

504 Eleventh Street
Paintsville, KY 41240
(606) 789-4095
(888) 789-7322
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



DAVID ESTEPP
BIG SANDY RECC
MANAGER

Be ready for spring storms

The only thing we can predict about spring storms is that they will be unpredictable. That's why I'd urge you to prepare for possible severe weather before it happens.

Consider the folks of Joplin, Mo. What started as a normal Sunday last May 22 ended in one of the worst natural disasters in memory. An F5 tornado roared through that city of 50,000 residents, killing 160 people and destroying an estimated 20 percent of the town's homes.

Big Sandy RECC and other members of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives sent work crews to help restore electric service in Missouri during the days after that catastrophe. Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives also sent crews last year to help out following terrible tornadoes in Alabama.

Fortunately, storms of such magnitude are rare. But even less severe weather can cause damage and power outages. Here are three important things you should do now, just in case:

•First, create a family disaster plan. If your area has a public warning system, know what the various sounds mean and what actions to take when you hear them. Discuss with your family where you'll meet if you can't communicate with one another. Have a plan to take care of pets. Post emergency numbers prominently. Find out in advance how to turn off your house's water and gas. Write down this information and keep it in a safe place.

•Second, track

approaching storms. Purchase a weather radio. This is particularly important in rural areas without emergency warning sirens. You also can follow severe storms using WKYT-TV (Channel 27)'s FirstAlert DEFENDER weather radar, which is co-sponsored by Big Sandy RECC and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. Big Sandy RECC offers a direct link to that radar on our Web site at www.bigsandyrecc.com. FirstAlert DEFENDER can also be downloaded to Android and iPhone cell phones, and to iPad computers. Look under "Quick Links" on the right side of Big Sandy RECC's First Alert Web page to download the radar to these mobile devices.

•Third, make an emergency kit. It should include a copy of your disaster plan, a flashlight, extra batteries, a battery-operated or hand-crank AM/FM radio, a first-aid kit, water, work gloves, toiletries, and tools. Include prescription medicines, books, games, paper, and pencils as well.

Consider taking these additional steps:

•Purchase a portable generator. (You can get discounts on generators with your Co-op Connections Card. Visit www.connections.coop and use the search box to look for deals.)

•Inspect your home and property. Trim trees and remove dead or loose branches. Be sure your house's gutters and drains are free of debris.

•Call your insurance agent if you've made major updates to your house. Don't be underinsured.

We pray a disaster never strikes here. But it's good to be prepared for an unforeseen emergency before it happens. At Big Sandy RECC, we always try to help keep you safe. We're here to serve you.



Big Sandy RECC messages

◆ **Be prepared for storms.** If your area has a public warning system, know what to do when it sounds. Learn more at www.disaster.com.

◆ **Big Sandy RECC believes in education.** Our system recently awarded 60 \$1,000 college scholarships. Go to www.allaclassic.org.

◆ **Be prepared.** Know how and when to turn off your home's water, gas, and electricity in an emergency. Go to www.disaster.com.

◆ **Big Sandy RECC is locally owned.** We respond to your needs because our members are our owners. That's the value of membership.

◆ **Big Sandy RECC offers reliable service.** If storms hit, co-ops help each other get lights on a.s.a.p. That's the value of membership.



◆ **Be prepared.** Make sure your home has adequate insurance coverage and install smoke alarms on every level. Go to www.disaster.com.

◆ **Big Sandy RECC works hard to hold down costs** because our members are our owners. That's the value of membership.



◆ **Big Sandy RECC's SimpleSaver program** gives you bill credits and helps us manage electric demand. Learn more at www.simplesaver.coop.

◆ **Big Sandy RECC gives you a voice.** We respond to your needs because members elect our board. That's the value of membership.

◆ **Be prepared.** Keep fire extinguishers in your home and ask your local fire department how to use them (A-B-C type). Go to www.disaster.com.

◆ **Big Sandy RECC is part of a family.** If a storm hits, co-ops help each other get your lights back on. That's the value of membership.

◆ **Stay on top of the weather, school closings, and forecasts** this spring by clicking FirstAlertDEFENDER at www.bigsandyrecc.com.

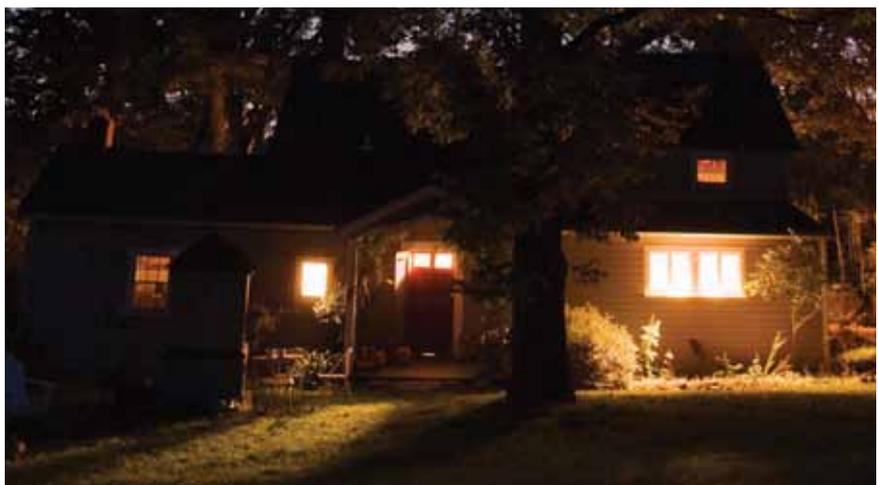
◆ **Stop wasting money with leaky ducts at home.** Apply mastic with a paintbrush and you'll save. Learn more at www.togetherwesaveKY.coop.

◆ **Get your central air-conditioning unit maintained** this spring before hot weather arrives. Learn more at www.togetherwesaveKY.coop.

◆ **When air leaks** under your outside doors, you waste power and money. To stop the waste, go to www.togetherwesaveKY.coop.

◆ **Big Sandy RECC gets power from six renewable power plants.** If you're interested in green power, ask about EnviroWatts.

◆ **Our SimpleSaver program can help** to keep your monthly electricity affordable. Sign up at www.simplesaver.coop.



learn the

LINGO

What is the Fujita Scale?

A scale created by Tetsuya Fujita that rates the intensity of tornadoes, based on wind speed and damage done. It ranges from an F0 (weak wind with light damage) all the way to F5 (violent wind with incredible damage).

TOGETHERWESAVEKY

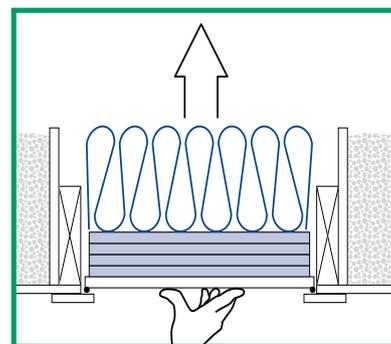
Attic hatch

You can save energy by making sure there is a tight seal on the entrance to your attic. If you have an attic hatch entry, make sure that the piece of wood used for the hatch is flat.

First, install a weather-stripping gasket on the inside of the trim on which the hatch rests.

Glue several inches of rigid foam board to the attic side of the hatch, making sure you can push the hatch up to get into the attic. Finally, glue a piece of fiberglass-batt insulation to the foam board. The paper side of the insulation should be glued to the last layer of foam board.

Taking these steps will help eliminate leaks that can increase your electric bill.



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Home Sweet Home Co-op Connections Card discounts available

As a member of Big Sandy RECC, you are eligible for all kinds of discounts through the Co-op Connections Card—including home improvement. If your spring cleaning plans include upgrading your current home or moving to another one, these discounts could help you save money. Visit www.connections.coop for a complete discount listing.

• **SEARS COMMERCIAL:** A discount purchasing program is offered exclusively through Sears Commercial on products for your home, including appliances, lawn mowers, and mattresses. Visit www.sears.com, record the item and model numbers of the products of your interest. E-mail those numbers, discount code CU070749, your phone number plus city, state, zip,

and county where your item will be delivered to searsepp@searshc.com for a quote. You can then use a credit card to purchase the discounted item and it will be delivered.

• **1-800-PACK-RAT:** Get \$50 off moving or storage services by calling 800-PACK-RAT or visiting www.1800packrat.com and using promo code CoopC.

• **ENERGY FEDERATION INCORPORATED:** Save 20 percent off your total order on energy-efficient products such as CFLs, air filters, batteries, thermostats, and more from dozens of manufacturers. Go to www.energyfederation.org/touchstoneenergy to save.

