

November 2018



EnLIGHTening NEWS

Serving Stanton County and parts of Madison, Wayne, Cuming, and Colfax counties

Cyber Security at Home

In today's digital world, we can no longer ignore cybersecurity threats. It's been estimated that a cyber security attack occurs every 39 seconds in the United States alone. Phishing threats, malware attacks, online scams, and cyber criminals can no longer be ignored!

***Cybersecurity is
a balancing act
with convenience.
With convenience
comes risk.***



Chad Waldow
General Manager

I'm sure several of you reading this article have either experienced an attack, or know someone who has. These attacks can be as simple as stealing a credit card number to secretly installing software on a device that sends "username and password" information back to the hackers. Some of these hacks can be very complex and difficult to identify by the typical home user.

There are many different levels of internet users. You may be someone who limits internet usage to surfing the web, no purchases, banking, etc. Or you may be someone who does a majority of shopping, banking, investing, and paying bills online. Each type of user has different risks associated with the activities they are participating in. Each type of user must be aware of cybersecurity risks.

We are all often tempted to leave our computers open with no password. It is much easier to get on your phone with no password (especially with two-step authentication). This temptation increases your chances of an attack.

EnergyWise SM Efficiency Tip: Cooking

As we gather together to celebrate this holiday season, and all the tasty holiday treats are cooking, baking, steaming or stewing - take some time to consider kitchen efficiency.

- Consider what you are cooking and which appliance you'll use to cook it to perfection. Meatloaf? Use a small oven that minimizes the area that must be heated for an hour or more. Soups and stews? Since they require long cooking periods, a crockpot will save a substantial amount of electricity, as it maintains a low-temperature heat over a long period of time.
- Consider your cookware choices. Most people aren't interested in spending hundreds of dollars on pots and pans. However, higher-quality cookware offers energy efficiency benefits and better control over the quality of food you ultimately put on your plate.
- Keep your cooking equipment in top shape. On the stove top or range, metal pans under the burners that catch spills can become blackened from heavy use. As they do, they absorb a lot of heat, which reduces burner efficiency. The same can be said for microwaves.
- Consider food prep prior to adding heat. Defrost frozen foods in the refrigerator or microwave before cooking so your oven or stovetop doesn't have to thaw food before cooking it.



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Finally, remember it takes much less energy to reheat food as it does to cook it. Consider cooking double portions and refrigerate or freeze half for another meal. The microwave can often provide a piping hot meal with a tiny fraction of the energy needed to make the meal in the first place.

DEQ Clean Diesel Rebates

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality's 2018 Clean Diesel Rebate Program is now accepting applications for replacement of eligible diesel irrigation engines with all-electric equipment. Applications must be submitted to NDEQ by December 15, 2018 to be considered.

NDEQ will reimburse 60% of the cost of the electrical equipment, installation, and required electric line extension up to a maximum of \$20,000.

Contact SPPD for more details, or go to <http://deq.ne.gov/publica.nsf/pages/17-016> for an application



Cyber Security Tips

Below are 5 easy tips that will help keep you safe. These tips are simply a learning tool and very basic steps to build protection for you at home. I would encourage you to determine what steps best fit your situation for your cybersecurity. Look for Cybersecurity Tip of the month in future publications.



Password Protect your Devices

This should include all devices including phones, tablets, and home routers. While it may seem obvious, it's likely you may have a device out there without this simple protection. This is an easy access point for the hackers.



Change your Passwords Often

This is again reducing convenience but increasing your security. Two-factor Authentication is best. By changing passwords, you can protect yourself if someone has accessed your device. Using the same password on multiple accounts increases risk.



Protect Your Information-Beware of Scams

Social media surveys can lure users into giving up personal information. This behavior is rewarded with some "free" access. Also beware of imbedded links that may lead to scam sites or malware being downloaded on your device.



Refrain from using Public WiFi hotspots

These hotspots are popping up around every corner and are easily accessed. However, they are also easily accessed by the hackers. Using a public hotspot with no password means you are sharing the access point with anyone. They can collect your valuable information with malware as you browse and access your accounts later.



Keep Your Antivirus Program Updated

This does cost money and there is no end in site. It's important to remember this Antivirus program can offer some effective security. These companies work around the clock to fend off the latest attacks. If your virus protection isn't up to date, then you don't have the latest protection.

Dates to Keep in Mind

November 12th - Veterans Day observed: SCPPD office will be closed

November 22nd & 23rd - Thanksgiving holiday - SCPPD office will be closed

DECEMBER 1st - BUDGET BILLING opens to all customers



Attention Irrigators!

REMINDER:

Customers are reminded to disconnect irrigation services once you are done using them for the season.

Use the service disconnect just below the meter to de-energize your service for the winter.

This will prevent usage over the winter and save significant money in the event there would be a fault on your service.

Generator Safety

Important safeguards to take when using a generator:

- Operate a portable generator in well ventilated locations outdoors away from all doors, windows and vent openings to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Turn the generator on before using it. Once it's running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit. Generators are for temporary use and limited load; prioritize your needs.
- Never use a generator in a puddle or standing water and never touch with wet hands.
- To protect a portable generator from moisture, operate it on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure.
- Never use or install a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- Turn off portable generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is running.
- Store fuel for your portable generator in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Store the containers outside of living areas.
- Many generator components are hot enough to burn you during operation; Keep children and pets away.



Information about SCPPD

When you have an emergency, SCPPD people are standing by!

In the case of an outage:

- 1- Check your fuses and/or breakers to be sure they are working properly.
- 2 - If you have a double-throw switch, make sure it is in the correct position.
- 3 - Notice your neighbors; do they have power?

Checking these few things before you call SCPPD can help us determine the severity of the outage and therefore expedite the restoration.

Please be sure to give the name that is listed on the billing account and physical address of the outage when calling into the office.

Questions about your bill?

Please call SCPPD, 402-439-2228, during office hours, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., in regards to billing questions. When calling the office concerning billing problems, it will save time if you have your meter serial number or customer account number. All account payments should be mailed to:

Stanton County Public Power District
807 Douglas Street, P.O. Box 319
Stanton, NE 68779-0319

Board of Directors with Board position

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 John Gall..... Vice President
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For Outage Reporting or Emergency service

Call 1-877-439-2228.

Before 8 a.m. or after 4:30 p.m.

Call 1-877-439-2300.

**Communicate Electronically
With SCPPD**

Internet: www.scppd.com

E-mail: scppd@scppd.net



It's the law!

**Call 811
Before You Dig!**

Or 1-800-331-5666

"Diggers Hotline of Nebraska"
 Also www.ne-diggers.com