

Summer Safety Reminders

The combination of water and electricity is very dangerous. Awareness of electrical hazards around water can help prevent deaths and injuries.

- Electrical devices and cords should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources such as pools and spas. When possible, use battery operated electrical devices outside.
- Never handle electrical devices when you are wet – either from water activities or sweating.
- Have your boat inspected regularly by a licensed electrician and be familiar with the electrical system so you can identify and correct any potential hazards.
- Make sure boat operators and swimmers understand the hazard of electric shock drowning.
- Do not swim during a thunderstorm.

Additional resources available 24/7 at www.mvec.net



ElectricEye

Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative

July 2017

Beat the Peak 2017

21 teams, nearly 3,000 households competing

Beat the Peak events are not usually held on a Saturday, but due to temps in the high 90s, June's lone Beat the Peak event was held on June 10, resulting in a savings of 3.9 megawatt hours of electricity.

Those megawatt hours are the equivalent of running an entire water park for 65 hours on a hot day.

There are nearly 3,000 households and 21 teams signed up this year. Ten household prizes of \$100 each for energy reduction are awarded at the end of June, July and August. Team prizes are announced at the end of the challenge in September.

In the 5-10 member category, the River Valley All Stars and the Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Volleyball team are competing for \$500-\$1,000 in prizes.

Teams in the 11-25 member category (\$500 - \$2,500 in prizes) are: Belle Plaine High School Weight Room, Czech Heritage Club, New Prague State Science Fair, Grassroots Government, Jordan Elementary School, Lonsdale Ambassadors, New Prague Chamber of Commerce, Most Holy Redeemer Catholic School, New Prague Rotary, Our Czech Heritage Club, Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic School, SnowDrifters of New Prague and St. Wenceslaus Catholic School.

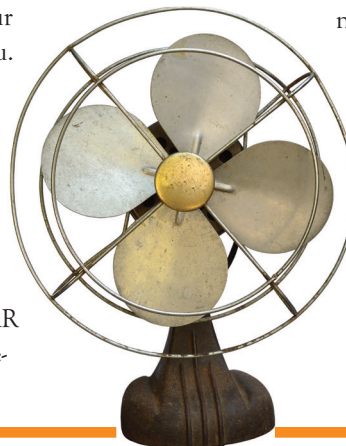
Teams with 25 or more members (\$1,500 - \$7,500 in prizes) are Cystic Fibrosis, Minnesota Military Family Foundation, Operation RoundUp, Redtail Ridge Elementary, River Valley YMCA and Savage Area Women of Today.

Four factors that can affect your summer bill

You open your summer electric bill and are a bit surprised. MVEC's summer electric rates haven't changed and you're sure your usage hasn't changed either, so it's understandable how a higher-than-normal bill might not seem to make sense. Here are a few possible reasons why:

1 Air Conditioning It may seem obvious, but summer weather plays a big role in your electric bill. Air conditioning accounts for as much as 50 percent of the average household electric bill. Maintenance and smart use of your cooling system (such as keeping your drapes closed or planting trees for shade) will help keep your electric bill in check while at the same time keeping your home the right temperature for you.

2 Dehumidifiers Typical dehumidifiers cost about 6 to 10 cents each hour they're on. Monthly costs of \$15 to \$35 are common in summer, but can exceed \$50 per month if the dehumidifier runs a lot. ENERGY STAR dehumidifiers save electricity by removing humidity more efficiently.



3 Fans Not hot enough for running the air conditioner, so you are using a fan or two instead? That uses electricity, too. Fans can keep occupants acceptably comfortable up to 85 degrees. Ceiling fans are an economical choice and can be used in conjunction with your air conditioning system to improve air flow. Make sure it is running in summer mode: usually a counter-clockwise direction as you look up at it.

4 Phantom Loads Coffee makers, the cable box and many other appliances are always on, even if they are turned off. Though this occurs all year-round, you may be using more or different appliances, especially if you have kids home for the summer or are entertaining more often.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

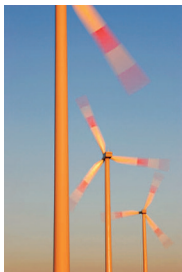
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(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. MVEC is an equal opportunity provider.

Notice of co-generation



In compliance with Minnesota Rules relating to Cogeneration and Small Power Production, Chapter 7835, MVEC is required to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers that satisfy the conditions of a qualifying facility. MVEC has available and will provide free information to all interested members regarding rates and interconnection requirements.

An application for interconnection is required and subject to approval by the cooperative for a qualifying facility to interconnect and operate in parallel with the cooperative's distribution system. Any disputes over interconnection, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. For more information, contact Jeff Langeberg at jeffl@mvec.net.

Take care of tree problems now Prevent potential outages

Storms are a major reason for summer outages. Though occasionally lightning will directly hit electric equipment, it is more likely for an outage to occur when a tree or branch falls on a power line.

People are surprised when there's an outage on a perfect, sunny day. But old and diseased trees don't need high winds to cause trouble, and now there's a new threat to trees in the MVEC service area that is smaller than a penny.



photo: city of Lenexa, KS

The Emerald Ash

Borer is a very destructive insect pest of ash trees, having killed millions of ash trees across 22 states. It is a slender insect about half an inch long with a bright iridescent green to copper-green wings and a purplish-magenta body.

The invasive insect was first discovered in Minnesota in 2009. Minnesota is highly susceptible to this pest's destructive tendencies as the state has roughly one billion ash trees, the most of any U.S. state.

Preventive action now can help minimize outages in the future. If you have trees near

MVEC power lines that look like they could cause potential outages, contact us.

For other trees on your property, Carr's Tree Service, MVEC's tree trimming partner, offers plant health care services, including trunk

injections which can protect ash trees against Emerald Ash Borer, as well as oak trees from burr oak blight and oak wilt problems, and elm trees against Dutch Elm Disease.

For info, call MVEC's Dispatch center at (952) 492-8255 or (800) 232-2328.

Easy ways to pay your bill

Online with SmartHub

Total account access to make secure online payments and view usage anytime, anywhere.



Pay Now

Make a quick, single transaction online without having to register for a SmartHub account.



Auto Bill Pay

Have funds automatically deducted from your checking or savings account on the same day each month.



Pay as you Go

Prepay for electricity like you fill a car with gas - as you use it. Pay when and the amount you want.



Recurring Credit Card

Set up monthly recurring payments using your MasterCard, VISA, American Express or Discover credit card.



Pay by Phone

Check your balance or pay with automated phone system, Touch-n-Go. 952.492.8333 or 1.866.492.8333.



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