



CALLING ALL THIRD-GRADERS:

You're invited to participate in the
Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association's

ELECTRICAL SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

Submit an original poster supporting electrical safety to Eau Claire Energy Cooperative by **April 30, 2024**, for a chance to win a **\$25 gift card!** The top three posters will be entered into the statewide poster contest for a chance to win one of three great prizes:

- 1st place – Chromebook**
- 2nd place – \$100 Gift Card**
- 3rd place – \$75 Gift Card**

Posters should be at least 8.5x11 inches, but no larger than 11x14 inches.

Entries must include completed entry form and student's name on the back of the poster.

Contact Eau Claire Energy Cooperative or go to www.weca.coop for registration forms.



BEAVER CREEK

EARTH DAY, EVERY DAY

ALL MONTH LONG!



APRIL 2024

Earth Week Open House
Thursday, April 25
4:00-8:00 PM
The Brewing Project

Earth Extravaganza & Bird Banders Thrift Sale
Saturday, April 20
10:00 AM-3:00 PM
Wise Nature Center



Earth Week Photo Contest
April 15 - April 22
#bcerearthweek



51 County Rd. K, Fall Creek, WI
715-877-2212 | www.beavercreekreserve.org

April Showers

PREPARING FOR STORM SEASON

As we move into spring, it's time for us to prepare for potential storms. At Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, safety is our top priority. We work diligently all year round to minimize the effects of severe weather on our grid, but being prepared for storms is one way to ensure that severe weather has the most minimal impact possible. In this article, we will discuss valuable insights, tips, and expert advice to ensure you're ready to weather any storm that comes our way.

From thunderstorms and lightning to high winds and even tornadoes, our region can experience a variety of weather events that could disrupt daily life and pose significant safety hazards. With proper preparation, however, we can mitigate these risks.

Creating an Emergency Kit

One of the first steps in storm preparedness is assembling an emergency kit. This kit should contain essential items to sustain you and your family in the event of a power outage. Here's a checklist to get you started:

- **Water and non-perishable food:** Ensure an ample supply of water and easy-to-prepare food items to last at least three days for you and each of your family members.
- **Flashlights and batteries:** Keep multiple flashlights and spare batteries readily available for illumination during power outages.
- **First aid kit: Include bandages, antiseptic wipes, medications, and any necessary medical supplies:** Be sure you are regularly checking expiration dates and condition of your first aid items.
- **Blankets and warm clothing:** Prepare for potential drops in temperature by stocking blankets, jackets, and extra layers.
- **Portable radio:** Stay informed with a battery-powered or hand-crank radio to receive weather updates and emergency broadcasts.
- **Personal hygiene items:** Don't forget toiletries, prescription medications, sanitary supplies, and any special items needed for infants or elderly family members.

Protecting Electrical Equipment

During severe weather, electrical equipment and appliances are particularly vulnerable to damage. To safeguard your devices and prevent potential hazards, follow these precautions:

- **Unplug electronics:** Before a storm hits, unplug sensitive electronics such as computers, televisions, and gaming consoles to protect them from power surges.
- **Invest in surge protectors:** Install surge protectors on outlets to safeguard against voltage spikes and surges caused by lightning or power grid fluctuations.
- **Secure outdoor equipment:** Secure outdoor appliances, such as air conditioning units and generators, to prevent them from being damaged or becoming projectiles in high winds.
- **Trim trees and branches:** Trim back overhanging branches that could potentially fall onto power lines or structures during a storm, causing outages or damage.

Staying Informed and Connected

Knowledge is power when it comes to staying safe during severe weather events. Stay informed and connected with these strategies:

- **Sign up for alerts:** Register for local weather alerts and emergency notifications through your county's emergency management system or reliable weather apps. You can also sign up for outage notifications from ECEC through your SmartHub account.
- **Have a communication plan:** Establish a communication plan with family members and loved ones, including designated meeting points and contact information.
- **Follow trusted sources:** Rely on reputable sources of information, such as the National Weather Service or local news channels, for accurate and timely updates on weather conditions and emergency advisories.

Preparedness is key to minimizing the impact of severe weather events. By taking proactive measures and staying informed, individuals and communities can mitigate risks and enhance resilience. Storm preparedness is a shared responsibility that requires proactive planning, awareness, and collaboration. By following these tips, we can do our best to ensure the safety and well-being of our community during storm season and beyond.



LINEWORKER *Appreciation* DAY

April 8, 2024

At Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, we're powered by more than just electricity; we're powered by the dedication and hard work of our lineworkers. These skilled professionals are the backbone of our energy infrastructure, ensuring that our members have reliable access to the electricity that powers their lives. On Lineworker Appreciation Day, we take a moment to shine a spotlight on these members of our team, celebrating their contributions to keeping the lights on. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our community. Happy Lineworker Appreciation Day!

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Monica Obrycki, President and CEO

**Taylor Skibba, Marketing and
Communications Coordinator**

8214 Hwy 12, P.O. Box 368, Fall Creek, WI 54742-0368

www.ecec.com   

Lobby Hours: 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday–Thursday;
7:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. Friday

Non-emergencies: 715-832-1603

Emergencies & outages: Toll FREE 800-927-5090
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Diggers Hotline: 811 or 1-800-242-8511
Call 3 working days before you dig.