



## STAY SAFE DURING SPRING STORM SEASON

Spring in Southeastern Indiana often brings rapidly changing weather conditions. Thunderstorms, strong winds, lightning, and heavy rain are common this time of year and can lead to power outages when tree limbs fall, debris damages equipment, or accidents impact utility poles.

While outages can occur during severe weather, taking a few simple steps ahead of time can help keep your household safe when storms move through the area.

Before storms arrive, it's a good idea to prepare your home with a few basic emergency supplies. Flashlights, extra batteries, and a portable weather radio can be helpful if power is lost overnight or during extended outages. Keeping mobile devices charged when severe weather is expected can also ensure you have access to weather alerts and important communication.

If your power goes out during a storm, reporting the outage through the proper channels helps SEI REMC crews respond more efficiently. The fastest way to report an outage is through the SmartHub mobile app, by calling the cooperative, or by using the outage text reporting system. These reporting methods send the information directly into SEI REMC's outage management system so crews can quickly identify affected areas and begin restoration efforts.

Members can also view current outages and follow restoration progress by visiting [seiremc.com/outagemap](https://seiremc.com/outagemap).

Storms can sometimes cause power lines to fall or become damaged, creating dangerous situations. If you see a downed power line, always assume it is

energized and stay far away. Experts recommend keeping at least 35 feet away from the line and anything touching it, as the ground around it may also carry electricity.

If a power line falls on your vehicle, remain inside the vehicle and call 911 for assistance. The vehicle can become energized, and exiting it could be extremely dangerous unless there is an immediate life-threatening situation such as a fire. If you must leave the vehicle, jump clear with both feet together and shuffle away without lifting your feet until you are safely away from the vehicle and the line.

Spring storms can be unpredictable, but preparation and safe reporting can make a big difference. By staying weather-aware, preparing your home for possible outages, and reporting outages through the proper channels, members can help SEI REMC crews respond as quickly and efficiently as possible.

When storms cause outages, SEI REMC crews immediately begin working to restore power. However, the safety of both our members and our lineworkers is always the top priority. Crews often work in challenging conditions such as heavy rain, strong winds, lightning, or fallen trees, and restoring power safely is essential to protecting everyone involved.

Spring storms are a regular part of life in Southeastern Indiana, but preparation and awareness can make a big difference. By staying weather-aware, practicing safe habits around electrical equipment, and reporting outages through the proper channels, members can help ensure crews are able to respond quickly and safely when storms impact the electric system.