

# Energy

SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION, INC.

# WISE



YOUR ELECTRIC CO-OP MEMBER NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2014 | ISSUE #0055

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## Notables: Tips for Staying Safe and Comfortable During Outages



Kevin Ritter  
SMPA General Manager

Last month I discussed how SMPA responds and restores power during outages. This month I'm discussing what you as members can do to stay safe and comfortable during power outages. While power outages can and do inconvenience our lives, SMPA works

hard to keep our system as reliable as possible.

According to the latest Key Ratio Trend Analysis, which compares SMPA's performance in many areas to electric cooperatives across the United States, SMPA's power reliability sits at 99.95%. What's that mean? It means that over the course of one year – 8,760 hours in total – the average member will go without power for just less than 4.5 hours.

I wish I could guarantee a 100% reliability rating, but we all know that's just not possible. So what do you do when the power goes out? The first thing we recommend is to see if the outage is limited to your home. If you see your neighbor's power is still on, check your home's breaker box. If the problem is not a tripped breaker, check the service wires leading to your home. If they are obviously damaged or on the ground stay back at least 30 feet.

My next statement might sound obvious, but all too often members assume that SMPA is aware of an outage or that others have already reported it. As I stated last month always call us to report your outage. Keep our regular office numbers along with other emergency numbers near your telephone. You can dial our office 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to report outages. If it is after regular business hours you will be directed to our outage dispatch center.

Turn off major electronic equipment in your

home to prevent damage from a power surge when power is restored. But, keep at least one light on inside and one light on outside so both you and SMPA crews outside can see

**Outage Safety Kit**

- Drinking water and food
- Blankets, pillows and clothing
- Basic first-aid supplies
- Prescriptions
- Basic toiletries
- Flashlights
- Battery-operated radio
- Battery-operated clock
- Extra supply of batteries
- Phone
- Cash and credit cards
- Emergency numbers
- Important documents (*in a waterproof case*)
- Toys, books and games
- Baby supplies
- Pet supplies

**from [safeelectricity.org](http://safeelectricity.org)**

that power has been restored. When it comes to food, the best advice is to keep it closed. If an outage is under two hours you typically don't need to worry about food spoiling, but don't open your refrigerator or freezer unless absolutely necessary. A full freezer will keep food frozen for 24 to 36 hours, but only if the door remains closed! Your dinner choices might be limited to peanut butter and jelly, but at least the kids won't mind.

*Stay Safe and Comfortable cont. on page 2*

**ELECTRICAL SAFETY 101**

Call 8-1-1 before you dig and get underground utilities identified. Electricity, gas, and other underground utilities can be deadly if you make contact with them.

### Contact Us:

**Nucla**  
170 W. 10th Ave  
P.O. Box 817  
Nucla, CO 81424  
(970) 864-7311  
Monday - Thursday; 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Toll Free: 1-877-864-7311

**Ridgway**  
720 N. Railroad St.  
P.O. Box 1150  
Ridgway, CO 81432  
(970) 626-5549  
Tuesday - Friday; 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Toll Free: 1-800-864-7256

[www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com)

*In the case of a power outage, contact your local SMPA office. If it is after hours, you can automatically transfer to our 24-hour dispatch.*

### Questions or comments?

**Contact:**  
Becky Mashburn  
Communications Executive  
(970) 626-5549 ext. 212  
[energywise@smpa.com](mailto:energywise@smpa.com)

**Don't forget!**  
Get outage updates on our Facebook page.



[www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower](http://www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower)



## Community-Owned Solar Is Here!

**FREE Solar Quote**

AT

[smpasolar.com/smpanewsletter](http://smpasolar.com/smpanewsletter)



# Local Students Selected to Represent SMPA at Summer Leadership Programs



Marissa Bruce

**Marissa Bruce** has been selected to attend the National Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington D.C. on June 12 - 19, 2014. Bruce, along with students from across the nation, will tour our nation's capital and learn about the electric cooperative industry. Bruce is a junior at Norwood High School and is involved in softball and 4H. She volunteers as a camp counselor for the Rocky Mountain IPHC Summer Camp and as a children's helper at the Trailhead Community Church.



Hailee Starks

**Hailee Starks** has been selected to attend the Colorado Co-operative Youth Leadership Camp in Clark, Colo., on July 13 - 18, 2014. Starks will join students from Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma and Kansas for a week of hands-on leadership training in the mountains near Steamboat Springs. Starks is a junior at Norwood High School and is involved in the Lone Cone Livestock club and knowledge bowl. She volunteers for highway trash pickup and community nutrition night.

## Public Notice: SMPA Board of Directors Proposes Bylaw Changes

The Board of Directors of San Miguel Power Association Inc., accepted public comment on proposed bylaw changes during the member comment portion of their regular meeting held at 9:30 a.m. on February 17, 2014 at the Ridgway office, 720 N. Railroad St., Ridgway, Colorado. They will also hear public comment at their regular meeting to be held at 9:30 a.m. on March 25, 2014, at the Nucla office, 170 W. 10th Ave., Nucla, Colorado. The Board will be conducting a final vote on the proposed changes at their regular meeting to be held at 9:30 a.m. on March 25, 2014, at the Nucla office, 170 W. 10th Ave., Nucla, Colorado.

The proposed Bylaw amendments clarify (i) how to become a member, (ii) the differences between a member and a patron, (iii) how SMPA will handle members with multiple accounts, (iv) how notices are posted at SMPA's offices and the website, (v) qualifications for directors and director candidates, (vi) director attendance at meetings, (vii) the duties of certain officers of SMPA, and (viii) what happens with unclaimed capital credits.

Members may request a copy of the redlined changes from the Ridgway office, 970-626-5549, or the Nucla office, 970-864-7311 and the redlined changes are posted on SMPA's website ([www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com)). Members wishing to submit their comments in writing may mail their comments to: Attn: Board of Directors, SMPA, PO. Box 1150, Ridgway, CO 81432. Members wishing to email their comments may submit their comments to: [toni@smpa.com](mailto:toni@smpa.com).

## Stay Safe and Comfortable During Power Outages

### Tips for Staying Safe cont. from page 1

Those of you with gas stoves and ovens have a little more flexibility, but never use them to try to heat your home. Nor should you employ charcoal or gas barbeques, camping heaters or home generators indoors. These items give off carbon monoxide. You can't smell or see this deadly gas. Instead, in cold weather pile on some extra clothes and blankets and keep your family members in the same room. If you have an alternate heating source such as a wood stove, I doubt you'll have trouble convincing them to stay together.

Of course, when the lights go out we all go in search of a replacement. We recommend using battery-powered flashlights and lanterns. But in the event that your only option is a candle, be sure to use proper candle holders and never leave a lit candle unattended.

A little planning can go along way for keeping you and your family safe and comfortable during a power outage. In addition to your typical emergency supplies, I recommend tossing in a few board or card games that your family can use to pass the time. Once you've made sure your family is safe and warm it's nice to reconnect without the constant interruptions that technology provides.

Get more power outage safety tips at [www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org).

**Don't get left in the dark.**



Get up to date power outage information by visiting San Miguel Power's Facebook page.

[www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower](http://www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower)



Plus, like our page and you'll be entered to win a \$50 gift certificate to a restaurant of your choice!\*

\*You must be a San Miguel Power member to be eligible, and the restaurant must be located in SMPA's service territory.