

# News Release

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**Woodruff Electric  
Cooperative Corporation**

**DATE: January 6, 2020**

## **Woodruff Electric Encourages You to Be Prepared For Winter**

Winter can bring thoughts of gently falling snow or sparkling ice, but it can also bring unpredictable weather with high winds, whiteouts, and ice storms. This can cause hazardous roads and power outages. Woodruff Electric reminds members to be prepared this winter season.

Teddy Little, Augusta District Manager at Woodruff Electric, says, “Heavy snow and accumulating ice can easily bring tree limbs down onto power lines, cutting off power to homes and businesses. Making plans now for a potential power outage can make riding out a prolonged power outage safer and more comfortable.”

WECC suggests steps to help keep your family safe and comfortable during a winter storm can happen long before one is forecast. One necessary way to prepare is to put an emergency kit together. Some of the items that are recommended to include in your kit are:

- Water – stock up on bottled water for consumption.
- Food – have enough non-perishable food items to last at least three to seven days.
- Utensils – include a non-electric can opener, cooking tools, paper plates, and plastic utensils.
- Blankets, pillows, and warm clothing items.
- First aid kit, medicine, and prescription drugs.
- Flashlight and batteries – be sure to include extra batteries.
- Radio and clock – use battery-operated radios and clocks.
- Telephone – keep cell phone chargers (wall, car, and/or solar) on hand and, if you have a landline, a traditional (not cordless) telephone set.
- Supplies for alternate heating methods, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove.

If the electricity goes out due to a winter storm, you might be in for a prolonged power outage as crews work through the harsh weather to get the power back on. If you find yourself in this situation, make sure to contact your electrical utility company as soon as you can so they know you have lost power. Other actions you can take to stay safe and comfortable are:

- Stay inside, and dress warm.
- Close off unneeded rooms and cover windows at night.
- When using an alternative heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards, and be sure to properly ventilate. Always keep a

- multipurpose, dry-chemical fire extinguisher nearby, and know how to use it.
- Place draft block at the bottom of doors to minimize cold drafts from entering the house.
  - Keep a close eye on the temperature in your home. Infants and people over the age of 65 are often more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends or relatives or go to a shelter if you cannot keep your home warm.

Winter can bring a variety of weather patterns ranging from mild snows to severe ice storms. Be sure to prepare yourself for winter storms by taking the appropriate steps now and putting together your emergency kit that is best suited for your home and family.

Woodruff Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Forrest City, is a member-owned electric utility. Woodruff Electric serves electric power to more than 19,000 homes, farms, and businesses in parts of Woodruff, Prairie, Monroe, Cross, St. Francis, Lee, and Phillips counties in eastern Arkansas. The District offices are located in Augusta, Moro and Barton.

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