

Flood Preparedness 2010

It appears that the threat of flooding in eastern North Dakota is once again a possibility this spring. In order to properly prepare for this event, we would like to take this time to remind our members that safety is important to us. Here are some things members should keep in mind during the next several weeks:

- 1) Be ready, stay alert and have an evacuation plan.
- 2) Members should be familiar with their electrical panel and be prepared to turn off breakers if it can be safely done.
- 3) Members must notify CCEC if their power needs to be turned off. It is important that they DO NOT pull their meter; doing so can be very dangerous. If power must be shut off, turn off your main breaker if it is safe and call CCEC to disconnect the meter.
- 4) If using a generator, it must be in good working condition and properly connected. A generator should never be used in an enclosed area (garage, basement, etc.)

We understand how important it is to keep the power on during flood fighting efforts, but safety is paramount. If members must leave in a hurry, they must call us. Please understand that Cass County Electric Cooperative will disconnect service only under the following conditions during a flood:

- 1) at member's request, and only if we can do so safely.
- 2) if we determine that the home is flooded beyond habitation
- 3) if it causes imminent danger by leaving the power on
- 4) if our equipment is flooded and damaged beyond use, and leaving it energized would be hazardous or problematic

It is important to remember that The North Dakota State Electrical Board requires homes that have water-damaged electrical systems be inspected. CCEC urges extreme caution if electrical circuits have been exposed to flood water. Those circuits will need to be disconnected in the panel and members will need to call a licensed electrician to repair them once the flood danger has passed. A wiring certificate is required to restore service to any flood-damaged home.

Working on damaged electrical equipment or circuits is extremely dangerous in wet conditions. The safest thing to do is have a licensed electrician set up a temporary electrical service, which we will then use to connect our service wire; and then members will be free to clean, inspect and repair any damage they may have. Please call CCEC with any questions at 701-356-4466 or 701-356-4470.