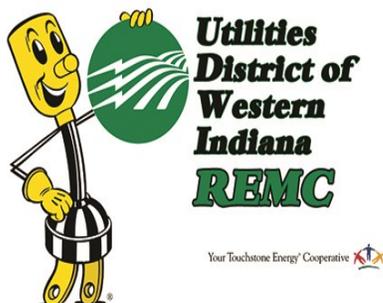


News from Your Co-op

December 2019



Did you know?

UDWI'S texting service will send you outage updates, as well as allow you to text in your own outages!

To sign up, visit

www.udwiremc.com/outage-hub



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Emergency Preparedness

Dad was the keeper of the cars.

Growing up, I received one ironclad rule about driving from him -- never bring the car home low on gas. As a teenager with limited funds, I grumbled a little under my breath. We lived in the country. Gas station options were limited. Our decades-old vehicles weren't exactly fuel efficient. The rule seemed expensive to me, but one morning when I noticed our local gas station wasn't open yet, I was thankful to be among those with enough gas to reach town.

Mom was the keeper of family finances.

In-between reminders about buckling my seatbelt (which she continues to this day), she was always hard at work with her children, teaching us the value of money, and how important it is to keep a little saved back for a rainy day.

Emergency preparedness lesson #1 -- If you don't prepare for an emergency, you can't help yourself.

Years later, a friend and I took a road trip to Pike's Peak in Colorado and, thanks to parents who taught me the value of being prepared, I saved space for emergency supplies in the trunk. Our trip up the mountain was majestic but uneventful. The way down, however, was a different story. Another motorist's vehicle had overheated and was losing coolant. Luckily, I had enough supplies to get them and their family safely down the mountain to a repair shop.

Emergency preparedness lesson #2 -- If you don't prepare for an emergency, you can't help anyone else.

I use those lessons every day in my job. We constantly talk about mitigating risks or reducing vulnerabilities. We keep plans in place so that we can act quickly in case of emergency. I take every opportunity to research the topic, looking for a little more knowledge or a more effective technique.

We have a responsibility to our members and to our employees to keep them safe in an emergency through careful planning and preparation. Part of my job is laying the necessary groundwork to know that we are ready.

Buckling my seatbelt after a gas station stop on my way to work, I am often reminded of the important lessons from my parents. In retrospect, both the lessons and the reasons seem obvious.

Let someone know where you're going and what route you're taking. Keep tools with you. Make sure the spare isn't flat before a trip. Always expect something can go wrong, and when it does, be prepared to handle it.

What is taught today in seminars, my parents learned from experience -- the difference between an emergency and a disaster is being prepared.

*Shane Smith
Director of Operations and Engineering*



Happy Holidays!

In honor of the holidays, the UDWI REMC office will be closed December 24th and 25th, as well as January 1st. We wish you a joyous and safe Christmas and a Happy New Year!

HOLIDAY D.I.Y.

Snowflake Door Hanger



Materials:

- Wreath hook
- Snowflakes
- Hot glue gun
- One piece of string

Directions:

1. Lay the snowflakes out in your desired pattern.
2. Hot glue the edges of the snowflakes together, overlapping the corners to give yourself a place to add the glue.
3. Attach the string to the top of the display with hot glue.
4. When dried, hang the string on the wreath holder.
5. It's ready for the door!

How co-ops are different



Electric Co-Ops



Consumers served per mile: 7

Other Electric Utilities



Consumers served per mile: 32

Electric cooperatives maintain more miles of power lines per consumer than other types of electric utilities. Even though they serve fewer consumers and generate less revenue, electric co-ops always go the extra mile to power the communities they serve.

Qualifications for UDWI REMC Board of Directors

To be eligible to become a director of the REMC, a person must meet the following qualifications:

- 1) Must be a member of the cooperative;
- 2) Must be a bona fide resident in the district which he/she is to represent;
- 3) Must not be in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the REMC, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to members of the cooperative;
- 4) Must not be a close relative of an incumbent director or an employee of the REMC.

Three directors will be elected at the 2020 annual meeting. Districts 1, 2 and 4 are up for election. Candidates will be elected to serve a three-year term.

Interested candidates must contact the UDWI office to receive a candidate packet.

Completed packets must be turned in on or before Friday, January 24, 2020.



UDWI would like to congratulate Berry Plastics on the ground breaking for its expansion to its facilities in Daviess County.

Berry Plastics is undergoing a 40,000 square foot expansion with a multi-million dollar cost. Eleven more jobs are expected to be created at the plant, which will increase employee numbers to over fifty.

One of the real joys of the holiday season is the opportunity to say THANK YOU and wish you the very best for the new year.