



# Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

## News

P.O. Box 111, 4815 E HWY 54  
El Dorado Springs, MO 64744  
Telephone: 800-876-2701

Visit us on the Web - [www.sacosage.com](http://www.sacosage.com)



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

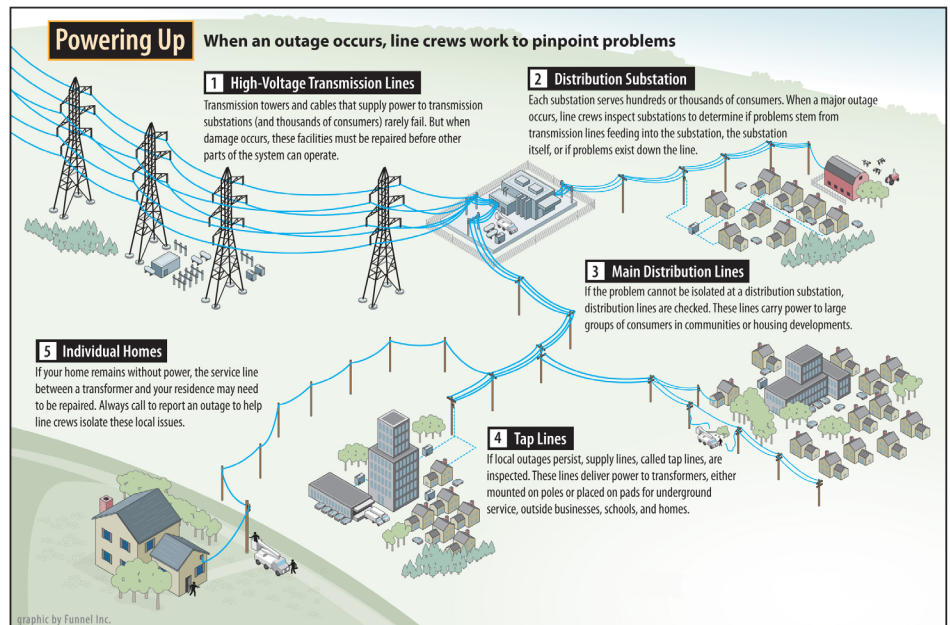
March 2021

## Be Prepared for Spring Storms

Whether its ice, high winds, tornadoes or lightning, outages are an inconvenience for every member involved. The cause of the outage and the extent of the damage determines the amount of time until the cooperative can get the last member back in service. However, the same general approach is taken with every outage. Assess the damage and start repairs from the substation out.

Longer outages occur when the damage is extensive including broken poles or spread out over a wide area of the cooperative. If broken poles or trees that have to be cut away are causing the outage the time to be reconnected may increase.

The cooperative also provides tools to give members an idea of what they are facing. SacOsage.com's Outage Map will report known outages. With the SmartHub app members can see if the cooperative already knows they are out of power. They can also report the outage there.



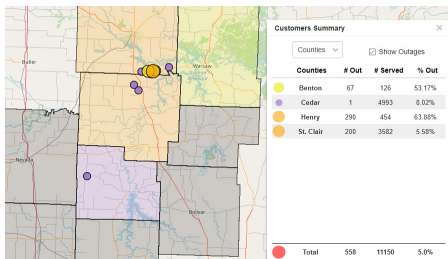
kit, medicines, toiletries, flashlights, batteries, and a radio. A more detailed list can be found on SafeElectricity.org.

Safe Electricity encourages families to keep in mind important things to do when a storm hits:

- Do not step into a flooded basement or room if the water is covering electrical outlets, appliances, or cords.
- Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box or touch an electrical appliance if you are wet or in standing water. Call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter.
- If an electrical appliance has been in contact with water, have a professional check it out before it is used. It may need to be repaired or replaced.
- If the smell of gas is apparent or if

there is a suspected leak in your house, leave immediately and call your gas utility.

- If power lines are on the ground, stay far away from them and warn others to stay away. Contact the local electric utility because the lines could still be live.
- Downed power lines can also energize tree limbs or debris, so be alert during clean-up.
- Any power line that is dead could become energized at any moment due to power restoration or back-up generators.
- If driving, never get out of the car if there is a downed power line, and never drive over one.
- Always use caution following severe weather. You do not know how landmarks have been impacted, if stop signs have been removed, or if power has been cut



[www.sacosage.com](http://www.sacosage.com)'s Outage Map

It is important to be prepared for storms. FEMA's preparedness website, [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov), encourages everyone to create a storm preparedness kit with enough supplies to last at least three days in case of a power outage. This kit includes: water, food, blankets, pillows, clothes, a first aid



## Storm Safety

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- to stoplights or railroad crossings.
- Before entering storm-damaged buildings, make sure electricity and gas are turned off.
- Do not use electrical equipment during clean-up after a storm if the ground is wet.
- There are many hazards that remain in the aftermath of a storm. Make sure that children are closely supervised when they are outdoors following a storm. Utilities crews, police, and others may not have been able to get to the area yet to make it safe.

**Prepare for a storm by gathering these items:**

	<b>Bottles of water</b>		<b>Extra batteries</b>
	<b>Non-perishable food</b>		<b>Pet supplies</b>
	<b>Portable phone charger</b>		<b>Blankets</b>
	<b>Prescriptions</b>		<b>Warm clothing</b>
	<b>Battery-operated radio</b>		<b>First-aid kit</b>
	<b>Flashlights</b>		<b>Hand sanitizer</b>

Graphic by www.safeelectricity.org



**Daylight saving time** is March 14th. Remember to set your clocks forward. And don't forget to adjust any timers you are using to lower your peak demand.



## Landscaping Can Save You Money

Landscaping is a natural and beautiful way to keep your home more comfortable and reduce your energy bills. In addition to adding aesthetic value and environment quality to your home, a well-placed tree (always well away from the power line), shrub, or vine can deliver effective shade, act as a windbreak, and reduce overall energy bills.

Carefully positioned trees can save a good percentage of a typical household's energy for heating and cooling. During the summer months, the most effective way to keep your home cool is to prevent heat from building up in the first place. A primary source of heat buildup is sunlight absorbed by your home's roof, walls and windows. Dark-colored home exteriors absorb 70 percent to 90 percent of the radiant energy from the sun that strikes the home's surfaces. Some of this absorbed energy is then transferred into your home by way of conduction, resulting in heat gain inside the house.

In contrast, light-colored surfaces effectively reflect most of the heat away from your home. Landscaping can also help block and absorb the sun's energy to help decrease heat buildup in your home

by providing shade and evaporative cooling. Shading and evaporative cooling from trees can reduce the air temperature around your home. Deciduous trees planted on the south and on the west will keep your house cool in the summer and allow sun to shine in the windows in the winter.

Orientation of the house and surrounding landscaping has a large effect on energy consumption. A well oriented, well designed home admits low-angle winter sun to reduce heating bills; rejects summer sun to reduce cooling bills and minimizes the chill effect of winter winds.

