

## Winter Tips From Your Electric Cooperative

### Keep Your Electric Meter Clear

Many probably never notice your electric meter. It sits silently spinning, measuring the amount of electricity your household consumes.

However, the people at Copper Valley Electric Association do think about your meter on a daily basis. It is the link between your home or business and the utility.

That is why it is crucial CVEA has access to your meter at all times.

Because you never have to worry about your electric meter, it can be easily forgotten.

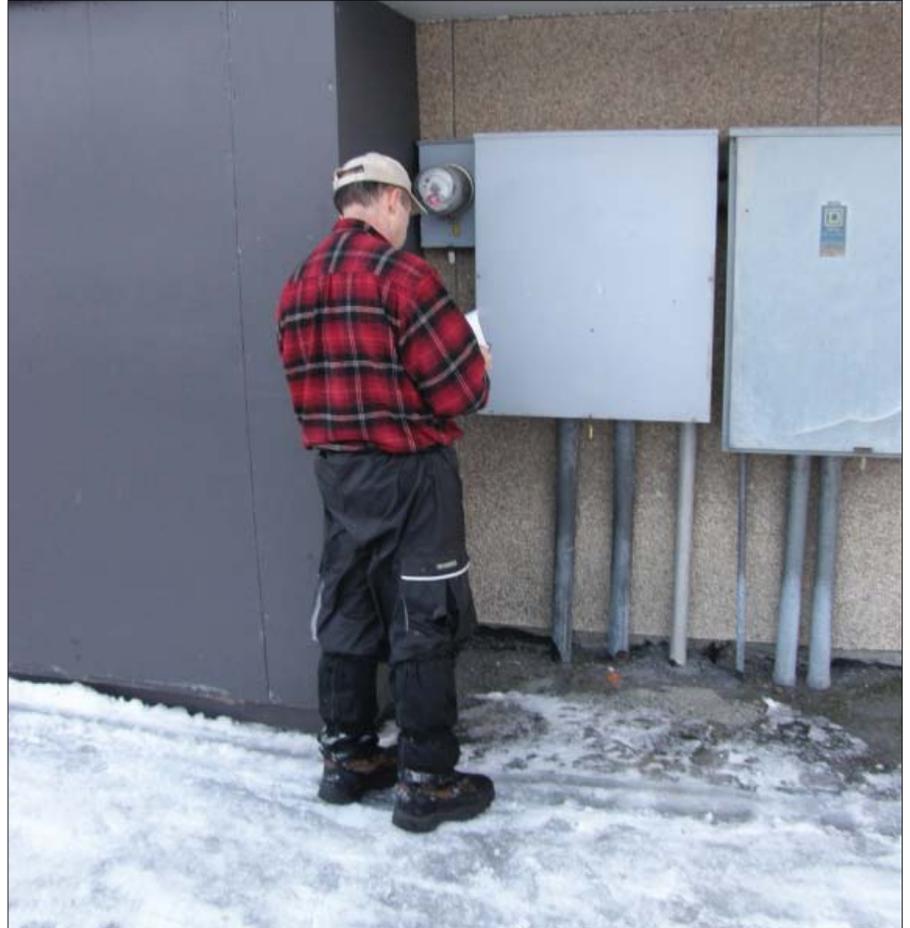
Meters can be located in a variety of places around your home or business. The next time you are walking around your property, take the time to find out exactly where your meter is located.

Be aware the meter should be easily accessible by CVEA employees. This means a meter reader or other CVEA authorized staff member should be able to clearly read the meter by standing next to it.

In winter, when snow levels get high, CVEA meter readers are faced with many obstacles.

Here is a list of common winter obstacles and how you can help CVEA staff do their best to serve you:

- Snow and ice can obstruct the path to the meter. When removing snow, keep in mind a path to the meter must be kept clear.
- Keep firewood piles away from the meter. If you must pile wood in the vicinity of your meter, leave a clear, unobstructed view for our meter readers.
- If your meter is located behind a gate or fence, make sure access is not impaired by snow or ice.



- Keep pets away from the immediate area. Pets should never be chained or housed next to the meter. Please contact CVEA if your pet poses a hazard or other concern.
- Store seasonal items away from the meter.

By following these simple suggestions, you can help CVEA's meter readers do their jobs more accurately and efficiently.

If circumstances beyond the Cooperative's control make meter reading dangerous or impractical, CVEA will send a bill based on estimated usage considering,

where applicable, the consumer's usage during the same month of the previous year or the amount of usage during the preceding month or months.

Keeping your meter clear and obstacle free will ensure the CVEA meter reader is able to take a precise read, providing you with the best possible service.

### Moving Snow Safely

Copper Valley Electric Association would like to remind everyone involved in snow removal, whether commercial or residential, to be aware of the dangers



associated with piling snow on, under, or near CVEA equipment, lines, and facilities.

State of Alaska statutes prohibit any equipment from operating within 10 feet of an overhead electrical line. The 10 foot rule includes the highest point of the equipment being used and includes people on the ground, on a snow bank, or on the equipment. When snow is pushed under or near CVEA electrical lines, it creates a potential hazard for the equipment operator and general public. CVEA is asking all snow removal equipment operators to keep in mind the 10 foot rule when pushing and piling snow.

Snowfall often obscures electrical equipment located directly on the ground and identified with snow markers. Make sure you are aware of the location of this equipment when moving snow. If you are unsure, please contact CVEA at the numbers below.

Do not push snow against or pile snow on top of any electrical equipment. The force of the moving snow may cause damage to the equipment and create electrical hazards. This may also compromise reliability of the system due to the barrier created when access to the equipment becomes necessary.

If you come into contact with the equipment and your vehicle or equipment becomes entangled, a hazardous condition may exist. Please do not attempt to free your vehicle or equipment

and do not exit your vehicle unless a more hazardous condition exists inside the vehicle or equipment. If it is necessary to exit your vehicle, jump away from your vehicle ensuring you do not come into contact with your vehicle and the ground at the same time. Call CVEA immediately.

CVEA is asking everyone to keep an eye out for potential electrical hazards. Never approach or make contact with an electrical line or damaged equipment. If you see a hazardous situation, please contact CVEA immediately at 822-3211 or 835-4301. To report something afterwards, please call 866-835-2832.

### **Cold Weather Vehicle Safety**

Driving in the winter means snow and ice that can lead to slower traffic, hazardous road conditions, hot tempers and unforeseen dangers. To help you make it safely through winter, here are some suggestions from the National Safety Council to make sure that you and your vehicle are prepared.

Weather affects road and driving conditions and can pose serious problems. It is important to listen to forecasts on radio, TV, cable weather channel, or forecasts in the daily papers.

An emergency situation on the road can arise at any time and you must be prepared.

Following a tuneup, a full tank of gas, and fresh anti-freeze, your trunk should



carry a properly inflated spare tire, wheel wrench and tripod-type jack, a shovel, jumper cables, tow and tire chains, a bag of salt or cat litter, and a tool kit.

Be prepared with a “survival kit” that should always remain in the car. Remember to replenish after use. Essential supplies include working flashlight and extra batteries, reflective triangles and brightly-colored cloth, compass, first aid kit, exterior windshield cleaner, ice scraper and snow brush, wooden stick matches in a waterproof container, scissors and string/cord, non-perishable, high energy foods like unsalted canned nuts, dried fruits, and hard candy.

In addition, if you are driving long distances under cold, snowy, and icy conditions, you should also carry supplies to keep you warm, such as a heavy coat, heavy woolen mittens, boots, socks, a cap, and blankets.

If you become stranded, do not leave your car unless you know exactly where you are, how far it is to possible help, and are certain you will improve your situation.

For more information, visit [www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org).

