

How to Prevent Electrical Fires

Home fires started by malfunctioning electric appliances and faulty wiring kill nearly 500 Americans each year and cause \$1.3 billion in property damage. (Electrical Safety Foundation International, 2015) But many electrical fires can be prevented simply by following basic safety practices and being aware.



"Those statistics are disturbing, but behind the statistics are our families, friends, and neighbors. It's unfortunate that injuries happen when they can more than likely be avoided by taking proper precautions."

Jared Boggs, safety coordinator at NREMC

Electrical wiring consists of metal wires that "conduct" or move electricity from place to place and materials like rubber that "insulate" the conductors and keep electricity from escaping its intended path. Electrical fires can start when its protective insulator or connections are compromised and electricity escapes. This happens when there are improperly installed or outdated wiring, faulty outlets, exposed wires on cords, outdated light fixtures and appliances, overloaded outlets, and more.

If you experience dimming or flickering lights, unusual burning odors, unusual buzzing or sizzling sounds, or circuit breakers that trip repeatedly, contact a qualified electrician immediately.

"While it's important to do all we can to prevent electrical fires, we must also prepare for the worst beforehand," Boggs said.

Installing smoke detectors is the number one way to proactively keep the home and family safe. Smoke detectors should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of a home. They should be tested monthly and



October is Fire Prevention Month

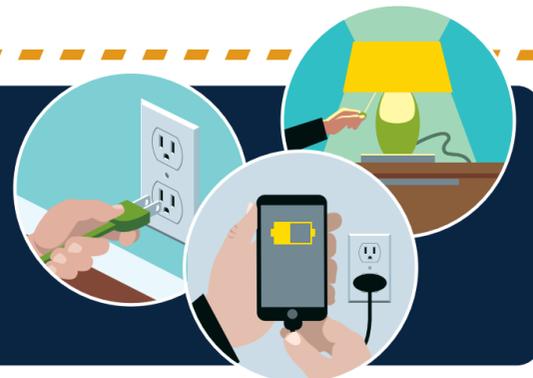
LEADING CAUSES OF ELECTRICAL FIRES

- Old wiring and aging appliances
- Using ungrounded plugs
- Overloading light fixtures
- Flammable material near light fixtures
- Extension cord misuse
- Space heaters

have their batteries replaced annually, or in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

A fire escape plan should also be in place and practiced regularly. Make sure any fire extinguishers you have are labeled for Class C, or electrical fires. Multipurpose extinguishers can be used on different types of fires and will be labeled with more than one class, like A-B-C.

To read more safety tips, browse Northeastern REMC's blog where you can find a variety of topics to help keep you and your family safe at nremc.com/blog.



Learn about electrical safety, new energy saving tips, and more at nremc.com/blog.

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Your small change is saving lives

STOP SUICIDE NORTHEAST INDIANA

OPERATION ROUND UP
Small change that changes lives

DATE: August 19, 2021
MEMBER: 4901
FOR THE ORDER OF: **Stop Suicide of NE Indiana \$2,500**
Two thousand five hundred and 00/100 DOLLARS
MEMBER: Northeastern Members

MEMO: POWERED BY NORTHEASTERN REMC

Above: NREMC CEO, Eric Jung, presents a check to Colleen Carpenter, facilitator for Stop Suicide Northeast Indiana.

Operation Round Up Donates \$2,500 to Stop Suicide Northeast Indiana

Members Round Up Their Bills to Help Teens During Suicide Prevention Month

Each month, more than 1,300 Northeastern members like you choose to round up their electric bills to the next whole dollar to help nonprofit organizations in northern Indiana as part of Operation Round Up.

This quarter, a donation of \$2,500 was given to Stop Suicide Northeast Indiana and their partner, the Drug & Alcohol Consortium of Allen County (DAC). The funds will be used to create thousands of informational toolkits for area youth. The toolkits will help teens understand how to get help if they're contemplating suicide or

know someone who is and assist those experiencing the trauma of a loved one's suicide to understand and communicate their loss, along with how to begin their grieving process. These toolkits will be sent to local schools, churches, social service agencies, and healthcare providers to reach as many teenagers as possible in northern Indiana.

Read more about this program on page 4.

Enroll now and help us make an even greater impact!

To learn how to enroll in Operation Round Up, go to nremc.com/roundup.



Board of Directors Election Results



"I will continue leveraging my years of experience to help Northeastern navigate new complex projects while still bringing local needs into the boardroom to make sure policies and programs offered at Northeastern REMC make sense for all members."

- Doug Schrader



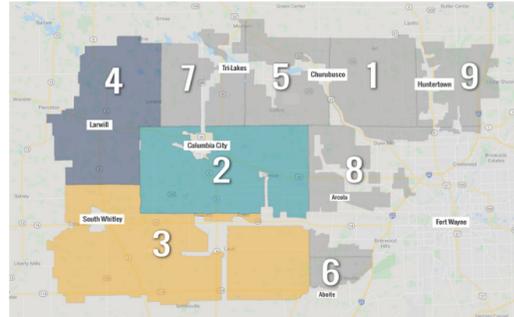
"Thank you for re-electing me to represent District 3 for the next three years. I feel confident we will be able to maneuver everything that comes our way. Together our board, filled with vast experience, can make a difference in our shared communities."

- Ingrid Tippmann Nicholson



"It is an honor to serve our friends and neighbors in District 4 for three more years. We are committed to staying on top of any potential problems facing electrical cooperatives like Northeastern REMC."

- Tom Western



From the Field: A Look at Work From Our Service Area

Our crews are always out and about working on new service, helping to maintain our existing infrastructure, and working to restore power when Mother Nature has given us some trouble.

Please remember to avoid active work areas or when there are fallen lines or poles. These pictures were taken by staff wearing proper safety equipment after the power was disconnected.

Right: A crew works on repairing some underground lines near Coventry on the southwest side of Fort Wayne



Above: A look inside of one of our battery containers at our new battery storage sites

Top left: An overturned semi-truck on U.S. 33 that destroyed a pole

Bottom left: Damage from a storm last month at Lake Everett in Whitley County

Hunters-Be Mindful of Electrical Safety

Never shoot near or toward overhead power lines, power poles, or substations. A stray bullet can cause damage to equipment. Sometimes the damage, such as to an insulator, isn't noticed until it rains. The damage can cause an outage or a fire.

Take notice of warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.

Do not use utility poles or towers to support equipment used in your hunting activity or for supporting deer stands. Energized lines and equipment on the poles can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.



Community Outreach: Clash of the Eagles Rivalry



We were at the Clash of the Eagles last month where the Columbia City Eagles and the Churubusco Eagles kicked off their football season. Northeastern members were given a free seat cushion and a \$5 concession voucher just for following us on Facebook. We were happy to see so many of you supporting this local football rivalry! We hope to have more events like this soon!

Operation Round Up (Continued From Cover)

"Many people aren't aware of what to do when someone is thinking about suicide, has had a suicide attempt, or a loved one has died by suicide. In fact, many people falsely assume that they shouldn't ask someone if they are having suicidal thoughts because they think they will be, "planting the idea," or are afraid they will somehow make it worse. When in fact the best practice is to talk directly and openly about someone's suicide thoughts, attempt, or suicide death," said MaryClare Clark, MSW, LSW, executive director of the DAC of Allen County.

"We are honored to accept this contribution on behalf of Stop Suicide Northeast Indiana from Operation Round Up. These funds will help to further efforts in addressing the growing, tragic problem of suicide we face in northeast Indiana," Clark added.

To learn more about Stop Suicide Northeast Indiana, you can go to stopsuicidenow.org.

SEPTEMBER IS SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

The COVID19 pandemic has affected more than just physical health.

IT'S OKAY TO NOT BE OKAY

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255

Text "IN" to 741741
Call 2-1-1 to speak with a trained counselor 24/7

#BeThe1To SAVE A LIFE

Ask "Are you thinking about suicide?"
Show up for that person.

Keep them safe by knowing if they have a plan or access to lethal means.
Help them connect to resources and information on mental health professionals.
Follow up and see how they are doing.

Be Well Indiana
INDIANA SUICIDE PREVENTION NETWORK
STOP SUICIDE



Avoid Utility Scams

Recently, several Northeastern REMC members were targeted through a phone scam where the scammers demanded payment and threatened to shut off power if payment was not made immediately. Remember, we will never call you and demand immediate payment.

If the request seems strange and out of the ordinary, you're likely being targeted by a scammer.

Learn tips for avoiding a scam: nremc.com/utility-scams

College Scholarships Available

We are happy to announce that we will, again, be assisting our young members in their pursuit of higher education by awarding two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors of the class of 2022!

Apply now: nremc.com/college-scholarship

Closed on Thanksgiving

Our office will be closed on Thursday, November 25, and Friday, November 26, so our employees can celebrate Thanksgiving. Please remember you can always manage your account online, report power outages, and more at nremc.com.

Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on all things co-op related!

facebook.com/nremc

Contact Us
memberservices@nremc.com
888-413-6111
nremc.com
Call 811 before you dig!

Thank you for voting!



4 PERKS OF GOING PAPERLESS with your electric bill.

Immediate access
As soon as your bill is ready, you'll be notified via email or text. Getting the bill earlier means you'll have more time to pay it.

Around the clock Everyday
Pay your bill 24/7 and access past bills whenever you need to.

Curb the clutter
Ensure your bill will never be lost and forgotten under that growing paper pile on your kitchen counter.

Environmentally speaking
By cutting back on paper use, you're helping preserve our natural resources.

Say "yes" to paperless and sign up now!
Just create or log in to your online account at nremc.com.