



# Cooperative Connections

**A Deadly  
Mistake:  
Lessons  
Learned**

Page 8

**3M Plays  
Critical Role in  
COVID Fight**

Page 12

# SVE is Prepared to Serve



**Tim McCarthy, GM/CEO**

[tim.mccarthy@siouxvalleyenergy.com](mailto:tim.mccarthy@siouxvalleyenergy.com)

Life is full of unforeseen events and circumstances. That is definitely the case with the current COVID-19 pandemic. While it is hard to predict the exact trajectory of a novel virus outbreak, Sioux Valley Energy has been preparing for events such as this. In fact, the Cooperative has an official pandemic plan in place to ensure the continuation of reliable electric service to our membership. So much about this situation is fluid and as things change, we are adjusting as we go. However, we have built a strong foundation to help both our members and employees through this time.

For several years we have worked towards preparing and equipping our employees to work remotely. Currently, nearly 60 percent of our workforce can do their jobs at home. This has allowed us to close our offices while continuing to serve our members and provide the essential service of electricity. Our field personnel (line workers, electricians, warehouse coordinators, etc.) have also adjusted their work to mitigate risk to themselves and to our members.

As an essential service provider and community partner we feel as though it is our responsibility to closely follow the guidelines developed by local, state and national officials as well as health experts. Sioux Valley Energy places the safety of its employees and members above all else. By taking these steps, we can do our part to help slow the spread of this virus while simultaneously providing reliable electric service and answering your calls.

Internally, our leadership team is working to identify and eliminate as many operating expenses as we can, potentially postponing some items that would have required budgeted funds this year as we know revenues will be down. This has helped allow us to delay the rate increase which was planned for May. As I am writing this, we will delay the increase at minimum for one month. Going forward, the Board will monitor the financial situation monthly and review their ability to consider additional delays past June. We are also in the process of developing plans that will potentially help individual members that are directly impacted by COVID-19. We encourage our members to contact us if they are struggling financially as we want to work with them to avoid disconnect.

As I said, this situation is fluid and we will try our best to communicate with members via Facebook and the Sioux Valley Energy website. You can also call us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

We will get through this if we support one another. We can't control our circumstances, but we can control how we react to them. Take care. Do your part to slow the spread. Be kind to one another.

“Serving Our Members. Always.” It's what we do. It's who we are. It's how we will move forward.

## Rate Increase Delayed

**Sioux Valley Energy knows this is a challenging time for many families as they deal with the COVID-19 Pandemic.**

This is why the Board of Directors has decided to **delay the rate increase by one month**, pushing it back to June. The Cooperative Leadership staff is working with its power suppliers, its financial institutions and reviewing all internal expenses in an attempt to minimize rate pressure. Going forward, the Board will monitor the financial situation monthly and review their ability to consider additional delays past June. Sioux Valley Energy will continue to keep its membership informed as best as possible during this very fluid situation.

# Sioux Valley Energy

## Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 497-440)

**General Manager/CEO:** Tim McCarthy

**Editor:** Carrie Vugteveen

### Board of Directors

#### President:

Allan Weinacht, Colton, S.D.

#### Vice President:

Gary Fish, Brandon, S.D.

**Secretary:** Allan Kooima, Volga, S.D.

**Treasurer:** Dave Daniel, Wentworth, S.D.

#### Directors:

Don DeGreef, Brookings, S.D.

Mark Rogen, Garretson, S.D.

Dan Leuthold, Ellsworth, Minn.

Bruce Martinson, Jasper, Minn.

Gregg Johnson, Pipestone, Minn.

Rodney DeMent, Humboldt, S.D.

Lucas Roskamp, Edgerton, Minn.

SIoux VALLEY ENERGY COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Sioux Valley Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 216, Junction Hwy 34 & 77, Colman, SD 57017, for its members. Customers subscribe to the publication as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections is to provide reliable, helpful information to Sioux Valley Energy customers on matters pertaining to electric cooperatives and better living.

Subscription information: Electric cooperative members devote not more than 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Colman, SD 57017 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017.

**How to contact us:**

**Phone: 1-800-234-1960**

**e-mail: [sve@siouxvalleyenergy.com](mailto:sve@siouxvalleyenergy.com)**

**Website: [www.siouxvalleyenergy.com](http://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com)**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability. Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found on-line at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

Sioux Valley Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## District Meetings Canceled

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, **Sioux Valley Energy has canceled all remaining District Meetings** in accordance to local and state guidelines on social distancing and avoiding large gatherings.

However, there are four districts which are required to hold a meeting to elect Directors for the Board. These four Directors are running unopposed. The Sioux Valley Energy bylaws require this action stating Director terms must commence by July 1. The Cooperative is considering several options to fulfill the bylaw election requirement, while keeping members safe. Members in Districts 5, 6, 7 and 9 will receive information regarding the election once a final decision has been made on how to proceed.

## Energy Savings Advice for Those Working from Home

As American families and businesses transition to remote-work, they may see a surge in home energy use – and in upcoming electric bills. Simple money-saving steps can help lower monthly electric bills without jeopardizing safety or comfort.

Recommended energy-saving tips include:

- Program your thermostat to maximize energy savings. Setting your thermostat one degree lower when heating or one degree higher when cooling can reduce energy use by up to 5 percent.
- Do full loads of laundry and wash with cold water. Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load's energy use in half, and using cold water will save even more.
- Air dry dishes. This step can cut your dishwasher's energy use by up to 50 percent.
- Substitute LEDs for conventional light bulbs. Lighting can amount to up to 12% of monthly energy use. LED bulbs can cut lighting costs by 75%.
- Unplug appliances and electronics when not in use. Small appliances and electronics use energy even when not in use. When powered on, game consoles, televisions and similar electronics are responsible for up to 12 percent of energy use.



Check out Sioux Valley Energy's rebates and incentives including the Time of Use rate, smart thermostat rebate and residential heat pump rebate: <https://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/my-programs/rebates>. More energy savings advice can be found on page 10 of this newsletter.

## 10 Steps to Avoid Scams

There are thousands of new scams every year and you can't keep up with all of them (we know, we try!). But if you can just remember these 10 things, you can avoid most scams and help protect yourself and your family.

- 1) Never send money to someone you have never met face-to-face.** Seriously, just don't ever do it. And really, really don't do it if they ask you to use wire transfer, a prepaid debit card or a gift card (those cannot be traced and are as good as cash).
- 2) Don't click on links or open attachments in unsolicited email.** Links can download malware onto your computer and/or steal your identity. Be cautious even with email that looks familiar; it could be fake.
- 3) Don't believe everything you see.** Scammers are great at mimicking official seals, fonts and other details. Just because a website or email looks official does not mean that it is. Even Caller ID can be faked.
- 4) Don't buy online unless the transaction is secure.** Make sure the website has "https" in the URL (the extra s is for "secure") and a small lock icon on the address bar. Even then, the site could be shady. Check out the company first at BBB.org. Read reviews about the quality of the merchandise and make sure you are not buying cheap and/or counterfeit goods.
- 5) Be extremely cautious when dealing with anyone you've met online.** Scammers use dating websites, Craigslist, social media and many other sites to reach potential targets. They can quickly feel like a friend or even a romantic partner, but that is part of the con to get you to trust them.
- 6) Never share personally identifiable information with someone who has contacted you unsolicited, whether it's over the phone, by email, on social media, even at your front door.** This includes banking and credit card information, your birthdate and Social Security/Social Insurance numbers.
- 7) Don't be pressured to act immediately.** Scammers typically try to make you think something is scarce or a limited time offer. They want to push you into action before you have time to think or to discuss it with a family member, friend or financial advisor. High-pressure sales tactics are also used by some legitimate businesses, but it's never a good idea to make an important decision quickly.
- 8) Use secure, traceable transactions when making payments for goods, services, taxes and debts.** Do not pay by wire transfer, prepaid money card, gift card or other non-traditional payment method. Say no to cash-only deals, high pressure sales tactics, high upfront payments, overpayments and handshake deals without a contract.
- 9) Whenever possible, work with local businesses that have proper identification, licensing and insurance, especially contractors who will be coming into your home or anyone dealing with your money or sensitive information.** Check them out at BBB.org to see what other consumers have experienced.
- 10) Be cautious about what you share on social media and consider only connecting with people you already know.** Be sure to use privacy settings on all social media and online accounts. Imposters often get information about their targets from their online interactions and can make themselves sound like a friend or family member because they know so much about you.

Source: [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org)



**Utility service has never been more important.**

If you're planning landscaping or any other digging projects, contact 811 first – the kids telelearning and adults telecommuting will thank you.

Call 811 or go to your state 811 center's website before digging.

Call811.com/811-your-state




Stay safe during social distancing by calling 811 before starting any new project, so you can stay connected to the internet and utility services you rely on.

Call 811 or go to your state 811 center's website before digging.

Call811.com/811-your-state



## KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



**"Do not play around electrical boxes."**

Kayla Engelbrecht, 9 years old

Kayla is the grand-daughter of Alan and JoAnn Engelbrecht, Brandon, S.D. They are members of Sioux Valley Energy, Colman, S.D.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

# Comforting Casseroles

## Chicken-Broccoli-Rice Casserole

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 lb. chicken tenders or boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch strips | 2 tsp. onion powder                     |
| 1 cup long grain rice  | 1-1/2 tsp. rosemary leaves, crushed     |
| 1-1/2 cups Kitchen Basics® Original Chicken Stock                                  | 1/2 tsp. pepper                         |
| 1 cup milk   | 1/2 tsp. salt                           |
| 2 tsp. garlic powder   | 2 cups fresh or frozen broccoli florets |
|  | 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese           |

Spread chicken and rice in greased 2-quart baking dish. Mix stock, milk and seasonings in medium bowl with wire whisk until well blended. Slowly pour over chicken and rice. Cover with foil. Bake at 400°F. for 45 minutes. Remove foil. Stir in broccoli. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake, uncovered, 15 minutes longer or until rice has absorbed all the liquid and broccoli is tender. Makes 6 (1 cup) servings.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 317, Total Fat 9g, Cholesterol 69mg, Sodium 492mg, Carbohydrates 31g, Fiber 1g, Protein 28g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Ham and Rye Casserole

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 cup chopped onion                                      | 1 (8 oz) pkg. American cheese, cubed |
| 1/2 cup chopped celery                                   | 2-1/2 cups milk                      |
| 1/4 cup butter   | 3 eggs                               |
| 4 cups cubed rye bread                                   | 1-1/2 tsp. prepared mustard          |
| 1 (8 oz.) pkg. ham, cut into strips or may use cubed ham | Salt and pepper, to taste            |

In a saucepan, saute onion and celery in butter until tender. In a 2-quart buttered baking dish, combine onion, celery, bread, ham and half the cheese. In a bowl, beat together milk, eggs, mustard, salt and pepper until well blended. Pour over all; top with remaining cheese. Bake at 350°F. for 1 hour or until golden brown and puffed.

**Martha Mehlhaff, Aberdeen, SD**

## Corn Casserole

- |                                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 cup broken spaghetti, uncooked | 1/2 cup milk             |
| 1 can cream-style corn           | 1 can whole kernel corn  |
| 1 cup cubed processed cheese     | Diced onions, optional   |
|                                  | Salt and pepper to taste |

Combine all ingredients in a 1.5-quart casserole. Bake at 350°F. for 1 hour, stirring after the first 30 minutes.

**Emily Luikens, Tea, SD**

## Cheesy Potato Beef Bake

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 lb. ground beef                                      | 2 tsp. butter                 |
| 2 (4 oz. each) cans mushroom stems and pieces, drained | 1 tsp. salt                   |
| 2 (5-1/4 oz. each) pkgs. au gratin potatoes            | 1/2 tsp. seasoned salt        |
| 4 cups boiling water                                   | 1/2 tsp. pepper               |
| 1-1/3 cups milk  | 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese |

In a skillet over medium heat, cook beef until no longer pink; drain. Place in a greased 9x13-inch baking pan. Top with mushrooms. Combine potatoes and contents of sauce mix packets, water, milk, butter, salt, seasoned salt and pepper. Pour over beef and mushrooms. Cover and bake at 400°F. for 30 minutes or until heated through. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake, uncovered, for 5 minutes longer or until cheese is melted. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

**Stephanie Fossum, Hudson, SD**

Please send your favorite dairy, dessert or vegetarian recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3).

Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

# Financial Hardships During COVID-19

## Members Must call 1-800-234-1960 to Develop Plan to Avoid Disconnect

Sioux Valley Energy is committed to helping its members through a difficult time. The Cooperative is working closely with those who are financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and will do everything it can to avoid disconnecting electric service. It is imperative, however, that members call SVE to work out an acceptable payment plan. There are many utility assistance resources available (listed below) which can support individuals during times of crisis. If you have fallen behind on your electric bill, please call SVE immediately at 800-234-1960 so a Customer Service Representative can help you develop a plan to continue uninterrupted electric service.



**SIoux VALLEY ENERGY**  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

## Utility Assistance Programs

If you are having trouble paying your electric bill, the following assistance programs may be able to help. Members need to call the agencies directly to apply for assistance.

Sioux Valley Energy's goal is to help you avoid disconnection of electric service, so please call us at **1-800-234-1960** so we can work together to develop an acceptable payment plan.

### Minnehaha County

LIEAP, Low Income Energy Assistance Program  
1-800-233-8503

Minnehaha County Human Services  
605-367-4217

Minnehaha Community Outreach  
605-331-3935

Minnehaha County Salvation Army  
605-332-2331

Sioux Falls Interlakes Community Action  
605-334-2808

First Call for Help  
211

### Lake County

LIEAP, Low Income Energy Assistance Program  
1-800-233-8503

Interlakes Community Action  
605-256-6518

Lake County Welfare  
605-256-7619

First Call for Help  
211

### Pipestone County

Southwestern MN Opportunity Council  
1-800-658-2444

Southwest Health & Human Services  
1-888-837-6713

The Salvation Army Heat Share  
800-842-7279

Pipestone County Veterans Administration  
507-825-1171

MN Department of Energy Services  
800-657-3710

First Call for Help  
211

### Brookings County

LIEAP, Low Income Energy Assistance Program  
1-800-233-8503

Brookings County Welfare Office  
605-696-8260

Brookings County Community Action  
605-692-6391

My Neighbor  
605-691-3225

First Call for Help  
211

### Moody County

LIEAP, Low Income Energy Assistance Program  
1-800-233-8503

Interlakes Community Action  
605-997-2824

Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribal Office  
605-997-3891

First Call for Help  
211

### Rock County

Southwestern MN Opportunity Council  
1-800-658-2444

Southwest Health & Human Services  
1-888-837-6713

The Salvation Army Heat Share  
800-842-7279

Rock County Veterans Administration  
507-283-5061

MN Department of Energy Services  
800-657-3710

First Call for Help  
211



## Organizations Providing COVID Relief Encouraged to Apply for Operation Round Up Funds

Sioux Valley Energy's Operation Round Up program is hitting a milestone this year--20 years of providing funding to local non-profits and communities. Since the year 2000, members and employees have awarded more than \$1.8-Million to worthwhile causes throughout the Cooperative's service territory. The concept is easy...participating members agree to have their electric bill rounded up to the next highest dollar and that money is collected for Operation Round Up. Many Sioux Valley Energy employees also help by deducting a small amount from their paychecks. More than 75 percent of SVE's members and employees participate in the program.

**Who can apply for Operation Round Up funds?** Individuals and organizations within the Sioux Valley Energy service area may apply. Non-profit organizations that are providing COVID-19 relief are especially encouraged to apply before May 20th for the next round of awards which will be announced in June.

**How much can a non-profit receive from the Operation Round Up Program?** Non-profit organizations, or charities are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 annually. The average award is \$1,000.

**When are projects eligible for funding?** Whenever possible, requests for funding should be for projects that will be completed within 12 months following the grant application.

**When does the Sioux Valley Energy Customers' Trust Board of Directors meet and approve applications?** The Board meets quarterly during the months of March, June, September and December.

**When are applications due at the Sioux Valley Energy office?** All applications received by the 20th of the month preceding a Board meeting will be considered at the next Board meeting. For example, an application received at the Sioux Valley Energy office by May 20th will be reviewed for funding at the June Board meeting.

**How do I submit an application?** Applications can be found on the Sioux Valley Energy website at: <https://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/my-community/operation-roundup>. You can email the completed application to Debra.Biever@siouxvalleyenergy.com or FAX it to 605-256-1693. To mail the application, please send it to: Sioux Valley Energy Customer's Trust - PO Box 216 - Colman, SD 57017.

Proud to  
power our  
**COMMUNITIES**  
when it  
matters most.





# A DEADLY MISTAKE

## Family Shares Grief to Teach Others

**Shayla Ebsen**

sebsen@eastriver.coop

June 7, 2016, is a day that will be forever imprinted in Greg McCann's mind. It began as a normal June day on his farm in southeastern South Dakota. The crops had been planted and, like every year in June, they were needing to be sprayed. Greg's 35-year-old son, Grant, helped out on the farm and planned to spray the fields that day.

"He went and got the sprayer filled and ready. After he got the sprayer ready and conditions were right, well, then, he went to spray," said Greg. "He called me to see if I could move an irrigator for him and that was the last time I talked to him. He entered the field and the driveway to the field went under a power line."

Unfortunately, Grant didn't drive far enough into the field. He stopped at an angle close to the power lines. As he began unfolding the 90-foot sprayer booms, they touched the energized power line, which instantly electrified the tractor.

"He tried to call Wayne, the young man who runs my farm, but he wasn't able to get through because there was so much static, so we don't know what happened after that," said Greg.

The sprayer was caught in a Bon Homme Yankton Electric Cooperative distribution power line. Co-op Electrician Kevin Meyer was just a few miles away when he and his apprentice received an outage call.

"A radio call came across that another neighbor farmer was out of power as it started out as an individual outage," said Meyer. "We packed up our tools and stuff and left the yard. As we were leaving the yard, I received another call from a supervisor saying that we got a call that there's a



Thirty-five-year-old Grant McCann was involved in a fatal accident involving a sprayer and a power line in 2016.

**There's  
no fix.  
There's no  
second  
chances."**



sprayer that looks like it might have made contact with a line that's probably the first place to go and it's looking like we have more consumers out."

Meyer and his apprentice didn't know what they might discover but knew they had to move fast.

"As we're rolling up on scene, one neighbor was there sitting on the road on his four-wheeler and he just said someone is down in front of the tractor," said Meyer. "It was very tough to see other than you could see someone was there but didn't know who it was and at that particular time, I knew that it could be Greg, Grant or my cousin, Wayne. So, in all that, you're mentally preparing yourself for what you're about to discover."

What they would discover is that Grant made a mistake that would end his life. Rather than staying in the cab and waiting for help, he had stepped out of the sprayer.

"The consequences of that mistake took my only son," said Greg. "He was my friend, my partner, my confidant. Now every day I remember that terrible morning and I see Grant lying dead on the ground. There's no fix. There's no second chances."

No one can know what was going through Grant's head at the moment he left the cab. But Greg wants others to learn from that mistake, so it doesn't happen to anyone else.

"If Grant would've stayed in the tractor and not touched anything, I think he'd be here today. But he didn't," said Greg. "I don't want anyone to have to experience the sadness and the emptiness that I and Grant's family and friends are experiencing and will be experiencing for a long, long time."

## The consequences of that mistake took my only son.

Do you know what to do if a vehicle you're in contacts a power line? First, stay in the vehicle and call 911 for help. If you must exit the vehicle because of a fire, tuck your arms across your body and jump clear of any wires with your feet together, never touching the equipment and ground at the same time. Then shuffle or hop at least 40 feet away with your feet together. Stay away

from the equipment until the authorities tell you it is safe.

"People get in a hurry and they don't regard the risk as a risk and one mistake and it's too late," said Greg. "The consequences are so grim and terrible, that there's no good reason not to be really careful and be aware of where you're at and the machinery you're using and where it's located. Once it's done, there's no turning back."

With the spread of COVID-19 into our region as well as the pandemic's financial impacts, everyone has a lot on their mind this year. Letting distractions take your mind away from work in the fields significantly increases the likelihood of farming accidents. Minimize distractions and stay focused in the fields. If you notice your mind wandering at any point, bring it back to the task at hand.

As we enter this year's planting and spraying seasons, remain aware of where electrical equipment is located when you're working on the farm and remember the steps to take if your equipment contacts a power line. You could save your life, or the life of someone you love. Visit [poweringyoursafety.com](http://poweringyoursafety.com) to learn more.



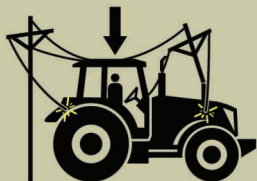
Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives



# PoweringYourSafety.com

KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOU HIT A POWER LINE

## STAY PUT



If your equipment contacts a power line, stay inside.  
**DO NOT EXIT. Call 911.**

## JUMP CLEAR



If you must exit due to a fire, jump from the equipment so that no part of your body touches the equipment and ground at the same time. Hop or shuffle with your feet together at least 40 feet away.

## STAY AWAY



When you are clear of the area, call for help and keep others away. **DO NOT** approach your vehicle again until utility crews and emergency responders tell you it is safe.

# A resource for operating your home efficiently

# Home Energy Savings Guide

## WINDOWS

*Windows leak heat. If you have single-pane windows, consider doing the following:*

- Tighten and weather-strip your old windows and then add storm windows.
- Close shades and drapes during the day to help keep your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.
- In colder climates, “low-e” coatings on glass can help reduce heat loss through windows.
- In hot climates, consider adding solar screening to west-facing windows that catch a lot of heating late in the day. Solar screening is sold at many home improvement stores. Plants that shade the house help too.
- Close shades and drapes during summer days to save on cooling costs. During the winter, open drapes and shades during the day to catch free solar heat in the winter.



## AIR INFILTRATION

*Air that transfers in and out of homes through cracks, crevices and holes increases energy consumption. Here are some helpful tips to avoid air infiltration:*

- Seal around pipe penetrations coming through walls.
- During hot and cold weather, ensure windows are closed tightly and locked.
- Ensure weather-stripping around doors and windows is tight.
- When your fireplace is not operating, its flue should be closed tightly, with a sign hanging from the flue handle warning it is closed.
- Check the ceiling behind the cornice of built-in bookshelves for holes cut during construction.
- Attic access stairways should fit tightly into the ceiling and be carefully weather-stripped using insulated sheathing board.
- Remove the whole-house fan if not used and seal and insulate.
- Make sure your outside dryer vent door closes when the dryer is not in use. This requires cleaning away lint accumulation periodically.

## HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

*Heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) uses the largest chunk of your home energy dollar. Keep it running “lean and mean.”*

- Heat pump and air conditioning systems should be checked annually to verify they are properly charged, strictly in accordance with manufacturer guidelines.
- Inside and outside coils should be kept clean and free of debris.
- Gas furnaces should be tuned for maximum combustion efficiency.
- Change HVAC air filter monthly. We recommend low air flow resistive filters.
- Have an HVAC technician check carefully for duct leaks. Leaks that are found should be sealed with fiberglass mesh and mastic sealant.
- Leaks at the return, air handler and supply can be a major source of high bills. Mobile homes check at the grill, cross over duct and down flow air handler, for leaks.



# Call 811 Before You Dig Need Your Lines Located?

By: Sharla Haugen

*Dial 811 before you Dig!* 811 will put you in touch with a One Call center for the state which you are calling from or you can submit your locate request online at the following websites in the SVE service territory.

- SD: [www.sd811.com](http://www.sd811.com)
- MN: [www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org)

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CALL 811 or GO ONLINE AND SUBMIT YOUR LOCATE REQUEST?

1. You will submit detailed information regarding your location of the dig area, including the address and/or street intersection with driving directions to the site. You will also enter specific instructions on what area at the site needs to be located. (**WHERE DO YOU PLAN TO DIG**)
2. Once the information is gathered and the request is submitted--you will receive a **TICKET NUMBER** – it's important to keep this number until your dig job is completed so you have contact information for utility companies. A **TICKET NUMBER** is required in order to process your request.
3. Once you have received your ticket number, the One Call center and the utility company takes over the locate request. Utilities have 48 business hours to complete the locate.
4. If Sioux Valley Energy (SVE) does not own underground cable within 200 feet of your dig site, SVE will be cleared at the One Call center and will not be notified or receive an electronic ticket.
5. If SVE owns underground cable within a 200 foot area of the dig site, the One Call center sends an electronic version of your ticket request to the SVE Dispatch Center. Dispatch will screen that ticket and determine the location of the cable according to the Cooperative's records.
6. If a locate is necessary, SVE dispatchers will forward that ticket to contract cable locators. The cable locators will then physically respond and paint/flag SVE facilities within your dig site.



**SVE Facilities vs. Private, Member-Owned facilities:** SVE is responsible for locating any of our electric underground facilities (**WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE DIG AREA ON THE TICKET**) up to the metering point, at no cost to the member. Any facilities beyond the metering point (from the meter to the members buildings, waterer, silo, wind turbine, etc.) are owned by the member and considered private facilities. SVE is not responsible for the location of private facilities. However, if our contract cable locators are dispatched to locate SVE-owned facilities, we ask them to locate the member-owned lines as well. The member-owned lines must be within the scope of the dig area according to the original ticket to be eligible for locating. If SVE clears the ticket, members are responsible for locating their private facilities at their own expense and will need to coordinate with their electrician.

## Paycheck Protection Program

President Trump recently signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act establishes a new \$349 billion Paycheck Protection Program. The Program will provide relief to small businesses so they can sustain their businesses and keep their workers employed.

The new loan program will help small businesses with their payroll and other business operating expenses. It will provide critical capital to businesses without collateral requirements, personal guarantees, or Small Business Administration (SBA) fees – all with a 100% guarantee from SBA. All loan payments will be deferred for six months. Most importantly, the SBA will forgive the portion of the loan proceeds that are used to cover the first eight weeks of payroll costs, rent, utilities, and mortgage interest. Visit [SBA.gov/Coronavirus](http://SBA.gov/Coronavirus) for more information on the Paycheck Protection Program. The new loan program will be available retroactive from Feb. 15, 2020, so employers can rehire their recently laid-off employees through June 30, 2020.



# 3M ABERDEEN PLAYING CRITICAL ROLE IN COVID-19 RESPONSE

Plant Is Producing Millions of N95 Respirators

**Ben Dunsmoor**

[bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop](mailto:bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop)

Standing outside the 430,000-square-foot 3M plant in Aberdeen, S.D., you can hear the whirl of productivity. The Aberdeen plant makes N95 masks which have been one of the most crucial pieces of personal protective equipment for frontline personnel responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Andrew Rehder, the manager of the 3M Aberdeen plant, told *Bloomberg Businessweek*, in a story published in March, that the Aberdeen plant has been operating at ‘surge capacity’ since the end of January.

“I just think as we’ve continued to see things spread across the world, it’s put more responsibility on us to make sure that every day and every minute we’re making every mask we can,” Rehder told Bloomberg.

It has also put a responsibility on Northern Electric Cooperative to ensure the 3M plant has a consistent and reliable source of power. Northern Electric has served the plant with electricity since it was constructed in 1974.



N95 respirators are loaded onto a jet at the Aberdeen Regional Airport in April. The masks produced at the 3M Aberdeen plant are being shipped directly to areas of the country that need them the most. (Photo Courtesy: 3M Twitter account / [twitter.com/3M](https://twitter.com/3M))

“We know the 3M plant in Aberdeen is playing a critical role in the response to this global pandemic,” Northern Electric Cooperative CEO/General Manager Char Hager said. “Northern Electric also recognizes that our co-op plays a crucial role in supplying 3M with reliable electricity and we take that responsibility seriously.”

The masks being produced in Aberdeen are being shipped across the country just as fast as they are being manufactured. A jet has been sitting at the Aberdeen Regional Airport during April to transport N95 respirators from the Aberdeen plant directly to areas of the country that need them most.

3M CEO Mike Roman said in a blog post on the company’s website that 500,000 masks were shipped from the Aberdeen plant at the end of March to New York and Seattle. Both of those cities have recorded some of the largest number of COVID-19 cases in the country. 3M expects a total global output of 1.1 billion masks this year and they are planning investments in the next 60 to 90 days that will double that capacity to 2 billion masks globally within the next 12 months.

“We continue to act with urgency to address this crisis from every angle and do all we can to protect our heroic nurses,

doctors and first responders,” Roman said in a statement on the company’s website.

This isn’t the first time the Aberdeen plant has been called upon to increase production during an emergency. The plant has also played a critical role in making masks for the SARS, bird-flu and H1N1 outbreaks, as well as the Mount Saint Helens’ eruption, Hurricane Katrina and numerous forest fires.

**“We know the 3M plant in Aberdeen is playing a critical role in the response to this global pandemic.”**

– Char Hager, Northern Electric CEO/General Manager

Northern Electric Cooperative has been in contact with local and corporate 3M managers and executives to ensure the Aberdeen plant has the power supply it needs as the company responds to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We have communicated our response plans to 3M officials and have assured them that our crews will be ready and

available to respond to any emergency or outage,” Hager said. “We have also been in contact with our wholesale power supplier, East River Electric Power Cooperative, and we have told 3M that supplying their plant in Aberdeen with reliable electricity is the top priority for our cooperatives.”

The Aberdeen 3M plant is the city’s second-largest employer with 650 employees. But, Rehder told *Bloomberg Businessweek* that the plant now has more than 700 employees who are working around the clock to make sure health care workers and first responders across the country have the masks they need to protect them from COVID-19.

“People are very proud to work in a place that is making respirators, especially with the need that is out there now,” Rehder said.

Hager said the increased production at the plant in Aberdeen and the hard work of 3M employees is a perfect example of rural America stepping up to help the country during this time of uncertainty.

“We are proud of the work they do at the plant and we are proud of our co-op employees who are dedicated to keeping the lights on for 3M and for all our co-op members,” Hager said.



Northern Electric Cooperative is the power supplier for the 3M plant in Aberdeen which has been operating at ‘surge capacity’ since January in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



# Understanding OPIOID ADDICTION

Jocelyn Romey

jocelyn.romey@sdrea.coop

One in four people who are prescribed opioids struggle with addiction. This is only one statistic from the South Dakota Department of Health that resonates how powerful and potentially dangerous opioids can be.

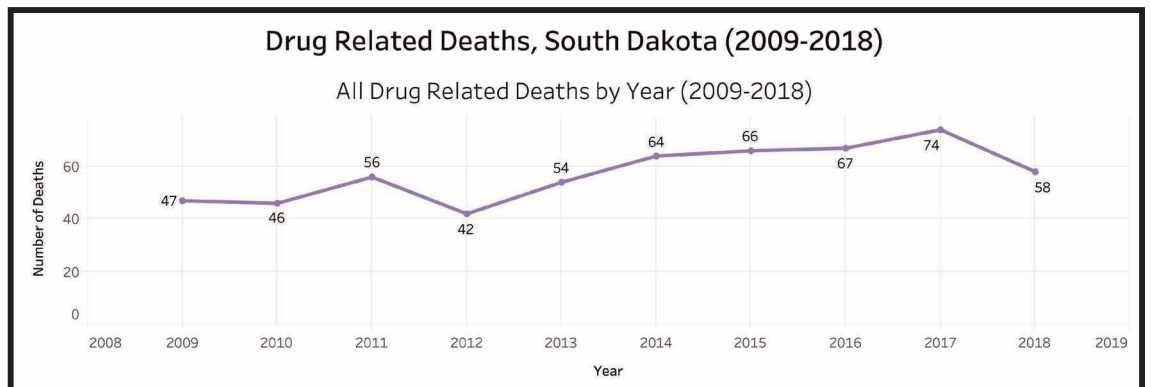
Opioids are a strong narcotic commonly prescribed for chronic pain after injury or surgery. Many know of the extreme addiction and destructive use of heroin – an unlawful opioid, but other opioid addictions may not be as visible if prescribed. A dependency can begin before anyone is aware of an addiction. Unintentional misuse or overdose of prescription opioids are also risks for anyone who takes them.

“My addiction started out very innocently. I had a back issue and so I was prescribed some Vicodin for it...and then I couldn’t stop, I couldn’t turn back. I felt hopeless,” said one woman from Pierre in an Avoid Opioid Prescription Addiction video. “Opioids deserve to be treated with respect. I think the seriousness of it isn’t always understood by people until it’s too late. People do recover and they can recover.”

An opioid addiction is actually considered a disorder and the National Institute on Drug Abuse has labeled drug addiction and opioid use disorder as a chronic disease characterized by drug use that is difficult to control despite harmful consequences. Many people mistakenly think that

## Prescription Opioid Side Effects

- Increased sensitivity to pain
- Nausea and vomiting
- Constipation
- Sleepiness and dizziness
- Dry mouth, itching and sweating
- Confusion
- Low energy and depression
- Low levels of testosterone which can result in lower sex drive



those who use drugs lack willpower or moral principles and that they could stop their drug use simply by choosing to. In reality, quitting usually takes more than good intentions or a strong will.

Due to the harmful nature of these drugs, there are risks associated with taking opioids – addiction, long-term health problems, paralysis and death. In South Dakota, opioid-related deaths are lower than the national average, but the numbers have been on a steady rise since 2012.

Research shows that drug overdose deaths tend to overly impact rural communities despite having lower drug use rates than urban communities. In 2009, deaths from drug overdose surpassed deaths from motor vehicle accidents in the U.S. Sixty percent of these drug overdose deaths in rural areas are due to injection-related HIV, hepatitis C and other bloodborne infections while using illicit prescription opioids and heroin.

More in-depth statistics on opioid vulnerability assessments by county are available through South Dakota’s Department of Health website or via <https://doh.sd.gov/statistics/VulnerabilityAssessment.aspx>.

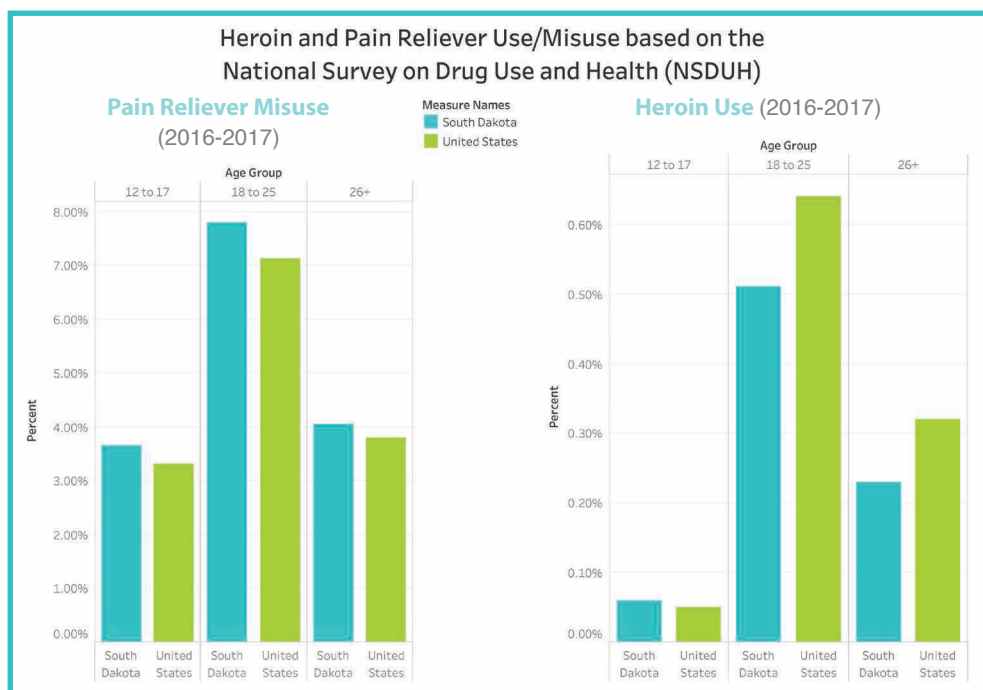
People who are addicted to opioids may seek and use them compulsively despite harmful consequences. The following are common warning signs of misuse, abuse or addiction to opioids given by South Dakota’s Department of Health.

- Neglecting responsibilities at work, school or home because of drug use.
- Using drugs under dangerous conditions or taking risks such as driving while on drugs.
- Drug use that results in legal trouble such as stealing to support a drug habit.
- Drug use that causes problems in relationships such as arguments with family members and loss of friends.
- People affected by drug addiction may stop participating in activities they once enjoyed and may use drugs even when they realize the drugs could be causing problems.

Source: South Dakota Department of Health

## Commonly Prescribed Opioids

- Actiq
- Astramorph
- Codeine
- Conzip
- Demerol
- DepoDur
- Dilaudid
- Duragesic
- Duramorph
- Endocet
- Exalgo
- Hydrocodone (Vicodin)
- Hydromorphone
- Fentanyl
- Lorcet
- Lortab
- Meperidine
- Methadone
- Morphine
- MS-Contin
- Norco
- Oxycodone (Oxycontin/Oxecta)
- Percocet
- Roxicet
- Roxicodone
- Tramadol
- Ultram
- Ventura



### Resource Hotline

Call **1-800-920-4343**. Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It's free and confidential.

Our trained specialists can connect you with **Opioid Care Coordination**, social support, counseling, treatment options, and services in your area.

Find out **what happens when you call the Resource Hotline**, and how we can help you or a loved one.

### Opioid Texting Support

Text **OPIOID** to **898211** to connect with local resources that best fit your needs. Answer a few questions and get help for yourself or a loved one who is struggling.



**Note:** Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.

---

## April 24

Arbor Day Celebration, 1 to 3 p.m., Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-4414

---

## April 26

Singing Bowls and Meditation, 2 to 3:15 p.m., Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-4414

---

## April 28, May 5

Speaker Series, April 28 - All Things Vegetables, May 5 - Gardening for Composting and Sustainability, 7 to 8 p.m., Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-4414

---

## May 2

Consignment Auction, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, [www.prairievillage.org](http://www.prairievillage.org)

---

## May 2

Springtime in the Country, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-4414

---

## May 2-3

Quilt Guild Show, Keeping Warm in South Dakota XII, Admission: \$6 daily, Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Swiftel Center, Brookings, SD, Contact Theresa at 605-690-3246 [tbennett111@hotmail.com](mailto:tbennett111@hotmail.com)

---

## May 3

Opening Day, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644,

---

## May 16, June 20

Yoga, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-4414



**May 9:**  
Traditional Wacipi at the Dignity Statue, Chamberlain, SD, 605-234-5472

---

## June 5

Northern Bull Riding Tour, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, [www.prairievillage.org](http://www.prairievillage.org)

---

## June 5-7

Regional Qualifying High School Rodeos:  
■ Rodeo Grounds, Wall, SD, 605-529-5868  
■ Rodeo Grounds, Highmore, SD, 605-529-5868  
■ Tipperary Arena, Buffalo, SD, 605-529-5868  
■ Heartland Arena, Huron, SD, 605-529-5868

---

## June 7

Miss Prairie Village/Miss Prairie Princess Pageant, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, [www.prairievillage.org](http://www.prairievillage.org)

---

## June 12-14

Regional Qualifying High School Rodeos:  
■ Tripp County Fairgrounds, Winner, SD, 605-529-5868  
■ Rodeo Grounds, Sturgis, SD, 605-529-5868  
■ Rodeo Grounds, Dupree, SD, 605-529-5868  
■ Derby Downs Arena, Watertown, SD, 605-529-5868

---

## June 16-21

SD State High School Finals Rodeo, Stanley County Fairgrounds, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-529-5868

---

## June 20

Divas Gone Country concert, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, [www.prairievillage.org](http://www.prairievillage.org)

---

## June 27

Railroad Day, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, [www.prairievillage.org](http://www.prairievillage.org)

---

## June 28

Variety Show, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, [www.prairievillage.org](http://www.prairievillage.org)

---

## July 14

Rock Nobles Cattlemen 2020 Summer Beef Tour, Nobles County Fairgrounds, Register Before June 1: \$20, After June 1: \$40, Worthington, MN, 507-967-2380, [www.mnsca.org](http://www.mnsca.org)

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.