Amber Weaver

February Commkit

Safety– Preparing for Ice

**Winter Storm Electrical Safety**

While winter weather can be beautiful to behold, fun to play in and gets the kids out of school, it can lead to the threat of ice and ultimately, electrical hazards. As you keep an eye on the weather forecast, here are some tips to be mindful of to keep you and your family safe this winter.

**Regularly Check Trees.** Heavy snow and ice can bring trees and branches down onto power lines, which could lead to power outages during extremely cold temperatures. Do a regular check of trees around your property, and call [CO-OP NAME] to come trim branches when needed.

**Inspect Space Heaters.** Likely, when you pull the space heater back out of the closet or garage, it will need to be cleaned and checked. Inspect for cracked or broken plugs or loose connections before each use. If the cord is frayed or damaged, do not use the heater.

**Use Portable Generators Safely.** Do not operate a portable generator in your home, basement or garage. They can quickly produce high levels of carbon monoxide which can result in death. Fans or open windows won’t provide enough fresh air to keep you safe.

**Beware Of Downed Power Lines.** Call [CO-OP NAME] immediately. Always assume downed power lines are energized. Stay away from the line and any nearby objects that might be touching the line like a fence or tree limb. Do not attempt to move the downed power line.

**Stay In Your Vehicle.** If you must get out in a winter storm, use the utmost caution. If you lose control of your vehicle and hit a power pole, stay in your car, unless it is on fire. Getting out of your car puts you at risk for shock. If you must get out, do not touch your vehicle. Jump with your feet together and hop away. The Electrical Safety Authority recommends staying back the length of a school bus from the downed power line.