

NEWS

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For Immediate Release:

Firelands Electric Cooperative taking proactive approach to prepare for severe weather approaching the region

NEW LONDON, February 1, 2022 @ 12:40PM — With extreme winter weather such as ice, freezing rain, and snow looking increasingly possible for our area, Firelands Electric Cooperative started preparing Monday morning for the possibility of worsening conditions by securing extra supplies, placing crews on stand-by, and arranging staff to be available for extended shifts.

With the upcoming weather predictions, Firelands Electric Cooperative wants to remind members that ice, heavy snow, and traffic accidents can lead to broken poles and downed power lines. This can result in co-op members being without power for an extended time. Excessive amounts of ice and snow on trees and power lines can create a worst-case scenario, depending upon the severity of the storm, and Firelands' crews will work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power.



"Firelands Electric Co-op is now in emergency planning mode for a significant weather event," General Manager Dan McNaul says. "Should this weather trend continue, we will suspend normal operations Thursday morning and activate storm emergency procedures."

All Firelands Electric personnel will be on hand and the cooperative recommends members also be prepared. Always maintain an emergency kit stocked with food, water, prescriptions, flashlights, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries. Those who rely on electricity-dependent medical devices, such as oxygen, need to have a plan in place in case they experience an extended outage.

Find out how you can be ready for potential power outages by using the resources available on the cooperative's website at www.firelandsec.com/outages. Members of Firelands Electric can also sign up for SmartHub to receive text alerts regarding outages and restoral information.

Members wishing to report an outage or speak with dispatchers must contact Firelands Electric's outage hotline at 1-800-533-8658. The cooperative reminds members that contacting them through the local phone number or social media outlets could result in slower response times.

Please use extreme caution while traveling during and after storms. Notify emergency officials as well as Firelands Electric Cooperative of any downed power lines within the cooperative's service territory. Outage information is available on Firelands Electric's website, www.FirelandsEC.com. The latest updates can be accessed through the cooperative's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/FirelandsElectric>, and Twitter feed, <https://twitter.com/Firelands>.