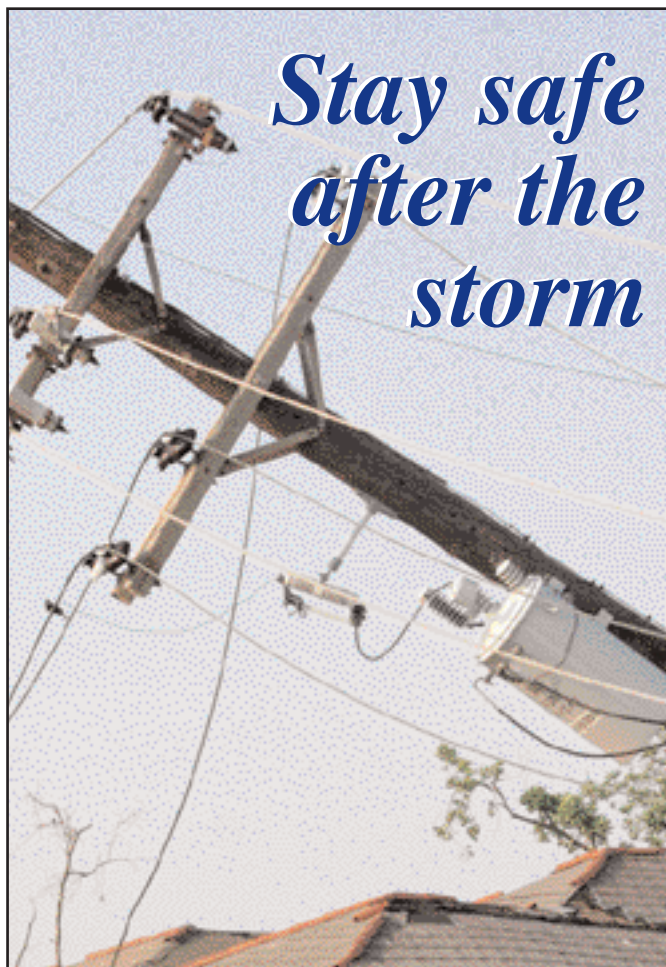
It's the time of year when spring storms can create dangerous situations for all ages.

Knowing what to do to prepare and how to stay safe in the aftermath of a storm can help avoid needless injury or death.

Stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility.

If using electric yard tools in clean-up efforts, do not operate them if it's raining or the ground is wet, or while you are wet or standing in water. Keep all electric tools and equipment at least ten feet away from wet surfaces.

"Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off," said Jay Solomon, University of Illinois Extension Engineering Educator. "Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must



stand in water to do so. If you can't reach your breaker box safely, call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter."

Never step in to a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water.

"Cleaning up and using water-damaged appliances also carry safety risks," said Solomon. "Electric motors in appliances that have been drenched or submerged should be thoroughly cleaned and reconditioned before they are put back into service. It may be necessary to repair or replace electrical appliances or tools that have been in contact with water. Do not use any water-damaged appliance until a professional has checked it out."

If you use a portable generator, be sure a transfer safety switch has been installed or connect the appliance(s) directly to the generator. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines, what's known as "back feed." Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.

If you are driving and you come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or the electric utility. Never drive over a downed line. A downed line causes other things around it to become potentially hazardous.

If you are in a car which has come in contact with a downed power line, stay in your vehicle. If you must leave your car jump free keeping both feet together and either shuffle or hop to safety. A live wire touching the ground causes electricity to fan out in a pool and the action of running or striding allows one foot to move from one voltage zone to another. Your body then becomes the path for the electricity and electrocution is the tragic result.

For more information on electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

INDUSTRY

News

Federal officials back wind energy "super highway"

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has approved incentives that could help a Michigan company build a 3,000-mile transmission "superhighway" to move wind-generated power out of the Midwest. Novi, Mich.-based ITC Holdings Corp. filed its rate and incentives application in February. On Monday, FERC approved a 12.38 percent return on investment for the project, which is expected to cost \$10 billion to \$12 billion.

The "Green Power Express" would surge with 12,000 megawatts of wind-generated power. The extra-high voltage transmission lines would spread across the Dakotas, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana to deliver wind power to Chicago and points east. Just one megawatt of generated power can supply about 300 homes; the Green Power Express promises to deliver wind-generated electricity to 3.6 million homes.

Because the project originates in the Midwest, ITC officials have asked the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator for its review.

— Argus Leader

Minnesota ranks No. 1 in share of energy from wind

Minnesota ranks first in the nation in the percentage of energy it gets from wind power, but it trailed Iowa and Texas in the amount of wind energy capacity it added last year, according to the American Wind Energy Association.

Minnesota derived 7.48 percent of its electricity from wind last year, AWEA reported. Iowa ranked second by that measure, getting 7.1 percent of its energy from renewable wind resources last year. Rounding out the top five states were Colorado (5.91 percent), North Dakota (4.86 percent) and New Mexico (4.41 percent).

But in wind capacity, Texas, the runaway leader with 7,118 megawatts, was followed by Iowa with 2,791 megawatts of wind capacity; California with 2,517 megawatts. Minnesota was third in the race to add wind power, adding 455.65 megawatts of capacity to end up with 1,754 megawatts of total capacity.

Minneapolis-based Xcel Energy kept its No. 1 ranking among utility wind power providers for the fourth year in a row. Great River Energy of Maple Grove was the top ranked power cooperative wind provider, the report said.

— Pioneer Press



Surge protection is inexpensive insurance

Many people believe that power surges only happen during lightning storms. The truth is that smaller, less obvious power surges happen all the time, slowly eroding vulnerable equipment. The smaller the equipment, the less tolerant it is of voltage fluctuations. However, appliances and electronics of every size should be protected.

Not everyone can afford to replace a refrigerator, a computer, a television set, video game systems, microwave oven or other expensive unit. However,

equipment from an electrical shock, it will have to be replaced.

If you don't mind spending a bit more, you can purchase a surge protector with a replaceable fuse that can be used over again.

For those who use a computer often, check into a \$60+ power surge/battery back-up unit. The battery back-up will preserve power for 10 minutes or more to allow you to save what you're working on and shut down your computer.

During a storm, it's a good idea to unplug everything not connected to a surge protector. A power surge usually lasts only 1/120th of a second, but the consequences can be costly.

everyone can pay as little as \$10 for a power surge protector. This level of protection will be good for one use; once it has protected your

How Do They Do That? Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters

Key Points

- If the current flowing to the appliance differs by a small amount from that returning, a trip device in the ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) is operated.
- A GFCI trips when the current flow difference amounts to five milliamperes; currents above 10 milliamperes can paralyze or "freeze" muscles.
- GFCIs do not protect persons from shock hazards where contact is between phase and neutral or between phase-to-phase conductors.

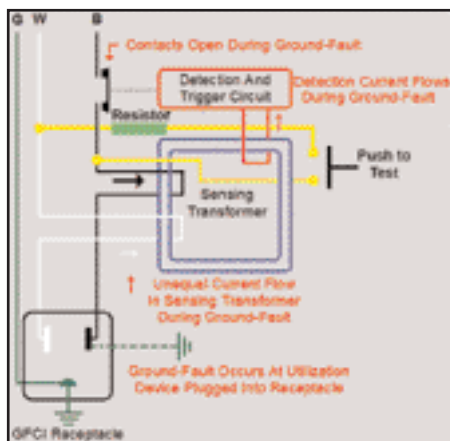


Figure 1. GFCI Circuit Diagram

Charles Dalziel, a professor of electrical engineering at the University of California, invented the ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) in 1961. In a building's wiring system, a GFCI monitors electricity flowing to and from an electrical appliance or component. If the current flowing to the appliance differs by a small amount from that returning, a trip device in the GFCI is operated, and a set of contacts opens and removes power from the circuit, typically within 25 milliseconds. Figure 1 below left (adapted from an image courtesy of Bob Desnoyers Elevator & Escalator Inspections, Inc.) illustrates the circuits in a GFCI. The black "hot" wire and white "neutral" wire both pass through a wire coil (toroid or sensing transformer). A detection device activates the trigger circuit and breaks the hot wire during a ground fault (unbalanced current flow). The test circuit also passes a wire through the coil and a resistor provides the current flow to also trigger the detection device when the test button closes the test circuit. Figure 1 illustrates a ground fault condition with an unintended grounding of the hot wire resulting in the contacts opening.

For typical "Class A" GFCIs, this operation occurs when the current flow difference amounts to five milliamperes. A formula determines the allowable time to operate the trip device in the GFCI. The

operating time varies with the fault current level. The higher the fault current, the shorter the allowable operating time. So GFCIs do not provide complete protection from shock, they just reduce the shock period to a non-lethal level. The National Electrical Code 2008 Handbook states that, "GFCIs do not protect persons from shock hazards where contact is between phase and neutral or between phase-to-phase conductors." It only protects a person when contact is between phase and ground or neutral and ground.

The severity of injury from electrical shock depends on the amount of electrical current and the length of time the current passes through the body. For example, 1/10 of an ampere (amp) of electricity going through the body for only 2 seconds is enough to cause death. The amount of internal current a person can withstand and still be able to control the muscles of the arm and hand can be less than 10 milliamperes (milliamps or mA). Currents above 10 mA can paralyze or "freeze" muscles. When this "freezing" happens, a person is no longer able to release a tool, wire, or other object.

Suppose a bare wire inside an appliance touches the metal case. The case is then charged with electricity. If you touch the appliance with one

hand while the other hand is touching a grounded metal object, like a water faucet, you will receive a shock. If the appliance is plugged into an outlet protected by a GFCI, the power shuts off before a fatal shock occurs.

"The great thing about GFCIs is that they protect you whether or not your wiring is grounded," says Bill Grande, manager for safety products at Leviton, a manufacturer of GFCIs. A GFCI does not require an equipment-grounding conductor (green wire). A GFCI detects the imbalance between the "hot" (ungrounded) and "neutral" (ungrounded) conductors. GFCIs often also utilize a metal oxide varistor (MOV) as a surge suppressor built into the product. However, because lightning and other power surges can still damage a GFCI's delicate circuitry at any time, Grande recommends the following monthly test: plug in a light fixture and turn it on. Then, push the device's test button. If the light stays on, the GFCI needs to be replaced. Too often, people will engage the RESET button on a GFCI after they find that it has been tripped, without investigating what caused the device to trip in the first place. The natural assumption is that if a GFCI can be reset, all is well. But this assumption can be shockingly dangerous: A standard GFCI will continue to deliver power even after ground fault protection has been lost. You may assume you are protected when you may not be.

Tax Credits available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

A residential total lifetime tax credit of \$1,500 is available to homeowners who make energy conservation and efficiency improvements to their homes.

Product/Improvement Residential	Eligibility	Incentive	Years
Air Source Heat Pumps/Central A/C	SEER 16	30% of cost of installation up to \$1,500	Through 2010
Water heaters			Through 2010
Electric (heat pump models only)	2.0 EF	30% cost of installation up to \$1,500	
Gas and oil	82 EF	30% cost of installation up to \$1,500	
Gas/oil Furnace	95 AFUE	30% cost of installation up to \$1,500	Through 2010
Gas/oil Boiler	90 AFUE	30% cost of installation up to \$1,500	Through 2010
Biomass Stoves	75% efficiency	30% cost of installation up to \$1,500	Through 2010
Envelope improvements (Insulation, duct sealing and infiltration reduction, exterior doors, windows and skylights)	Meet 2009 IECC	30% cost of installation up to \$1,500	Through 2010
Refrigerators (depending on brand, efficiency)		\$75 to \$200	Through 2010
Clothes Washers (depending on brand, efficiency)		\$125 to \$250	Through 2010
Dishwashers (depending on brand, efficiency)		\$45 to \$75	Through 2010
Fuel cells (residential)		30% efficiency, 30% up to \$1,000/5kW	Through 2016
Solar Photovoltaic/Solar Water Heating		30% cost of installation	Through 2016
On-site small wind	100 kW capacity or less	30% cost of installation	Through 2016
Geothermal heat pumps	Energy Star Specs	30% cost of installation	Through 2016
Commercial Buildings			
Whole building	50% savings	Deduction of \$1.80/sq. ft.	Through 2013
HVAC or envelope	50% savings	Deduction of .60/sq.ft. per system	Through 2013
Lighting	25-50% savings	Sliding scale (\$.30/sq.ft. for 25% savings)	
Commercial fuel cells	30% efficiency	30% up to \$3,000/kW	Through 2016

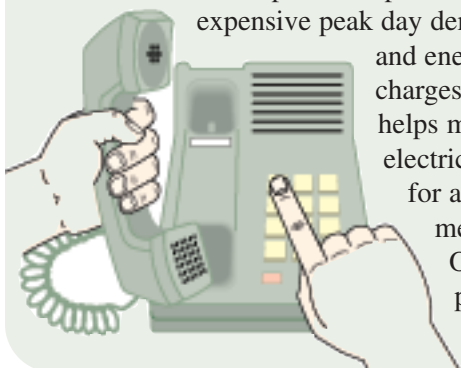
Key: AFUE = annual fuel utilization efficiency. CEE = consortium for Energy Efficiency. EF = energy factor. IECC = International Energy Conservation Code. kW = kilowatt. SEER = seasonal energy efficiency ratio. **For further information, to see which products qualify for tax credits and for information about tax credits for energy efficient vehicles, go to www.energytaxincentives.org.**

Source: American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy for the Tax Incentives Assistance Project (TIAP)

Be ready for a phone call on an EXTREME PEAK DAY

If the temperature hits 95 degrees and it is humid or if we have several consecutive days in the high 90's, we could experience an EXTREME PEAK DAY. That is a day when the demand for energy is so high that we will ask our members to conserve energy. Whether you take action to conserve is totally voluntary. On such a day, the Cooperative will use an automated recording system to call your home and notify you that it is an EXTREME PEAK DAY. If you are home, please listen to the recorded message. It will provide the announcement that it is an EXTREME PEAK DAY. It will also tell you the hours of requested conservation and provide a list of ways you can conserve. If you are not home and you have an answering machine, we will leave you the same message. If you do not answer, the system will try to call you back later in the day.

By conserving energy for a few hours, you can help the Cooperative avoid expensive peak day demand



and energy charges. This helps manage electric rates for all of our members. Our power supplier,

Great River Energy, is able to supply us with plenty of energy to meet the power needs of all of our members, even on an EXTREME PEAK DAY. However, the price we may have to pay to deliver that energy during peak hours of the hottest summer days may be very high. It is the goal of McLeod Cooperative Power to keep rates as low as possible. We greatly appreciate any effort our members can make to conserve on these days.

On EXTREME PEAK DAYS we will ask you to:

- Do laundry early in the day or after 10 p.m.
- Wait until after 10 p.m. to start the dishwasher.
- Go out for dinner, cook in the microwave or on the grill, instead of using the stove or oven.
- Turn off or unplug the dehumidifier, computer equipment that is not being used, unnecessary lighting or rechargeable appliances until after 10 p.m.
- Turn your thermostat up a degree or two during the peak hours so your air conditioner run time is reduced.

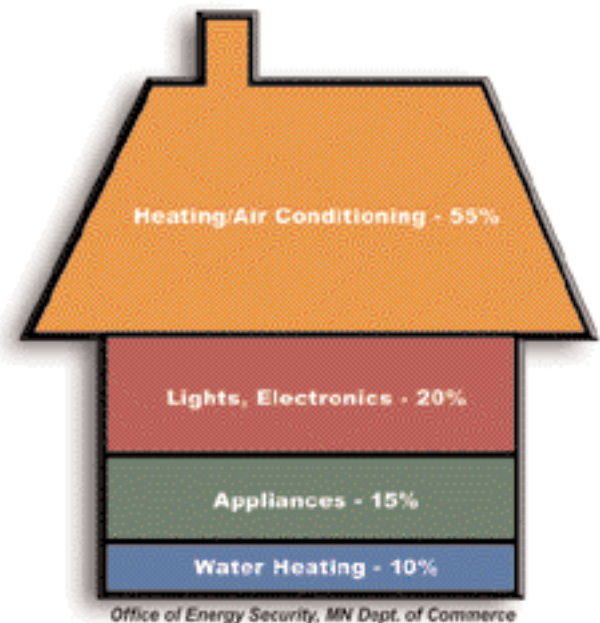
Doing some or all of these conservation practices will keep your house cooler on hot summer days. Doing activities that add heat or humidity to your home on an extremely hot day requires your air conditioner to run longer and use more energy.

Updated DIRECTV channel listing available on Cooperative web site



Recently, DIRECTV has changed some of the channel numbers for certain programming. To print a copy of the most up-to-date channel listing, go to the Cooperative's web site: www.mcleodcoop.com. Click on "Products & Services," then click on "DIRECTV" and then click on "Channel Listings."

Typical Minnesota Residential Energy Use



Reservations being accepted for Coal Creek Tour

This year's Coal Creek Tour is August 4-6. Reservations are now being accepted for this popular tour. It is both an educational and fun trip to Bismarck, North Dakota. Tour participants will visit Coal Creek Generating Station, Falkirk Coal Mine, North Dakota Heritage Center, Headwaters Fort Mandan Visitors Center including Fort Mandan, a reconstructed and fully-furnished fort where Lewis & Clark spent a winter. Attendees go on a drive-through tour of Blue Flint Ethanol, which is constructed adjacent to Coal Creek generating plant, and a scenic tour of other generating facilities in the area, Garrison Dam and Lake Sakakawea overlook.

Cost for adults is \$150 per person. Students 10-18 years of age who share a room with their parents or grandparents pay only \$100 per

person. This makes it an affordable mini-vacation. Motor coach transportation, accommodations at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and most meals are included. The hotel offers an indoor pool, water slide, hot tub and exercise room. The hotel is located across the street from a shopping mall. So there is plenty to do during free time.

The group leaves the Cooperative about 8 a.m. on Tuesday, August 4, and returns to Glencoe about 6 p.m. on Thursday, August 6. Members going on the tour need to be physically able to climb stairs and do a substantial amount of walking. The tour is not suitable for children under 10 years of age.

If you have never been on this tour, we encourage you to sign up. If you have been on

the tour before, we will accept your reservation; however, people who have never been to Coal Creek will be given preference. Call the Cooperative to make reservations with your VISA or Mastercard or return the completed form with your check. Call 1-800-494-6272 to sign up.

Please reserve _____ places for the Coal Creek Tour, August 4 - 6, 2009.

Name and Age of Students: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Return to: McLeod Cooperative Power Assn.,
1231 Ford Avenue, P.O. Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336.



Announces:

Fluorescent Bulb RECYCLING PROGRAM

McLeod Cooperative Power makes bulb recycling as easy as a trip to your local hardware store. And, we'll even help pay the recycling fee.

Here's how it works:

- Take your used bulbs* and one coupon per bulb to a participating store. (See list below.)
- Each coupon gives you 50 cents off the recycling fee for each qualifying bulb you recycle.
- McLeod Power Cooperative will redeem up to 10 coupons per household from Cooperative customers.

Bulb recycling is good for the environment, and it's the law.

Used fluorescent and high-intensity discharge (HID) lamps require special care because they contain a small amount of mercury. Because it's important to limit the amount of mercury entering our environment, Minnesota law states that fluorescent bulbs cannot be disposed of with your household garbage.

Although fluorescent bulbs may require special care after they've burned out, they'll last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs, and they use 75 percent less energy. With today's improving lighting technology, fluorescent bulbs give you the same warm quality of light as regular bulbs.

Return your bulbs with a coupon to any of these participating retailers:

- **Do It Best Hardware (Glencoe)**
- **Hite ACE Hardware (Glencoe)**
- **Hutchinson Ace Hardware (Hutchinson)**
- **Dahlin's Farm & Home (Cokato)**
- **Thomas Bros. (Arlington)**
- **Beckler's Hardware Hank (Bird Island)**
- **Waconia ACE Farm & Home**

* Circular fluorescent tubes, U-bend fluorescent tubes, compact fluorescent bulbs, high-intensity discharge lamps, fluorescent tubes up to eight feet in length.

 <p>50¢ OFF FLUORESCENT BULB RECYCLING</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____</p> <p>State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Coupon expires 12/31/09. Limit one coupon per bulb. coupon valid only when completed.</p>	 <p>50¢ OFF FLUORESCENT BULB RECYCLING</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____</p> <p>State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Coupon expires 12/31/09. Limit one coupon per bulb. coupon valid only when completed.</p>
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Your electric Cooperative partners with Mercury Technologies of Minnesota, Inc. in Pine City, and area retailers to provide a recycling program for fluorescent lamps.