

Got a Plan . . . for Safety?



Every September, our nation recognizes National Preparedness Month and at the beginning of September 2021 we had the devastation in Louisiana from Hurricane Ida. It was an unbelievable storm that even caused the Mississippi River to reverse its flow. We don't have hurricanes in Minnesota, yet we must be prepared. The question, often is, to be **prepared for what?**

As we have often said, our employees work hard every day to bring electricity to your home, farm or business **safely**. But, what happens when you find yourself in a potentially unsafe situation? Do you have a plan? Let's see.

You are operating some farm equipment and it snags the power line bringing it down onto your equipment. What is your plan?

1. Stay put.
2. Call the cooperative.
3. If there are injuries, call 911.
4. If your equipment catches on fire, SAFELY exit.
 - a. Do not touch the ground and vehicle at the same time.
 - b. Jump from the vehicle with your feet together.
 - c. Shuffle away and avoid lifting your feet.



You are going to trim some trees that have gotten near the power lines. What is your plan?

1. Stop.
2. Do not attempt to trim these trees.
3. Contact the cooperative and let them know of your concern.



You are re-siding your house or barn and need to remove the meter. What is your plan?

1. Call the cooperative ahead of time to have it safely removed.
2. Do not attempt to remove the meter yourself.
3. Do not allow your contractor to remove the meter.
4. To have it reinstalled, again contact the cooperative ahead of time.



You are going to put in a new fence and plan to dig the holes for the fence posts. As you start to dig, you see something. What is your plan?

1. Never start digging until you have called 811 for locates so utilities can be marked. Allow a few business days for this action.
2. Wait the required time for utilities to respond to your request, and ensure all utilities have responded to your request before putting a shovel in the ground.
3. If you contact a buried power line or gas line, it can be deadly.



You got this – be smart, make your plan, and stay safe!