



REG RUDOLPH

WE PUT VALUE ON THE LINE

BY REG RUDOLPH GENERAL MANAGER

Electricity keeps us connected to our modern world. Consider all the necessities and conveniences we enjoy, partly because of the power lines running to your home. Count up your televisions; desktop, laptop and tablet computers; printers; gaming consoles; music and video players; and cell phones. Whether they get used every day or just occasionally, the electricity that keeps them working provides a great value.

The good news: Even as we rely more on electricity, it's still a bargain, especially compared to other things we pay for regularly.

Since 2011, medical care, residential rental rates and education increased at rates of 3 percent or more per year. Butter, meat and egg costs have been up by more than 1 to 2 percent annually, and even bread costs rose more than a half point on average.

Electricity costs from San Isabel Electric have been flat for several years, and we are expecting rate stability to continue into the future. Even with more household products being used in homes, we are seeing consumption declining. That means we're doing more things with less energy. And that means efficiency measures are working with increasing dependence on the products that power our lives.

Kilowatt-hour use per household dropped by 8 percent between 2010 and 2016, slightly less than the 9 percent decline reported by all electric utilities nationwide.

When it comes to value, electricity is a clear winner, and we're always looking for ways to work with you to make it even



 The average home today has 10 Wi-Fi connected devices. It is expected to rise to 50 devices by 2020. SIEA helps members stay connected with reliable electricity.

better. That's why San Isabel Electric urges energy efficiency. We encourage you to look for Energy Star appliances, and we promote technology designed to give members more control over their electricity use. Our commitment to helping our members save money is backed by our robust energy efficiency programs that can be found at siea.com/energyresources.

Energy performance dashboards, smart thermostats and power strips, as well as appliance settings that shift most water heating, laundry and dishwashing outside of peak rate periods help reduce the co-op's overall power demand. They also give you opportunities to control or even trim your monthly utility bills.

That's good for families, couples and individuals trying to live within their budgets. And it's going to become even

more important as digital devices and internet-connected technologies become even more important in our lives. Our SmartHub app can be downloaded on your mobile device to give you a firsthand look into when and how you use energy and develop personal strategies to save money.

The average home today has 10 Wi-Fi connected devices. That number is expected to explode to 50 by 2020. Technology and the gateways that keep it working use electricity, so you'll depend upon San Isabel Electric for more than just the power that keeps the lights on.

That's why we're always working to provide service that's reliable, keep it affordable and make it even more valuable to our members: you, your family and your neighbors.

With Spring Rains Come the Risk of Flash Flooding

Prolonged outages and invisible hazards

Flooding conditions can cause prolonged outages even for those not anywhere near a flood zone. Flooding can also create electrical hazards, which many times are not readily visible.

No one knows exactly where potential flooding will occur, where the water will go, where the debris will go or where damage will be. But everyone knows water and electricity don't mix.

Who is at risk for prolonged flood-related outages?

Due to the severe damage from the Spring Fire, San Isabel Electric is warning all Huerfano County residents to be prepared for prolonged power outages due to flooding in 2019. Properties on high ground, even miles outside the burn scar and away from flood plains, are still susceptible to prolonged power outages due to

flood-damaged equipment several miles down the line.

Be prepared for prolonged outages by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit:

- Three-day water and food supply (one gallon of water per person per day).
- Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) weather radio with tone alert.
- First-aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Portable or permanently installed standby generators can come in handy during long-term power outages. However, if you do not know how to use them properly, they can be dangerous. Contact a

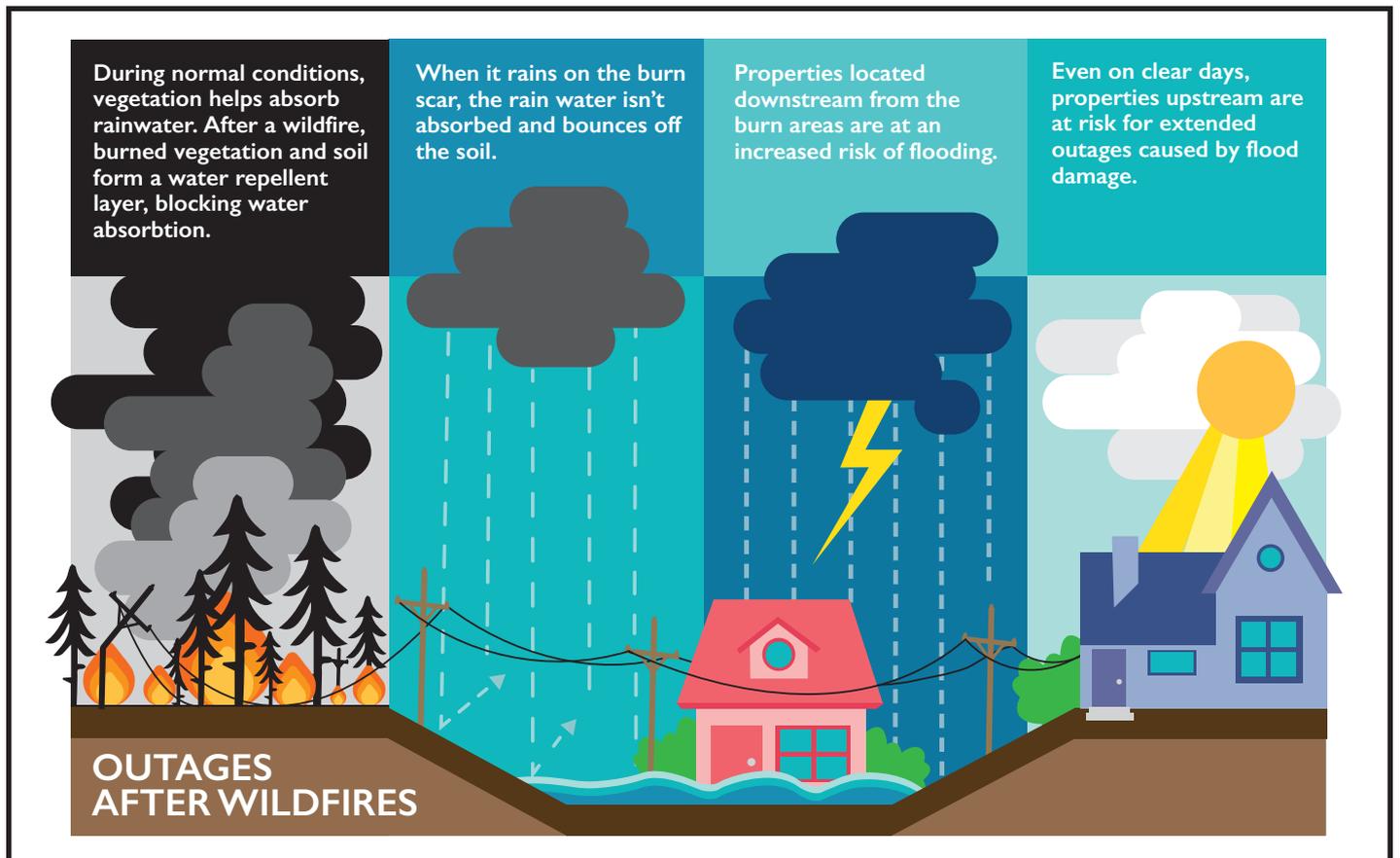
qualified vendor or electrician to help you determine what generator is best suited to your needs. Before using, read and follow manufacturer's instructions.

More preparedness information can be found at ready.gov and siea.com/safety.

Invisible electrical hazards

Flash floods produce quickly moving water that can sweep away objects in its path. Such flooding can develop within minutes and, in addition to the destruction caused, the waters can also cover up electrical hazards. The speed and depth of floodwaters are often difficult to visually assess. Never approach electrical equipment in a boat or on foot, even if lines are on the ground or under water. That equipment could still be energized.

Even if lines are on the ground or equipment is under water, don't assume they are



dead. Don't approach lines or electrical equipment that could still be energized. If you ever see a downed line while walking or driving, stay far away and call 911 immediately.

If your home floods and the electricity was not turned off beforehand, do not enter any room where water may be in contact with electrical equipment or outlets.

Keep in mind that electrical equipment does not have to be visibly arcing or sparking to be dangerous.

Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you cannot reach your breaker box safely, call San Isabel Electric to shut off power at the meter at 800-279-7432 or 719-547-2160.

Even after the water recedes, there are important safety steps yet to take. Have an electrician check the condition of your home before you turn the power on after a flood. Before turning on an appliance that has been wet, make sure it is inspected by a service repair worker.

How San Isabel Electric is preparing for flash flooding

We are proud to serve one of the agencies working with emergency managers to protect the communities that have already been devastated by wildfires.

Debris is what could cause the worst damage to San Isabel Electric's system. To prepare, your electric cooperative is stocking up on common items, such as wire, cabinets, poles and hardware like cross-arms and insulators.

In the event of a flash flood, San Isabel Electric will evaluate the damage and make a choice about the fastest way to safely

restore power, either through temporary or permanent repairs.

The co-op has a mobile substation that can actually replace any substation in its system that is damaged by a natural disaster. The mobile sub can be in place and operating within a day and power up to 6,500 meters or, in other words, all of San Isabel's meters in Pueblo West.

The co-op is also investigating options and possible locations where large generators can be placed to assist with extended power outages.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY QUIZ

Are you an energy efficiency whiz?
Test your knowledge by taking the quiz below.
Hint: Check your answers at the bottom of the page.



1. Taking a long bath saves more energy than taking a short shower.

A) True B) False

2. LED bulbs typically use _____ less energy than incandescent light bulbs.

A) 75% B) 50% C) 35%

3. Which of the following is an energy vampire? (Hint: Energy vampires consume energy even when they aren't being used.)

A) Dishwasher B) Electric mixer C) TV

4. If you see this logo on a product, it has an excellent energy efficiency rating.

A) ENERGY SMART B) ENERGY STAR C) ENERGY WISE

5. Turning off the tap water while brushing your teeth can save up to four gallons of water per minute.

A) True B) False

ANSWER KEY

ANSWERS: 1. B 2. A 3. C 4. B 5. A



March 2019

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

A/C TIP:

Spring is nearly here! Now is the perfect time to test your A/C and ensure it's ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.

Source: energy.gov

Meet San Isabel Electric's Newest Tree Trimmers

Tree limbs are one of the top causes of power outages in southern Colorado. San Isabel Electric strives to keep the community safe and prevent power outages. During winter storms, heavy snow can distort trees and heavy winds can curve branches.

If a branch or tree limb meets a power line, it can cause a power outage, sending electric currents through the tree to the ground and creating an unsafe situation for anyone in the area. That is why San Isabel Electric is proud to have tree trimmers working alongside linemen to clear power lines. Wyatt Torres and Michael Tuomey are San Isabel Electric's newest tree-trimmers.

Who are these tree trimmers?

Torres and Tuomey are outdoorsmen, hunters, fishers and hikers. They love being outside and not enclosed in an office for eight hours per day. They have served San Isabel Electric's member-owners for a little over a year trimming trees.

Torres and Tuomey hope that this experience will lead them to their dream careers. Torres wishes to become a helicopter line-worker, and Tuomey desires to become a lineman just like his father. Tuomey believes that being a lineman will give him the opportunity to travel and help a multitude of people and communities. This is what motivates him to work hard every single day.

The importance of tree trimmers

Tuomey mentioned that if any part of a tree limb or branch touches a power line, it will cause a power outage. Torres and Tuomey use climbing equipment, bucket trucks, chainsaws and pole saws to cut away dead or excess branches from trees, sometimes perched more than 100 feet from the ground. Every day they clear limbs and branches from the right-of-way for roads, sidewalks and utilities.

This also enhances and prolongs tree life. Torres mentioned a technique both he and Tuomey use to prolong tree life called lateral cutting. Torres describes lateral cutting as cutting a third of the tree branch laterally, at an angle, over the collar of the tree branch, allowing the collar of the tree branch to continue to grow after the cut, thus prolonging the tree's life span. If this technique is done incorrectly, the tree will perish. However, this technique should not be done on fruit trees, Torres explained.



How do tree trimmers decide which trees to trim?

In order to prevent power outages, tree trimmers do line patrols identifying where the limbs are closest to the lines. Then, in a job briefing they discuss possible hazards related to the work and how they're going to complete the job as a team.

The more dangerous tree branches that they clear away, the smaller the risk of having outages — and they keep communities safe. If the tree is close to private property, the tree trimmers will knock on the homeowner's door, letting them know the crew is about to cut the branches.

Tree trimmer's advice for the public

Torres and Tuomey both advise homeowners to be aware of power lines and to call San Isabel Electric right away if they see a branch close to a line. Calling immediately can help keep the homeowner safe, prevent an outage and prolong the life of the tree.