

# Electric Line Newsletter

## THE POWER OF PREPARATION

With severe weather events occurring more frequently, now more than ever, it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, we want to remind members of our community about the power of preparation. While you don't have to achieve a "doomsday prepper" level of preparedness, there are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress, anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event. We recommend starting with the basics.

Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.
- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (i.e., via text, social media, third party, etc.).
- Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in a safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).
- Keep neighbors and coworkers apprised of your emergency plans.
- Fill your car with gas.
- Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

### Caring for vulnerable family members

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a neighbor to check in on them. If a severe weather event is expected, consider having your relative stay with you if feasible, otherwise call them daily. If you have infant or young children, make certain that you have ample formula, diapers, medication and other supplies on hand to weather an outage lasting several days or more.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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# Electric Line Newsletter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## Keeping four-legged family members safe

For families with pets, having a plan in place in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will help reduce worry and stress especially if you need to make a decision during an emergency.

- Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and may wander off during an emergency.
- Microchip your pet and ensure the contact information is up to date.
- Store pet medical records on a USB drive or in an easy-to-remember location.
- Create an emergency kit for pets (include shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications and other supplies).

At Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency situation today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.



September is National Preparedness Month. Make preparations to keep you and your family safe during severe weather events.

## 5 EASY WAYS TO EXERCISE YOUR CIVIC DUTY

America's electric cooperatives, including Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC), understand the value of building relationships with elected officials at all levels of government. There are many important policy issues that directly impact electric utilities and ultimately, you, the consumer-members we proudly serve. Strengthening our relationships with elected leaders positions us to advocate for our local community.

While CWEC is a locally-owned cooperative, we're part of a larger network of electric co-ops. Through our non-partisan grassroots program known as "Co-ops Vote," we're working to enhance the political strength of electric co-ops and boost voter turnout. There's power in numbers, and when we all show up at the polls, we can voice the issues that matter most to our commu-

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**National Voter  
Registration Day**  
Tuesday, September 20

Visit [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop)  
to ensure you're  
#voteready.





# Electric Line Newsletter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

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National Voter Registration Day is September 20, and midterm elections are right around the corner. If you're looking to get involved or simply make sure you're ready to vote, here are five easy ways you can exercise your civic duty.

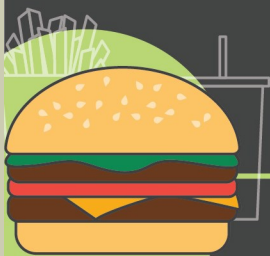
Don't assume your voter registration status is up to date. Visit [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop), then click "Election Resources" to verify your status.

Get informed. In addition to ensuring your registration is up to date, learning about local policy issues and candidates is one of the best ways you can prepare to vote.

Get active on social media. Follow @coopsvote on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and let others know you're a #coopvoter and #VoteReady; encourage your friends and family to do the same.

Help others prepare to vote. Work a National Voter Registration Day event (visit [www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org/events](http://www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org/events)), volunteer to be a poll worker during midterm elections or offer to drive others to their polling places.

## THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY



**\$5.66**

average cost  
of a Big Mac®  
value meal

**\$3.92**

average daily  
cost of power



Electricity is expressed on a daily basis using EIA 2020 Average U.S. Monthly Residential Bill of \$117.46. Big Mac® is a registered trademark of McDonald's Corporation. McDonald's Corporation does not endorse or sponsor this material.

Sources: Economist.com and EIA, 2020 data.

Vote! It's the easiest—and most important—way you can exercise your civic duty.

Voting is a form of personal empowerment that gives you the opportunity to voice your opinion on the issues that matter most to you. Make a plan to vote and help others in our community get #VoteReady.

We encourage everyone, regardless of political beliefs, to vote, stand up for our local community and make a collective impact.

The office for Central Wisconsin  
Electric Cooperative will be closed  
on Monday, Sept. 5 for Labor Day.

**Have a safe and happy weekend!**