

SPD Newsletter

Series 35, Issue 5
May 2018

LIGHTING THE WAY

Together We Can Weather Any Storm

We would like to thank all of our customers for your patience and understanding as our lineworkers responded to the blizzard conditions during the April 14th storm. Outages affected our customers at approximately 1:00 AM and our last customer was brought back into service on April 15th at 9:40 pm.

We are very pleased with the tireless determination shown by our lineworkers. Their efforts likely seemed fruitless to them as each outage restored was replaced by a brand new one. When the winds finally calmed on Sunday, they exceeded our expectations by restoring power to all customers by the end of the night. We thank you all for the words of support you have so generously shared with our linemen in recent weeks for their efforts!

Updated, User-Friendly Website Launched

We are pleased to announce that our website has a new look! While we feel this new design is visually appealing, our intent was to provide a website that simplifies a viewer's process in locating the information they are seeking.

The content includes a variety of options accessible from the navigation menu, including links to customer account functions, rates, safety and general information about the District. The home page also emphasizes some of our most commonly sought features, including a link to the SmartHub portal, load management updates, and a variety of other content that will be updated frequently.

We invite you to bookmark this website, and visit often to keep yourself educated about your service with Southern Power District.

The screenshot shows the Southern Power District website home page. At the top left is the SPD logo with the tagline "Lighting The Way". To the right of the logo is the contact information: "Southern Power District, PO Box 1687 / 4550 West Husker Hwy, Grand Island, NE 68802-1687, 308-384-2350 / 800-579-3019". Below this is a navigation menu with links for "About Us", "Customer Service", "News", "Community & Development", "Safety & Efficiency", and "Irrigation". The main content area features a large green banner for "PLANTING SEASON SAFETY" with a background image of corn. The banner text reads: "Look Up. Look Out. Live! Those five simple words can help you to prevent an accident when you are working on the farm or in the field near power lines. We understand that the weather has caused some delays in the planting ...". Below the banner are three featured sections: "Load Control Status" with a wind turbine image, "Incentive Programs" with a globe image, and "SmartHub" with the SmartHub logo. Each section has a "Read More..." button. At the bottom of the page, there are sections for "LINKS" (Nebraska Power Association, Nebraska Energy Office, Diggers Hotline, Safe Electricity), "CURRENT NEWS" with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Pinterest, and a "SouthernPD" Twitter feed showing a tweet from 47m ago with the text: "Watch Twitter for outage updates. Call 888-484-2470 to report outages. Information will also be provided & updated as needed at".

May is Electrical Safety Month

Electrical hazards are all around us, and the dangers are present at home, at work, and at play. The conveniences delivered by the power lines up above and the outlets in your wall are taken for granted at times, so much that we often forget they are a part of our daily lives!

May is nationally recognized as Electrical Safety Month. We would like to offer you some tips on a variety of topics relating to electrical safety. To learn more, visit www.southernpd.com.



ON THE FARM



- Keep cultivators, sprayers and planters **AT LEAST 10 FEET** from power lines and electrical facilities.
- Use a spotter when maneuvering large equipment.
- Inspect entrances into fields to ensure adequate clearance for equipment.
- Use a spotter from a good vantage point to verify that entry points offer sufficient clearance.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If you're equipment contacts a power line, remain inside the vehicle until linemen from SPD arrive to de-energize the line. Stepping out of the equipment creates a path from the equipment to the ground, and electricity will use YOU as a path.

CORDS



- Do not overuse power strips in your home. Call a qualified electrician to install additional outlets, if needed.
- Never place extension cords in high traffic areas, under carpets or across walkways, where they pose a potential tripping hazard.
- Frayed or damaged extension cords are dangerous and should never be used. Damage to the cord can expose wires and cause fire and shock hazards.

OUTDOORS



- Remember to keep a minimum of 10 feet between ladders and power lines.
- Use lighting and power tools that have an independent test laboratory label. Make sure they're made for outdoor use.
- In damp locations, inspect all electrical cords and equipment. Assure they are in good condition and free of defects. Use a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) if possible.
- Use covers on outdoor power outlets, especially near swimming pools. Keep cords and electrical devices away from the water, and never handle electrical items before you've dried off.

LIGHTING



- Bulb wattage matters! Light bulbs with wattages that are too high for the fixture can overheat it, causing a fire hazard.
- Lamps are great accents for our homes. Place them on level surfaces, and away from flammable items.
- Flickering or dimming lights? Contact an electrician to check your home's wiring.

SMALL CHILDREN



- If you have small children at home, install tamper-resistant receptacles.
- Teach your kids to always ask an adult for help when plugging or removing cords from an outlet.

AROUND THE HOUSE



- Before installing a window A/C unit, make sure the electrical circuit and outlet are able to handle the load. Large units should have their own circuit to avoid overload.
- Make a map showing which fuse or circuit breaker controls each switch, light or outlet in your home.
- Recurring tripped circuit breakers or multiple blown fuses? Call a licensed electrician immediately.
- DIY project for the home? Always turn off the power to the circuit that you plan to work on by switching off the circuit breaker in the main service panel.

FIRE SAFETY

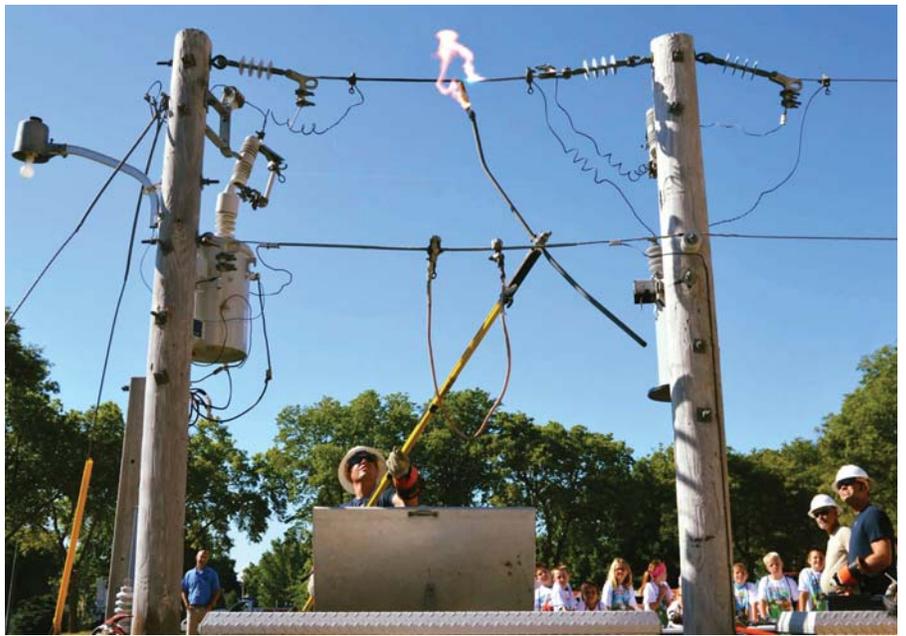


- Smoke detectors should be tested monthly to ensure they are properly working.
- Smoke detectors should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- Never throw water on an electrical fire! Use your chemical fire extinguisher instead.
- When cooking, remember to set a timer to remind yourself to check on food that is simmering or in the oven. Always double check to make sure burners and appliances are turned off when you're done.

Electrical Safety On Display

If you would like to learn even more about electrical safety, consider asking Southern to provide a Hotline Demonstration at an event in your community.

The demonstrations are conducted by utility linemen, and the information can be tailored to meet the needs of any group. Contact LeAnne Doose or Todd Bailey at Southern Power District.



Generator Safety

If you found yourself without power after the April 14th blizzard, did you find yourself wishing for the convenience of a portable generator? These devices are helpful for providing electricity to keep your food cold or to temporarily warm or cool your home. But safely using one requires some planning.

In order to use a generator, you must enlist the services of a qualified electrician who can install a double throw switch. Failing to do so can result in damages to the equipment in your home or even worse, an injury or fatality for our linemen. If you need to have a double throw switch installed, talk to an electrician BEFORE the next storm strikes.

Another option for connecting a portable generator is the GenerLink emergency transfer switch. It is a meter-based device that is installed behind your meter by SPD linemen. To learn more, visit www.southernpd.com.

And finally, before using a portable generator, read through the safety and usage guidelines provided with the unit at the time of purchase.



Moving An Oversized Structure?

It is a common time of the year for moving or transporting oversized loads such as buildings or pivots. There are very important requirements in place for your safety before completing this dangerous task.

Any person transporting a load more than 16 feet high or wider than the roadway must contact the local utility responsible for the infrastructure along the route prior to a move. This is a requirement established by the Nebraska State Legislature and failing to do so may result in a Class II misdemeanor and other fines.

Anyone moving such a load absolutely must not move or manipulate overhead high voltage lines or conductors and related components.

If you are traveling through Southern Public Power District's region, you must fill out the **OVERSIZED LOAD PROOF OF NOTIFICATION FORM** located on our website. The completed form must be received by our Engineering/Operations Department 10 days prior to your move.

If you have additional questions, please contact any of our local service centers.

The image shows a form titled "OVERSIZED LOAD PROOF OF NOTIFICATION" from Southern Public Power District. The form includes fields for contact information, load description, and approval. It also contains a warning: "The mover is NOT authorized to manipulate Southern PPD lines or other infrastructure. Only Southern PPD staff are authorized to raise or lower power lines or remove other Southern PPD property to accommodate the oversized load." The form is marked with a yellow warning triangle icon.

**Required by state law.
No exceptions!**



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CONTACT US BY PHONE:

308-384-2350 or 800-579-3019

ON THE WEB AT:

www.southernpd.com

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This newsletter is published as a service to Southern Power District's customers.

Comments or questions?

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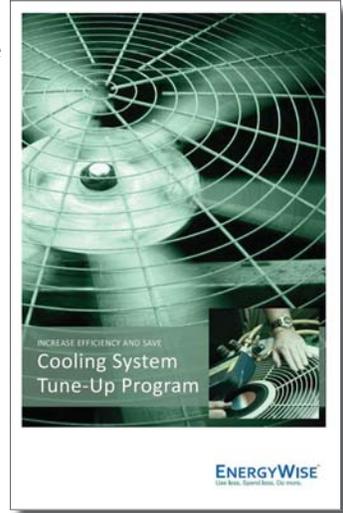
Cooling Tune-Up Incentive

Warmer days are coming. As we begin transitioning into Spring, its a great time to make sure your cooling unit is ready to do its job!

Regular tune-ups on your cooling system are important in assuring its efficient performance, and ultimately, provides savings in your cooling costs. Systems that have been neglected can yield a savings of five to fifteen percent in energy costs, or more, if you invest in a tune-up! Also, a tune-up can extend the life of your unit.

Southern Power District offers a \$30 EnergyWise incentive to homeowners that have their cooling system tuned-up, regardless of what type or age the system is. This incentive is available to residential customers once every three years.

If you would like to learn more and access an application for the Cooling System Tune Up Incentive, log onto our website at www.southernpd.com.



Account Management with SmartHub

SmartHub is a customer self-serve solution that allows you to manage your SPD accounts with mobile and web apps in a secure environment. With this app you can easily view your billing, usage and payment history, pay your bill, and all in a paperless format. Sign up by visiting our website at www.southernpd.com.



CHEESECAKE LEMON BARS

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/2 C. all-purpose flour
- 1/2 C. confectioners' sugar
- 3/4 C. unsalted butter, cut into cubes
- 4 eggs
- 1 1/2 C. white sugar
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1 T. lemon zest
- 1/2 C. lemon juice
- 2 (8-oz.) pkgs. cream cheese, softened
- 1 C. white sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat an oven to 350 degrees. Lightly butter a 9x13-inch baking dish. Whisk together 1 1/2 C. flour and confectioners' sugar in a mixing bowl. Cut in the cold butter with a knife or pastry blender until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Press the crumbs into the bottom and up the sides of the prepared baking dish to form a crust.

Bake in the preheated oven until golden brown, 15 to 18 minutes. Remove from oven, and set aside.

Whisk together 4 eggs, 1 1/2 cup sugar, 1 tablespoon flour, lemon zest, and lemon juice in a bowl. Pour lemon mixture into the prepared crust. Skim off any bubbles from the surface of the filling. Mix the cream cheese and 1 cup sugar in a bowl until well blended. Whisk in 2 eggs, then spread over the lemon mixture. The mixtures will separate during baking.

Bake in the preheated oven until the filling is set, about 30 minutes.