



MARCH 2025

CO-OP CURRENT



Preparing for Spring Storms

Spring storms can be unpredictable and dangerous, bringing high winds, heavy rain, and lightning. Taking a few precautionary steps can help keep you, your loved ones, and your property safe when severe weather strikes.

PREPARE AN EMERGENCY KIT AND FAMILY PLAN

Having an emergency kit stocked with essentials such as flashlights, batteries, bottled water, and nonperishable food can be a lifesaver. Additionally, establish a family communication plan to ensure everyone knows what to do and where to go in case of an emergency.

KEEP YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S NUMBER HANDY

Power outages are common during storms. Program your electric cooperative's contact information into your cellphone so you can report outages quickly and receive updates on restoration efforts.

BE CAUTIOUS AROUND PLUMBING FIXTURES

Water pipes and bathroom fixtures can conduct electricity, posing a shock risk during storms. Avoid using sinks, tubs, and showers when lightning is present.

WATCH FOR ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

If you smell a burning odor or notice frayed wiring or sparks, shut off your home's electrical system at the main circuit breaker immediately. Addressing potential hazards quickly can help prevent fires and further damage.

USE PORTABLE GENERATORS SAFELY

If you lose power, a portable generator can be a helpful backup-but only if used correctly. Always operate generators outdoors, away from windows and doors, to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Never plug your portable generator into your home. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines to avoid electrical hazards.

By preparing ahead of time and staying informed, you can weather spring storms with confidence and keep your household safe.



TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE BEFORE AND AFTER A STORM

Keep your phone charged and consider getting an external battery.

Prepare an emergency kit, and create a family communication plan.

If someone in your home uses a life-sustaining medical device that requires electricity, alert your electric cooperative now. Plan to have a battery or emergency generator on hand before an outage occurs.

Use flashlights, not candles, to inspect your home during a power outage to prevent fire risks.

Don't touch or drive over downed power lines or anything in contact with them. Call 911, as the lines could still be energized.

If a power line falls on your vehicle, stay inside, call 911, and exit only if your life is in immediate danger. Then, jump clear of your vehicle being certain to never touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time; then shuffle away keeping your feet together at all times.

What Does It Take to Get the Lights Back On?

A LINeworker's PERSPECTIVE

When storms hit, we know your top concern is keeping the lights on - and it's ours too! Our crews work around the clock, following strict safety protocols to restore power as quickly as possible. Want to see the lineworker's perspective? Scan the QR code or visit sciremc.com.





**KNOW
WHERE IT
GOES**



STAY SAFE WHEN WORKING ON **HOME DIY** **PROJECTS**

SCI REMC'S OPERATION ROUNDUP FUNDED **Monroe County United Ministries** *WITH A \$2,000 GRANT*

Monroe County United Ministries applied for an Operation RoundUp grant to help purchase 6,582 diapers to assist families in the community. This impact was enough to provide diapers to 263 families, translating to 789 people.

"This goes a long way towards meeting the full need, but our most significant challenge has been finding a way to meet the remaining needs of our programs."

Photos provided by Monroe County United Ministries.

The Operation RoundUp Program accumulates and disburses funds for charitable purposes to individuals, families, groups, and organizations located in the service area of South Central Indiana REMC. The source of funds is the REMC's members who voluntarily participate.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OPERATION ROUNDUP

<https://www.sciremc.com/community/operation-roundup/>

CONTACT US

765.342.3344 | operationroundup@sciremc.com

Call Center Hours **We're here to help!**

Our representatives are now available to assist you with any questions or concerns Monday - Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thank you for allowing us to serve you!

Note: Our lobby hours are Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Members can also manage their accounts online at sciremc.com.

Keep these safety tips in mind when tackling home electrical projects.

Learn about your home electrical system so it's easier to navigate it safely.

Stay away from a project that is beyond your level of skill. You can help prevent tragedies by calling a professional.

Turn off the power to the circuit you plan to work on by turning off the circuit breaker in your main service panel.

Protect against electrical shocks by **using ground-fault circuit interrupters with power tools.**

Be extremely cautious when cutting or drilling into walls where electrical wires or water pipes could be accidentally touched or penetrated.