

What's Happening

February 11
Super Bowl
Allegiant Stadium in
Las Vegas, NV

February 14
Valentine's Day

February 19
Presidents' Day



Rock Energy Cooperative

P.O. Box 1758
2815 Kennedy Rd.
Janesville, WI 53547-1758

P.O. Box 126
15229 Willowbrook Rd.
South Beloit, IL 61080

(866) 752-4550

Shane Larson
Chief Executive Officer

Jonas Berberich
Editor

Portable Generator Safety

While a portable generator can certainly come in handy at home—especially during a power outage—there are some very important safety concerns you should be aware of before using one. The three primary hazards to avoid when using a generator are:

- 1. Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust**
- 2. Electric shock or electrocution**
- 3. Fire**

If you're in the market for a new portable generator, please make sure to check out the very important generator operation safety tips below. Also, always remember to follow the directions supplied with the generator when operating it.



Here are some important safety tips for using a generator at home:

- **KEEP DRY:** To avoid electrocution, keep the generator dry and do not use in rain or wet conditions. Operate it on a dry surface under an open canopy-like structure, such as under a tarp held up on poles. Do not touch the generator with wet hands.
- **COOL IT DOWN:** Be sure to turn the generator off and let it cool down before refueling. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.
- **BACKFEEDING:** Never try to power the house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet. Known as "backfeeding," it puts you, utility workers, your neighbors and your household at risk of electrocution.
- **APPLIANCES:** Plug appliances directly into the generator, or use a heavy duty, outdoor-rated extension cord that is rated (in watts or amps) at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance loads.
- **CORDS:** Check that the entire cord is free of cuts or tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.
- **FUEL:** Store fuel for the generator in an approved safety can. Use the type of fuel recommended in the instructions or on the label on the generator. Local laws may restrict the amount of fuel you may store, or the storage location. Ask your local fire department. Store the fuel outside of living areas in a locked shed or other protected area. Do not store it near a fuel-burning appliance, such as a natural gas water heater in a garage.

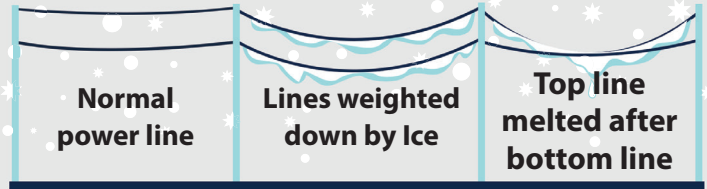
88th Annual Meeting



The Rock Energy Cooperative 2024 Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, April 8, at the Eclipse Center in Beloit, WI.

We are very excited to announce that at this year's meeting, we are bringing back the full-service, sit-down dinner for our members.

Look for full details about the annual meeting in the March co-op magazine.



ICE ON POWER LINES IS A WEIGHTY SUBJECT



When it comes to getting electricity across power lines and into homes, ice can be a force to be reckoned with.



ICE ON DISTRIBUTION LINES

Ice can quickly lead to broken power poles and other pole equipment. Ice can also make falling tree branches 30x heavier and much more likely to break power poles.

ON A 300-FOOT SPAN OF 1-INCH-THICK POWER LINES

- 1/2 inch of ice adds 281 lbs of weight
- 1 inch of ice adds 749 lbs of weight
- 2 inches of ice adds 2,248 lbs of weight

WHEN ICE MELTS

Melting ice can cause power outages. If ice on the bottom (neutral) line melts before the lines above, it can cause the lines to touch.

OTHER ICE FACTS

- Damage can begin when ice exceeds 1/4 of an inch
- 1/2 inch of ice can cause a line to sag up to 12 inches
- Pressure can also be caused by a broken tree limb
- Both ice and melting ice can cause power outages

If you come across a downed power line, always assume that it is live and dangerous. **STAY AWAY FROM IT!**

Energy Efficiency Tip

SMART THERMOSTATS

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance.



Source: energy.gov

Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away. For maximum energy savings, look for smart thermostat models with the ENERGY STAR® label.