

November 2023 >>>



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Serving Stanton County and parts of Madison, Wayne, Cuming, and Colfax counties

# EnLIGHTening NEWS



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### Contact Us:

Phone – (402)-439-2228 or (877)-439-2228

Website: [www.scppd.com](http://www.scppd.com)

Email: [scppd@scppd.net](mailto:scppd@scppd.net)

Mail: PO Box 319, Stanton, NE 68779

Office: 807 Douglas St. Stanton, NE

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### Report an Outage:

**877-439-2300**

**for after hours service**

## Serving Up Savings



The holidays are a joyous time of year, bringing a frenzy of decorating, cooking, and family gatherings. If the extra hustle and bustle leaves you with higher energy bills, we can help you find ways to save!

More from Julie Clausen inside



## Holiday savings>>>

The holiday season is just around the corner and soon, festive music will flood the airwaves, sparkling lights and decorations will adorn homes and businesses, and good tidings will abound. Holidays at my house bring a frenzy of decorating, cooking and family gatherings, amid the hectic hustle and bustle. If you're like me, you may receive higher-than-usual energy bills. Keeping this in mind, I thought this month would be a good time to remind Stanton County Public Power District customers of a few programs and efficiency tips to help lower your monthly energy

### Programs designed to help you save.

Winter months typically bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. Making minor, low-cost improvements, like weatherstripping exterior doors and caulking around old, drafty windows can make a positive impact on energy bills. If you're not sure where to start, contact SPCPD to schedule a free home energy audit. We are here to help, so I encourage you to give us a call if you'd like to learn about specific programs and services that can lower your bills.

### Be festive without breaking the bank.

Some families insist on bringing the Christmas decorations down from the attic faster than they can finish the Thanksgiving turkey. With holiday lights adorning homes for well over a month, it's a good idea to make the switch to LEDs to save energy. LED holiday lights use 88% less energy than incandescent holiday lights. Incandescent lights, will typically increase by \$33 or more. For homes that go above and beyond with incandescent holiday lighting (think Clark Griswold), energy bills could increase by as much as \$350. LEDs are also shock-resistant, shatterproof and cool to the touch, making them safer for the home. Try turning off overhead lights and using your Christmas tree to illuminate your home. If you have a fireplace, remember to close the flue when you're not burning a fire to ensure heat doesn't escape through the chimney.

### Cook up energy savings in the kitchen.

My table is laden with food, family, and friends at Thanksgiving. If you plan to have family and friends over this holiday season, you can cook up energy savings by using small countertop appliances like microwaves, air fryers and slow cookers when possible, as they use much less energy than a stovetop or oven. When using the oven, bake multiple dishes at once for maximum efficiency; it takes as much energy to cook one dish as it does to cook several. Once the food is done, leave the stove door ajar to allow the residual heat to warm the room. When using the stove top, match the pan size to the burner to maximize the stove top's efficiency.

I hope a few of these tips will be helpful as we approach the holiday season. With a little planning up front, you can find efficient ways to save on everything from holiday décor to your favorite soup recipes.

From your friends at the Stanton County Public Power District, we hope you have a wonderful holiday season!

## Honor our Veterans.

*The SPCPD office will be closed  
Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> in  
observance of Veteran's Day.*



## EnergyWise Incentives >>>

# 2023 Incentive Rebate Programs

*Energy Efficiency is important to all! If you are looking for ways to save energy and money, check our list of rebate programs. There are several options for customers to take advantage of in the 2023 year. For more information, check the website at [www.scpd.com](http://www.scpd.com) or call the office at 402-439-2228.*

**ENERGYWISE** <sup>SM</sup>  
Use less. Spend less. Do more.

#### Residential Heat Pump Water Heater:

\$400 for air source with an EF > 1.9  
\$650 for ground source with an EF > 2.8

#### High Efficiency Heat Pump:

\$400 - \$3000 Incentive  
Minimum SEER 15, EER 12.5 & HSPF 8.5  
Includes Air-to-Air, and Water/Ground source

**\*15 SEER incentive discontinued after 2023\***

#### SMART thermostat:

\$25-\$100 Incentive options

Cooling System Tune-up: \$30

Attic Insulation: \$0.15 per square foot - \$300 max.



# Beware of damaged Power Equipment

*Energy can spread like ripples on a pond.*

The transmission and distribution of power is safe and reliable much of the time. However, storms, critters, and car accidents can damage energized utility equipment such as power lines, poles, and padmount transformers (green boxes). Not only can this cause minor inconveniences, like service interruptions and road closures, it can also create life-threatening situations when energy invisibly spreads like ripples on a pond.

Here is what can occur when utility equipment is damaged:

- **Step potential** happens when a person walks from one voltage “ripple” to another, and their feet experience a difference in voltage.
- **Touch potential** happens when someone touches something at one voltage and steps on or contacts something else at a different voltage.

Both types of potential can cause serious internal and external injuries and death since electric current enters the body at one point and exits at another.

## How to stay safe

Take precautions near downed power lines, poles, or other damaged power equipment. Always assume damaged power equipment is energized; it can look lifeless and harmless and still be live.

Besides accidents, storms and animal interferences, another hazardous situation may occur when equipment or extensions get too close to or contact power equipment. To stay safe around damaged utility equipment:

- Stay inside your vehicle or cab.
- Call 9-1-1.
- Report damaged power equipment to a dispatcher.
- Only exit if you see smoke or there is a fire.

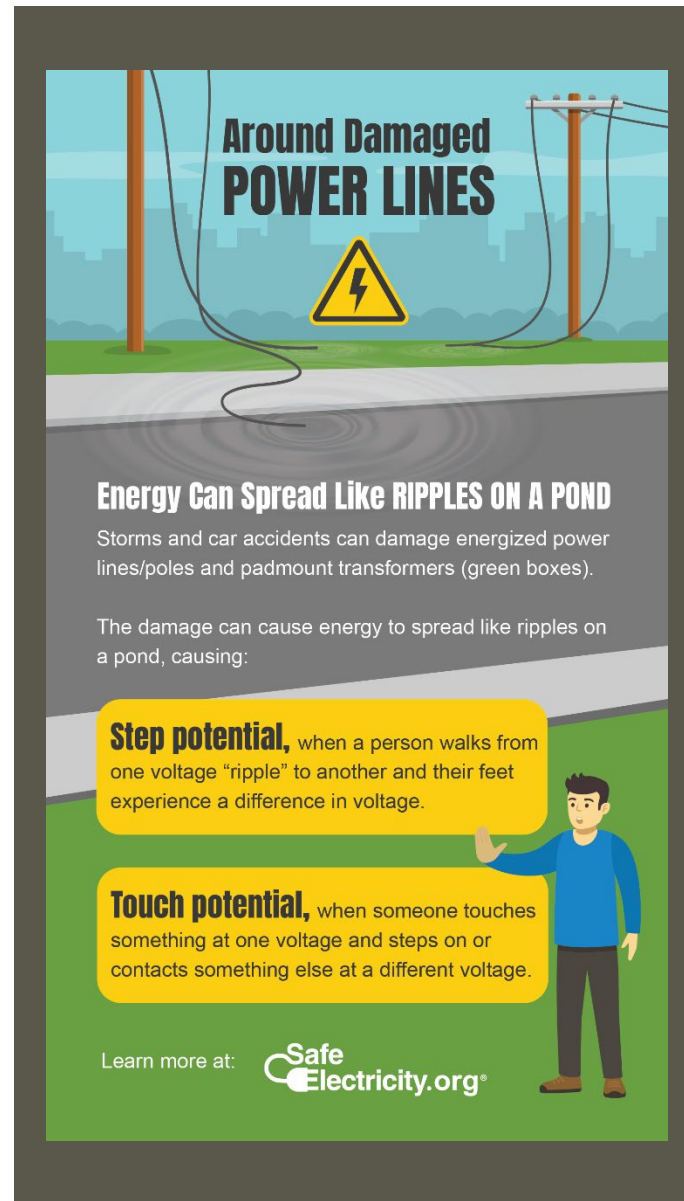
If you must exit due to a fire, carefully do the following:

- Cross your arms and make a clean jump out.
- Do not touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.
- Make solid hops with your feet together as far away as you can.
- If you are unable to hop, shuffle away without lifting your feet.
- Do not return to the vehicle.

If you are near the scene:

- Do not approach the scene to help.
- Stay at least 50 feet away.
- Do not lean on or touch anything.

Never approach a downed power line or pole or a damaged padmount transformer.



**Around Damaged POWER LINES**

**Energy Can Spread Like RIPPLES ON A POND**

Storms and car accidents can damage energized power lines/poles and padmount transformers (green boxes).

The damage can cause energy to spread like ripples on a pond, causing:

**Step potential**, when a person walks from one voltage “ripple” to another and their feet experience a difference in voltage.

**Touch potential**, when someone touches something at one voltage and steps on or contacts something else at a different voltage.

Learn more at: [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)

## Portable Generators>>> *Fuel your knowledge before powering up a generator.*

- ✓ **Prepare:** Install battery operated carbon monoxide (CO) alarms throughout your home; ensure they are working properly.
- ✓ **Position:** Place a portable generator at least 20 feet from windows and doors; do not use one in a garage or carport.
- ✓ **Read:** Carefully review and then follow all manufacturer’s instructions.
- ✓ **Protect:** If it is wet outside, keep it dry by placing it on a tarp. Position it under a portable canopy (not a carport).
- ✓ **Refuel Safely:** Turn off your portable generator and let it cool down before refueling.
- ✓ **Inspect and maintain:** Inspect a portable generator before each use and make sure it is properly maintained.



A portable generator can be useful during an outage; however, use one correctly to prevent CO poisoning and to stay safe.

**EnLIGHTening NEWS FROM YOUR  
STANTON COUNTY PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT  
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# Holiday Closings

*The SPPD office will be closed November 10<sup>th</sup> to observe  
Veterans Day.*

*The office will be closed on November 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> for the  
Thanksgiving holiday.*



It's the Law – Call  
Before You Dig!  
1-800-331-5666



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