



IMPROVING YOUR YARD?

KNOW WHAT'S ABOVE AND BELOW BEFORE YOU START

When the temperatures begin to warm, many of us begin planning improvements to our outdoor spaces. This could include building a deck, adding a patio or firepit, or assembling play equipment for your family to enjoy. However, it is important to plan for safety prior to adding an outdoor structure or improving your yard.

Power Line Awareness

Being aware of power line locations near your home is vitally important for your and your family's safety. Even drop-down lines—the lines that bring power to a home—have voltages running through them and can be dangerous. Always look up and around for power lines, recognizing too that electricity can jump or transfer even without direct contact, before starting any outdoor project. Also know what's below before starting any digging job.

Bayfield Electric Cooperative and Safe Electricity offer these tips to keep in mind while working in your yard:

- Assume that all power lines are always energized and keep at least 10 feet between a power line and you or any item you are holding.
- Perform a hazard assessment of the work area, noting all power line locations.
- Call 811 or your state's underground utility locator service to mark underground utilities as part of planning and before any digging. The service is free.

- Utility locators do not mark private lines. Private underground lines—typically installed by the homeowner or a contractor—include, but are not limited to:
 - Irrigation or septic system lines.
 - Lines that service outbuildings (electric, gas, water, communication).
 - Lines between the meter and your home.
 - Lines to other outdoor items like grills or hot tubs.

Private lines need to be marked by an independent locating service.

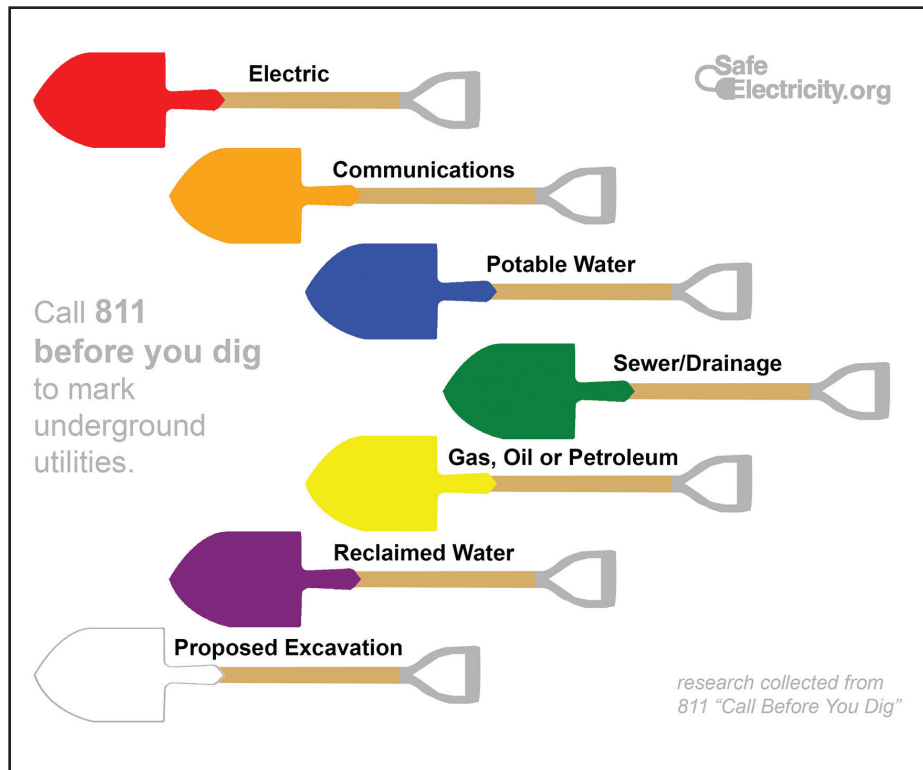
- Once underground utilities are marked, the 811 “Call Before You Dig” service recommends that the area within 18 to 24 inches of either side of the marked lines be dug by hand with a fiberglass-handled shovel, not by machine.
- Do not install tree houses, playsets or swing sets, pools or decks and any associated structures within 25 feet of a power line. Consider the height and reach of play equipment (including the arc of a swing) and all deck and pool structures in relation to power lines.
- Educate your children about power line safety and how electricity can jump. Teach them to never touch a power line or get too close to one—either directly or with a toy or object. This is especially important if they climb trees, fly kites, or use remote-control (RC) devices, such as an RC airplane or drone.

Continued

- Use extreme caution when moving ladders and operating long-handled tools, such as pool skimmers, around trees and power lines.
- Also use extreme caution and look up and around for power lines when you are elevated, whether it be on a ladder, a boom lift, scaffolding, or your roof.
- When planting and trimming trees, keep in mind that specialized tree trimming experts certified by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in utility clearance are the only persons legally allowed to trim within 10 feet of power lines.

Please contact us with questions about specific power line clearance recommendations concerning decks, pools, and play structures in your yard.

For more information about electrical safety, please visit SafeElectricity.org.



REMINDER: Summer Load Management Season is here

The Summer Load Management season is in full swing. The season began May 1 and extends through October 31. The Summer Full Load Control strategy targets the months of June, July, and August. You can help us by doing the Summer Shift. The goal of the Summer Shift program is to move non-essential electricity use to before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m. during June, July, and August. These are times when electricity use is not at its peak and, therefore, is not as expensive on the open market.

By shifting their electricity use to off-peak times, the cooperative's wholesale power provider—Dairyland Power Cooperative—does have to purchase as much power when electricity is more expensive. When the cooperative saves, members do as well.

If you have any questions or concerns about load management, please check our website.



WORKING FOR YOU

Bayfield Electric Cooperatives directors Mark Santikko, James Kinzie, and Michael Nelson were among the more than 1,200 electric cooperative leaders from across the nation who participated in NRECA's Legislative Conference in April. They gathered in Washington, D.C., to meet with elected officials and their staff to advocate for policies that support reliable, affordable electricity.



Above left: Director Mark Santikko visits with staff from Senator Tammy Baldwin's office. Above right: Director Jim Kinzie makes a point during a Senate office visit.



Above: Directors Michael Nelson (third from left in back), Mark Santikko (second from right), and Jim Kinzie (third from right) meet with staff from Rep. Tom Tiffany's office (left).

ALWAYS Report Your Power Outage



If your power goes out, you should never assume that someone else will call it in. While that might be true in some cases, there are other times where an isolated outage is the problem.

In the event that your service is interrupted, the first thing you should do is check your fuses or breakers to make sure the problem is not your own. Next, check to see if your neighbors have power. This gives the line crews an idea of the extent of the outage.

You can report an outage anytime, day or night, by calling 715-372-4047. This is our designated outage line. If you call our regular office number to report an outage, you will need to press option 1 so your call can be transferred. If you have information about the cause of the outage (tree limb, broken pole, etc.) please tell the dispatcher as this can help speed the restoration of service.

Please be patient! Your service will be restored as soon as possible. Line outages will be repaired first, then individual services will be next.



To report an outage, call
715-372-4047



In April we celebrated Lineman Appreciation Day. We would like to thank John and Dorothy Budiash for the amazing lineman cake that they made in honor of our linemen and their years of service. Thank-you for your kindness!



Annual Cable CARE 5K or 10K Walk/Run July 4, 2024

Sign up now for the Annual CARE run in downtown Cable. There's an option to do a 5K walk OR 5K or 10K run. Beverages and snacks are provided after the race. There will also be a Fourth of July parade, and a cookout at the Cable Town Park following the race, you're encouraged to stay and enjoy the festivities! Runners are eligible for age group prizes, which are CARE dollars that may be used at eligible businesses.

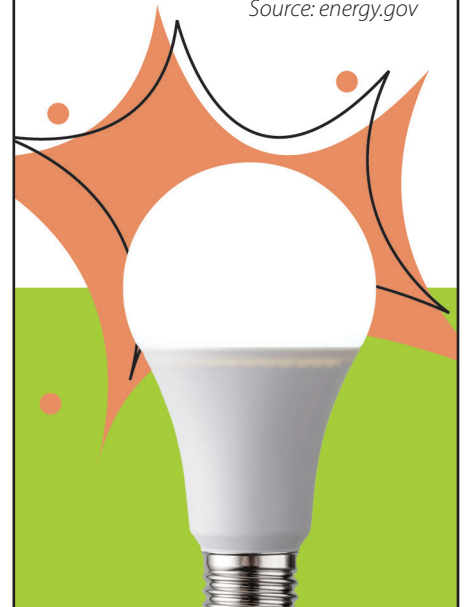
Registration fees are \$35 + \$3.10 sign-up fee, and \$25 for children 17 and under. Register now to claim your spot and T-shirt! Online registration is preferred, see more information at www.cableareacare.org.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know ceiling fans can help you save energy? Ceiling fans create a windchill effect on your skin to make you feel a few degrees cooler. Raise the thermostat a few degrees and turn on fans to reduce air-conditioning costs.

Set ceiling fan blades to rotate counterclockwise during summer months and clockwise during winter months. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don't actually lower the indoor temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: energy.gov



MONTH OF JUNE

Billing date: **June 7, 2024**

May usage

Bills due upon receipt

Gross due after
June 27, 2024



Christopher Kopel, CEO


68460 District St., P.O. Box 68, Iron River, WI 54847
715-372-4287 • Fax: 715-372-4318
www.bayfieldelectric.com

Payment by Phone: 855-385-9978
After Hours Outage: 715-372-4047

Amanda Kavajecz, Editor



Bayfield Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Monday–Friday
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