

## A Safety Tip from the Cooperative



Tip #07-2023

# 5 Key Storm Safety Actions

Last year at this time, Minnesota had already experienced several severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, which wreaked havoc on electrical distribution systems. In summer, we never know what we might encounter. So, since we can't predict the weather or foretell the future, let's make sure we know some safe actions if we find ourselves heading for the storm shelter.

- S** **STAY** inside if you can; power lines can be down and in your yard. Lines can also be hanging low. Never walk outside after a storm unless you have a flashlight and can see where you are going.
- T** Never **TOUCH** a line on the ground. YES, it can still be energized. Trying to move it with a wooden stick or object can be very dangerous; never attempt such action. In fact, stay far, far away from a line.
- O** Don't ever touch anything in contact with an **OVERHEAD** power line, even if it is to remove a tree limb. The limb could be energized. Call the co-op and report the situation; they will send a crew to remove it.
- R** Never attempt to **REMOVE** debris or downed trees unless you can confirm the location of power lines. Energized power lines may be buried in the wreckage. Call the co-op to report damages as soon as possible.
- M** Always exercise caution near chain link fences and other **METAL** structures. Power lines may touch the metal, energizing the item.



### FACT

According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 83 tornadoes occurred in Minnesota in 2022.



Our safety tips are prepared by Minnesota Rural Electric Association that guides cooperatives in Minnesota through safety, legislative and educational initiatives. Minnesota's electric cooperatives provide reliable, affordable electric service for 1.7 million Minnesotans across 85 percent of Minnesota's landmass.

Commented [JM1]: This should be changed to 07, I think.