

## Manager's message: We're ready for storm season. Are you?



Now that summer is in full swing, like many of you, I welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather.

Summertime brings many of my favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, afternoons on the water and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

But summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. These potential weather events can cause destruction to our electrical system, but I want you to know that KEM Electric crews are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the following items as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit

www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- 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 easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major 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 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.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check KEM's Electric's Facebook page or website for power restoration updates.

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

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.

I hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At KEM Electric, we recommend that you act today because there is power in planning. From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a safe and wonderful summer. ⚡

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# Safety Starts with Me: Protecting Yourself from Utility Scams

In today's digital age, where technology connects us in more ways than ever before, it's crucial to remain vigilant and protect ourselves from scams.

Utility scams come in various forms, but they typically involve impostors posing as utility company representatives seeking payment or personal information. "These scammers may use threatening language, urgency, or even offer special discounts to deceive unsuspecting individuals," said Lisa Rossow, Data/Communications Analyst. It's important to remember that KEM Electric will never demand immediate payment or personal information over the phone or email.

To protect yourself from utility scams, follow these essential tips:

- **Be cautious:** Maintain a healthy skepticism when receiving unexpected calls or emails. Verify the caller's identity by asking for their name, department, and contact information.
- **Never share personal information:** Avoid providing sensitive information such as social security numbers, credit card details, or account numbers to unsolicited callers or suspicious emails.
- **Hang up, don't engage:** If a caller becomes aggressive, threatening,

or insists on immediate payment, hang up immediately. Legitimate utility companies will provide options for secure payment and will not pressure you into immediate action.

- **Verify before paying:** If you receive a payment request, independently verify its authenticity by contacting the utility company directly through their official customer service channels. Do not use the contact information provided by the suspicious caller or email.
  - **Report suspicious activities:** If you suspect you have encountered a utility scam, report it to your local cooperative. By reporting these incidents, you help protect others in your community.
- "At KEM Electric, your safety is

## SAFETY STARTS WITH ME



**Lisa**  
Data/Communications Analyst

paramount," said Rossow. "By familiarizing yourself with the signs of utility scams and implementing preventative measures, you can protect yourself from falling victim to fraudulent activities."

Remember, safety starts with each individual. Stay informed, be cautious, and report any suspicious activities. ⚡



## Explore it, Adore it, and SAVE!

In partnership with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, KEM Electric Cooperative is once again making excursions to Medora more affordable for families.

This summer, our members are eligible for a 15-percent discount off the following reservations:

- Tickets to the Medora Musical
- Pitchfork Steak Fondue
- Gospel Brunch Tickets
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course
- Old Town Theater shows
- Lodging at the Badlands Motel, Elkhorn Quarters, Rough Riders Hotel and Medora Campground

Touchstone Energy members can use the code "TOUCH2023" for the discount. The code is good for reservations by phone, website or in-person. ⚡