



FLOOD PREPAREDNESS: General Information

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, CCEC would like to take this time to remind our members that safety is the most important issue when fighting a flood. Here are some things members should keep in mind during the next several weeks:

1. If you are in a flood-prone area, start your preparation plans now.
2. Watch the flood forecasts and be ready, stay alert, and have an evacuation plan.
3. Be familiar with your electrical panel and be prepared to turn off breakers if it can be safely done.
4. 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 to do so) and call CCEC to disconnect the service.
5. If using a generator, it must be in good working condition and properly connected. A generator should never be used in an enclosed area such as a garage, shop, basement, etc. (see bulletin **FLOOD PREPAREDNESS: Flood Related Power Outages**)

CCEC understands how important it is to keep the power on during flood fighting efforts, but safety is paramount. If members must leave in a hurry and need their power disconnected, please try to notify us immediately. Please understand that CCEC will disconnect service only under the following conditions during a flood:

1. At the member's request, and only if it can be done safely
2. If CCEC determines that the home is flooded beyond habitation
3. If leaving the electric service energized causes imminent danger
4. If CCEC's 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 before power is restored. 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 structure.

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 CCEC will then energize after which members will be free to clean, inspect and repair any damage they may have.

For more information, call 701-356-4666