

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Mitchell Tech Expansion

**Co-ops Support
New Training Lab**
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Weather Warnings
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*Photo submitted by
Mitchell Technical College*

Safety Day: Saturday, August 9



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/
Chief Executive
Officer

Tim.McCarthy@
siouxvalleyenergy.
com

Sioux Valley Energy's Culture of Care places safety as the top priority in all that we do, and we want to extend that beyond the physical walls of the Cooperative. That is why you see our safety messaging ads on television, online, and in newspapers. It's why you may notice our safety education in schools and at events demonstrating our high voltage trailer. It's also why we sponsor a safety poster contest each year with the winning posters placed on billboards throughout the region. We are planning to take that public awareness work one step further, concentrating all of those messages and activities to one event called - **Safety Day**. We've held it twice previously and it's back and better than ever in 2025!

Safety Day – Saturday, August 9:

Sioux Valley Energy's Safety Day isn't just a few hours of browsing through boring displays – it is a fun, hands-on learning/interactive experience! It is designed for kids of all ages – including some pancake flipping that we leave up to the experts at Chris Cakes. The event will take place on **August 9 at the Brandon Service Center from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

- This event is a big deal – both logistically and practically. The Sioux Valley Energy Safety Steering Committee will be creating a mock accident scene that will involve power lines and vehicles. You and your kids will learn what to do if you are ever in an accident involving a power line. Additionally, you will witness the power of electricity with the Cooperative's high voltage trailer demonstrations.
- The SD Farmers Union Farm Safety Trailer will be on hand, complete with

an ATV simulator, grain bin harness, interactive games, and a toy-size farm.

- The Brandon Fire Department, Brandon Police Department, and the SD Highway Patrol will be providing safety demonstrations.
- Bicycle safety will be featured thanks to SD EMS for Children. The first 100 kids will receive a free bicycle helmet and fitting.
- Adults will have the chance to receive free blood pressure checks provided by the Pipestone County Ambulance crew, along with CPR training and ambulance tours for all.
- Our friends at the Minnesota Rural Electric Association will lend their virtual reality learning goggles to our crew.
- Don't forget all the FUN activities including carnival games with prizes, electrical circuit construction, face painting, and balloon animal creations!
- We will also be offering tours of our expanded Brandon facility for those who would like to get "behind the scenes" of serving our members.

The activities mentioned above are just a taste of what your family will experience on Saturday, August 9 at Sioux Valley Energy's Safety Day! Come join us for the event and a fantastic pancake feed from 9 a.m. to noon. See you there.



SATURDAY AUGUST 9, 2025
9 A.M.-NOON
108 N HERITAGE RD
BRANDON, SD

PLUS
TOUR THE
BRANDON
FACILITY
EXPANSION



FREE! PANCAKE FEED
9 A.M. TO NOON

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

SIoux VALLEY ENERGY

(USPS No. 497-440)

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Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections is the monthly publication for the members of Sioux Valley Energy, PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017. Families subscribe to *Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections* as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of *Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections* is to provide reliable, helpful information to Sioux Valley Energy members on electric cooperative matters and better living.

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e-mail: sve@siouxvalleyenergy.com
Website: www.siouxvalleyenergy.com

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**Sioux Valley Energy is an
equal opportunity provider and employer.**

Sioux Valley Energy Earns an ACSI® Customer Satisfaction Award 2025

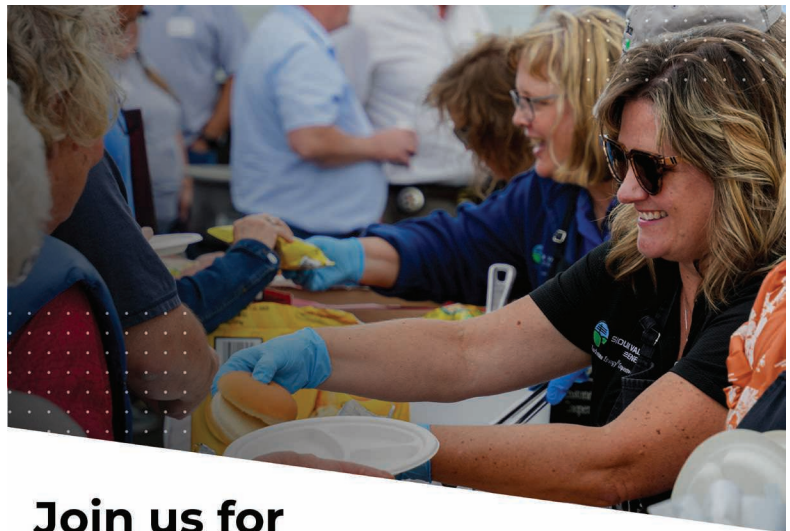
Sioux Valley Energy is honored to have earned a 2025 Customer Satisfaction Award* from the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®) based on our member survey results. Members were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with us, how well we lived up to their expectations, and how well we measured up to their ideal co-op experience. While these were not the only questions in the survey, we included these specifically because they are the core components of the proprietary ACSI methodology.

Sioux Valley Energy's ACSI score substantially outperforms the industry average score earned by publicly measured utilities reported in the 2025 ACSI Energy Utility Study. This Award is a testament to Sioux Valley Energy's ongoing efforts to provide the best possible member experience.

The 2025 Customer Satisfaction Award affirms that Sioux Valley Energy's hard work has been noticed by its members. The Co-op is grateful for its members and will continue to strive for excellence through constant dedication to improvement.



**Award criteria are determined by the ACSI® and are based on customers rating their satisfaction in a survey independent of the syndicated ACSI Energy Utility Study. For more about the ACSI, visit www.theacsi.org/badges. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC.*



Join us for Ag Appreciation Day

Wednesday, August 6, 2025
Lunch served 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds, Sioux Falls

Staying Alert With Kids in Hot Cars

Source: National Safety Council

Since 1998, more than 1,010 children have died from vehicular heatstroke, an average of 37 per year. Parents and caregivers can act immediately to end these preventable deaths.

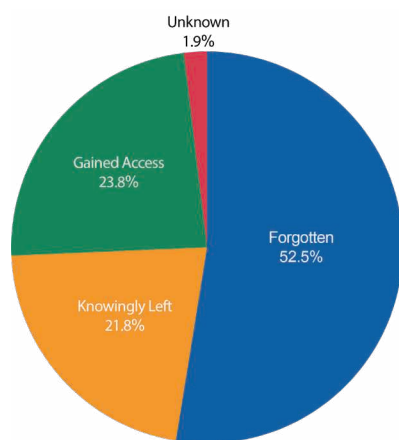
How Does It Happen?

Even on mild or cloudy days, temperatures inside vehicles can reach life-threatening levels. Leaving windows slightly open doesn't help. Children should never be left unattended or be able to get inside a vehicle. Three primary circumstances resulting in deaths of children in hot cars are:

- A caregiver forgets a child in a vehicle - 53%
- A child gains access to a vehicle - 24%
- Someone knowingly leaves a child in a vehicle - 22%

NSC advises parents and caregivers to stick to a routine and avoid distractions to reduce the risk of forgetting a child. Place a purse, briefcase or even a left shoe in the back seat to force you to take one last look before walking away. Keep car doors locked so children cannot gain access and teach them that cars are not play areas.

There is no safe amount of time to leave a child in a vehicle, even if you are just running a quick errand.



nsc
National Safety Council

Child Passenger Safety
Child Passenger Safety Council
VEHICULAR HEATSTROKE PREVENTION



"Never fly a kite by a power line!"

Kasen Tikka, Age 9

Kasen warns readers about the dangers of flying a kite near power lines. Thank you for your picture, Kasen! Kasen's parents are Corey and Marcel Tikka from Lake Norden, S.D.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Delicious DESSERTS

STRAWBERRY ANGEL FOOD DESSERT

Ingredients:

1 angel food cake
(baked and cut in pieces)
3.9 oz vanilla pudding
1 3/4 cups milk
3 cups sliced strawberries
1/4 cup sugar
8 oz. Cool Whip, thawed

Method

Put the angel food cake in a 9"x13" pan. In a separate bowl, combine vanilla pudding and milk; whisk together until thick; set aside. In another bowl, combine sliced strawberries and sugar; pour over the cake. Spread pudding over strawberries. Top with 8 oz. Cool Whip. Add more strawberries on top. Chill 1 hour before serving.

Gladys Bauer
Cam Wal Electric

MONSTER COOKIE BARS

Ingredients:

1 stick butter
1 1/2 cups peanut butter
1 cup sugar
1 cup brown sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
3 eggs
2 tsps. baking soda
4 1/2 cups oatmeal
12 oz. chocolate chips
12 oz. plain M&Ms

Method

Mix butter, peanut butter, sugar, brown sugar, vanilla and eggs. Add dry ingredients and mix in chocolate chips and M&Ms. Bake at 350°F for 15 minutes (no longer) in a large jelly roll pan. They may not look done but they are. Enjoy!

Rhonda Tuscherer
FEM Electric

BLUEBERRY TORTE

Ingredients:

1/2 cup butter
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 tbsp. sugar
8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
1 cup powdered sugar
8 oz. Cool Whip (reserve part for topping)
1qt. blueberries (fresh or frozen)
1 cup water
1 cup sugar
3 tbsps. cornstarch

Method

Cut butter into flour and sugar. Press into a 9"x13" pan and bake at 350°F for 20 minutes. Chill. Beat cream cheese and powdered sugar until light and fluffy. Fold in Cool Whip. Spread over crust. Simmer one cup blueberries and 2/3 cup water for five minutes. Blend sugar and cornstarch; add 1/3 cup water and mix until smooth. Combine with cooked berries and boil until thick and transparent. Cool and add remaining berries. Chill thoroughly and spoon over cream cheese mixture. Chill several hours or overnight. Top with Cool Whip.

Janet Lefers
Douglas Electric

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2025. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

The Evolving Energy Landscape and Distributed Energy Resources (DERs)



Nathan Zimmerman

Manager of
Beneficial
Electrification
nathan.zimmerman@siouxvalley-energy.com

Learn more about
Sioux Valley
Energy's Beneficial
Electrification
programs here:



The energy system has undergone notable changes in recent years. Technologies such as solar, wind, and battery storage have become more common, leading to an increase in Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) connected to the grid. As these resources grow in number and complexity, it's important to manage their integration in a way that protects system-wide affordability, reliability, and safety.

The interconnection process which governs how DER systems are safely and efficiently connected to the grid plays a central role in maintaining this balance. How DERs are integrated impacts not only individual users but also the cost and stability of service for all cooperative members.

WHAT ARE DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES (DERs)?

Distributed Energy Resources are small-scale systems that generate or store electricity near the point of use. Unlike large, centralized power plants, DERs operate on a more localized scale and can take several forms, including:

- **Solar Power:** Rooftop or ground-mounted photovoltaic systems.
- **Wind Power:** Small turbines used in residential or agricultural settings.
- **Energy Storage:** Batteries that store and discharge electricity better to match supply with demand.

DERs are not one-size-fits-all. Some provide energy only to the property where they are located, while others can export energy to the larger grid. The addition of any new DER must be evaluated for its broader impact on the electrical system and on the financial obligations of all members.

UPCOMING CHANGE: NON-EXPORT DER PATH PLANNED FOR Q4 2025

In response to changing technology and system needs, a new DER interconnection path is being introduced in the fourth quarter

of 2025: the non-export DER path. This option will allow systems such as batteries or behind-the-meter solar to operate without exporting energy back to the grid.

While non-export systems don't directly contribute to grid supply, they can still affect system operations, particularly in terms of load patterns and coordination with peak demand. This new pathway is being developed with the goal of maintaining fair treatment among all members-assuring that individual technological choices do not result in cost shifts that impact others.

AFFORDABILITY AND THE COOPERATIVE MODEL

As a member-owned cooperative, decisions about energy programs and infrastructure are made with the entire membership in mind. The growth of DERs presents both opportunities and challenges. While some members may choose to invest in DER technologies, it's critical that the financial and operational impacts are considered across the full membership.

The Cooperative must ensure that the cost of maintaining the grid remains equitably distributed and that no individual system undermines the affordability, reliability, or safety of electric service for others.

THE ROLE OF C-MIP IN INTERCONNECTION

The Cooperative-Managed Interconnection Process (C-MIP) provides a framework for evaluating DER interconnection requests based on technical, safety, and economic factors. It helps ensure that DERs are integrated in a consistent and transparent way that does not disrupt existing service or impose additional costs on other members.

As DER trends evolve and the new non-export path is implemented, this process will remain central to managing change in a way that supports long-term system affordability and stability.

SEEN AND NOTED

Co-op Enters Area Parades

Summer brings festivals and parades to many communities in Sioux Valley Energy's service territory. While we aren't able to make an appearance in all of these gatherings, our employees enjoy participating where they can. In May and June, the Cooperative participated in parades in Brandon, Dell Rapids, Garretson, Hartford, and Pipestone.

Thanks to everyone who waved back as our employees handed out hundreds of pounds of candy!



Above: Alex C. tosses candy as Peyton F. drives the truck in Hartford's Jamboree Day parade June 21. **Left:** Jake D. in Dell Rapids' Quarry Day Parade June 28. **Below:** Tanner D. took a picture of his truck and candy tubs ahead of Garretson's Jesse James Day Parade held on June 14.



Left: SVE's Ford Lightning was in the Pipestone Watertower Festival Parade June 28 with the families of employees Cathy F. and Matt D.



C.L.A.S.S. GRANT DEADLINE AUG. 15

Program established for area teachers' classrooms

Teachers from across the region are finished with the school year and to give them a head start for 2025-2026 Sioux Valley Energy will bring back its C.L.A.S.S. Grant program. Many teachers purchase classroom supplies on their own. To help, the Co-op will provide 10 area teachers a \$350 grant to purchase supplies for their classroom. Teachers can submit an online entry to Sioux Valley Energy at SVEClassGrants.com. All entries must be submitted by 10 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 15. The grant recipients will be selected through a drawing which will be held at noon on Aug. 19 via Facebook. One teacher from each of the Cooperative's 10 districts will be selected from the drawing.

Enter online: www.SVEClassGrants.com





FUNDING FUTURES

Rural Electric Cooperatives Support New Training Facility

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

Mitchell Technical College is well known among the region's rural electric cooperatives for its industry-leading lineworker training programs.

Now, that program is about to get even better, as MTC begins construction on a new, state-of-the-art underground cable equipment training facility.

The Power Line Underground Lab will allow students to learn how to trench, bore, and connect cables in an environment away from other labs and courses.

Additionally, being indoors and having a dirt floor, instructors have the added benefit of being able to plan courses without worry regarding outside weather and frozen ground during winter.

"The new facility allows us to be able to use our underground curriculum and teach it all throughout the school year, instead of just the beginning and the end when the ground is thawed out," MTC's president, Theresa Kriese said about the space.

"They get more equipment time because we're not trying to

A render showing Mitchell Technical College's new Power Line Underground Lab. MTC says students will practice underground utility work in this new facility, away from other courses' labs to reduce crowding. Submitted Photo



Construction of MTC's Power Line Underground Lab began this spring. MTC expects students beginning in the fall semester of 2026. Submitted Photo

share a lab where we're also planting poles."

Kriese hopes spreading out the curriculum over the semester will allow MTC's instructors to dive deeper into certain course topics with their students, making them overall better candidates for employment when they enter the workforce.

"We're seeing the energy industry making another transformation where underground is really gaining a larger presence than it had in the past", Kriese added, noting the Federal Emergency Management Agency's push to replace downed overhead lines with resilient underground cables after storms.

"We're finding that if we can have our students trained in both (overhead and underground), it opens some opportunities for them, because they may not be able to climb that pole their entire life," she continued. "It gives some flexibility to the employer, because I can hire somebody that can climb but they can also do that underground connection. So wherever I need them, I can have them work in my employment area."

Central Electric Cooperative General Manager Ken Schlimgen agrees, adding that with more and more electric co-ops working to replace their aging overhead infrastructure with underground line, MTC's new underground focus will help alleviate future workforce challenges.

"When we support Mitchell Tech programs, it's an investment into our most important asset: our workforce," Schlimgen said. "Workforce challenges will continue for decades, and having a competent, qualified team of lineworkers to serve our members and keep the lights on is vital to our success."

Central Electric is just one electric co-op providing financial support for the expansion.

At the time of writing, more than 20 electric co-ops in South Dakota have pledged over \$460,000 to MTC in support of the facility.

"Power line personnel are the backbone of our cooperative family, keeping the lights on for our members and being leaders in our communities," said Steve Barnett, general manager for the South Dakota Rural Electric Association.

"Mitchell Technical College is a workforce pipeline for this profession and is vital to cooperatives across our region."

Kriesie said staff and student excitement is growing ahead of the facility's expected 2026 completion and expressed appreciation to electric

co-ops for their support.

"Mitchell Tech is making a statement and a commitment to the energy industry that we are your partner in developing and training employees for you," Kriesie said.

"Without the partnership of the electric cooperatives, we really

wouldn't be able to make this expansion."

The project is slated to celebrate its grand opening in the Fall of 2026, when students and Mitchell Tech faculty will begin using the facility to train tomorrow's electric cooperative workforce.



MTC's current plan for the Power Line Underground Lab shows a 34,000 square foot facility, made up of a 23,500 square foot underground lab, a 7,755 square foot vehicle and equipment storage area and a 1,000 square foot classroom.

Submitted Photo



Theresa Kriesie
President
MTC



Steve Barnett
General Manager
SDREA



Ken Schlimgen
General Manager
Central Electric

Hartford Area Development Foundation Secures a \$600,000 REED Loan to Develop the North Oaks Industrial Park

Hartford, South Dakota, has a new industrial park at 12th Street and Western Avenue to support business development and community growth. The 42-acre development has multiple lots that can be adjusted to meet the needs of companies that move there. This development was made possible in part by a \$600,000 loan from the Rural Electric Economic Development, Inc. (REED) Fund, in partnership with the U.S. Economic Development Administration, the South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development, the City of Hartford, and Sioux Valley Energy.

"The new North Oaks Industrial Park in Hartford is already making a big impact on the community, both economically and in terms of quality of life for residents," says Amy M. Farr, Executive Director of the Hartford Area Development Foundation (HADF).

Learn more about this industrial park, how Hartford will benefit from it, and how REED made a difference in securing funding for its construction.

PARK BRINGS IN NEW INDUSTRIES, JOBS

Multiple companies have already expressed interest in the industrial park, with two that have already started to build their new facilities. Both Pro Framing and R&L Construction have moved their headquarters to the new park. The industrial park is expected to bring more than 30 new jobs to the area, which will have a significant impact on the local workforce.

"That kind of job growth helps diversify the local economy and gives more people the opportunity to work close to home," says Farr.

Along with new career opportunities, these shorter commutes can also increase residents' quality of life. They can spend less time driving and more time with their families or pursuing hobbies.

THE REED FUND HELPED COVER CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS COSTS

The HADF in partnership with the City of Hartford secured two grants to assist with the new industrial park, as well as the REED Fund to assist with financing.

"Working with the REED Fund has been an exceptional experience," says Farr. "They are very



knowledgeable in funding that helps bring projects over the finish line."

The HADF overcame a few stumbling blocks in the construction process. Inclement weather pushed back deadlines and caused the project to run longer than anticipated. The HADF also had to create an HOA for the ponds on the development to support their long-term maintenance.

"I believe we are one of the first to do something like this," says Farr.

Hartford is supported by Sioux Valley Energy, an electric cooperative that serves the community and an active member of the REED Fund. Through the Co-op's REVIVE 2030 program (the cooperative's economic and community development initiative), Farr learned about their loan options to continue the HADF's economic development efforts in the region.

"REED funding is an important piece of the community development puzzle for communities like Hartford," says Tim McCarthy, General Manager and CEO of Sioux Valley Energy. "Sioux Valley Energy, through its REVIVE 2030 program, has partnered with communities throughout the region to help them identify needs, secure resources, create partnerships, and develop community plans. REED has been a cornerstone of that partnership."

PARK SHOWCASES THE POTENTIAL OF HARTFORD

Along with immediately attracting new businesses, the North Oaks Industrial Park also highlights the value of living in Hartford. This park is a big step toward attracting new industries and residents in the future.

"Hartford is an incredible place to live and do business because it offers a welcoming community atmosphere combined with real growth potential," says Farr. "Residents enjoy safe neighborhoods, one of the best school districts, and expanding recreational opportunities, while businesses are supported through strong local leadership and convenient access to major interstates like I-29 and I-90."

The HADF is also working on local infrastructure improvements to attract additional investment in the coming years.

SAFETY DAY

at
the



SIoux VALLEY
ENERGY A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

BRANDON SERVICE CENTER

SATURDAY **AUGUST 9, 2025** 9 A.M. - NOON
108 N HERITAGE RD **BRANDON, SD**

ELECTRIC SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS

BY SVE SAFETY STEERING COMMITTEE

INTERACTIVE SAFETY DEMOS

FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

FREE BIKE HELMETS

100 FREE HELMETS AVAILABLE - SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY
HELMETS PROVIDED BY SOUTH DAKOTA EMS FOR CHILDREN

ADULT BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

FIRE SAFETY BY BRANDON FIRE DEPARTMENT

INTERACTIVE ATV/UTV SAFETY TRAINING

BY S.D. FARMERS UNION SAFETY TRAILER

MEET AN OFFICER BY BRANDON POLICE DEPARTMENT

ROLL-OVER SIMULATOR BY SOUTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY PATROL

SAFE DIGGING AND 8-1-1

KIDS' CARNIVAL GAMES, PRIZES FOR KIDS & MORE...

BALLOON ANIMALS • CUPCAKE WALK • PRIZE FISHING POND • FACE PAINTING • RING TOSS • ELECTRIC CIRCUITS • PHOTO BOOTH

PLUS TOURS OF SIOUX VALLEY ENERGY'S RECENTLY
EXPANDED BRANDON SERVICE CENTER

FREE
**PANCAKE
FEED**
9 A.M. -
NOON

**PANCAKES BY
CHRIS CAKES**



Get a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the 32,500-foot expansion of the Brandon Service Center which added training space, offices, and warehouse areas to the facility which serves Sioux Valley Energy's growing membership.



WEATHER WARNINGS

Storm clouds gather near Nunda, S.D.
Photo by Jacob Boyko

Getting Ready for Severe Summer Storms

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

Midwest summers have a certain notoriety for their extreme summer weather events.

South Dakota is no exception. Between May 2015 and June 2025, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported more than 200 tornadic events in South Dakota.

The Recipe for Severe Weather

According to Peter Rogers, warning coordination meteorologist for the National Weather Service (NWS) Office in Sioux Falls, there are four foundational components for the specific type of thunderstorms that produce tornadoes called supercells.

The first component is moisture – it's needed to form clouds. The second component, lift, refers to an upward motion of the air. In places without mountains like eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota, that occurs when a cold or warm front moves into the area and the laws of physics force warm air upward.

The third component, instability, is the

difference between the two air masses.

"If you have pockets of air that are hotter than the air around them, they'll continue to rise," Rogers explained. "And the instability is the extent to how far those parcels will rise."

The final component, wind shear, is how the wind speed and direction changes with altitude.

"Here, at the surface, we're normally only concerned about what the wind speed is doing at the surface," Rogers explained.

"But as meteorologists, we want to know what's happening at 5, 10, 15 ... feet and so on. The more changes you have with wind speed and direction ... with height increases your chances of going from just your garden-variety thunderstorm to a severe thunderstorm that's more capable of producing strong winds and tornadoes."

Over the last 10 years, South Dakota has seen tornadoes mostly ranking EF-0, EF-1 and EF-2 on the Enhanced Fujita scale.

The scale, named for its developer, meteorologist Ted Fujita, ranks tornadoes on a scale from 0 to 5 based on recorded wind speed and the damage observed that can be attributed to the tornado, with an

EF-5 being the most severe.

An EF-0 tornado will leave behind damage indicators showing wind speeds between 65 and 85 mph, while an EF-1 tornado will show damage indicating wind speeds between 86 and 110 mph, an EF-2 111-135 mph, an EF-3 136-165 mph, an EF-4 166-200 mph and an EF-5 being anything over 200 mph.

But weak and strong tornadoes alike can be deadly without proper action.

Working at the National Weather Service, it's part of Roger's job to get severe weather alerts out to the public.

Weather radios are particularly helpful in severe weather scenarios, he explained, because you can set them to alert you any time the NWS sends out an alert for your area.

"Severe weather is not just an afternoon or evening phenomenon," Rogers said.

"We often have some pretty big events in the middle of the night, so you want to have something that's going to wake you up in the middle of the night so you can get to shelter."

NOAA Weather
Radios can tune
to your local
forecast 24
hours per day.



As any Midwest resident knows, there's far more summertime severe weather than just tornadoes.

Derechoes, which decimated much of eastern South Dakota and Western Minnesota in 2022, produces a wall of strong, fast gusts of wind that can be just as dangerous as a tornado.

According to the NWS, for a storm to be classified as a derecho, it must extend 250 miles with gusts of at least 58 mph and produce several gusts of at least 75 mph.

In western South Dakota, the Black Hills help create the optimal conditions needed for severe hail.

"What you need is a really strong thunderstorm that has a really strong updraft," explained Kelly Serr, warning coordination meteorologist for the National Weather Service Office in Aberdeen.

"When that updraft is really strong, it reaches the very coldest levels of the atmosphere where tiny droplets of rain start to freeze."

The stronger the draft, the longer the frozen rain drop will remain in the atmosphere. And the longer it's stuck in the updraft, the more water it collects, growing in size until finally the hail stone is too heavy to be suspended by the updraft anymore, and it plummets to the ground.

In western and central South Dakota, that process is exacerbated by the Black Hills, which help force the air up even higher and create fast-developing thunderstorms.

During severe weather events like thunderstorms, tornadoes and hail, the NWS encourages those in the pathway of the storm to seek shelter in a basement or a room without windows away from outside walls, as hail and other debris can shatter windows.

"Something we always tell people is to pay attention to the forecast," Serr said. "Know before you go: 'Are we expecting severe storms?' And then have a safety plan in place for wherever you are."

Looking Back at Summer Storms

Delmont Tornado – May 5, 2015

At about 10:45 a.m. on Mother's Day, an EF-2 tornado struck Delmont. The tornado's path began in Charles Mix County, making its way north into Douglas County where it reached Delmont and damaged numerous homes, including Delmont's famous Onion House, and destroyed the Zion Lutheran Church and fire station. The NWS reported a peak wind speed of 130 mph, with the tornado covering 17.3 miles and reaching a width of 400 yards.

Derechos – May 12, July 5, 2022

In the afternoon, a wall of straight line wind known as a derecho moved northeastward through eastern S.D. and Western M.N., with wind speeds reaching over 100 mph. The storm brought with it numerous tornadoes, including an EF-2 tornado with wind speeds up to 120 mph in Castlewood. According to the NWS, the derecho was the "most extreme example on record in terms of the measured significant wind gusts." The National Centers for Environmental Information categorized the storm a billion-dollar disaster event. Less than two months after the May event, a derecho moving southeastward produced wind gusts reaching 99 mph in Howard and 96 mph in Huron. In Sioux Falls, the sky turned green – a rare phenomenon caused by refraction, or the bending of light when passing through and being warped by the water and ice contained within the storm system.

Black Hills Hail – June, 2, 2019

In the morning, a supercell thunderstorm moved through Rapid City, Hermosa and Fairburn, producing golf ball-sized hail that damaged vehicles, homes and crops.

Tripp Tornado – May 8, 1965

The strongest tornado ever recorded in S.D. was in Tripp County. The storm produced snow over the Black Hills, with Lead reporting 36 inches of snow. The Tornado touched down east of Wewela, with a maximum observed width of 1,760 yards, and moved northwest 30 miles. The tornado was classified an F-5.

Source: Event Summaries, Weather.gov

Pierre Hail – July 18, 2023

An afternoon warm front heading east across central S.D. developed into a supercell. Around 6:20 p.m. in Pierre, there were reports of softball-sized and larger hail, with one setting a Hughes County record at 5 inches in diameter.

Dupree Tornado – June 16, 2010

In the afternoon and evening hours, a thunderstorm over Dupree produced damaging winds, torrential rainfall and flooding, and at least 16 tornadoes, with multiple tornadoes being simultaneous. The storm damaged roofs, mobile homes and grain bins. The damage observed indicated an EF-2 tornado.

Vivian Hail – July 23, 2010

A S.D. and U.S. hailstone record was set in Vivian after an evening thunderstorm formed a supercell moving southeastward. The NWS reported numerous hailstones exceeding 6 inch diameters as well as a record-setting 8 inch diameter, 18.625 circumference and 1 pound, 15 ounce hailstone. NWS estimates the hail stone fell at about 100 mph.

Sioux Falls Tornado – Sept. 11, 2019

In the late evening hours of Sept. 10 into the early morning hours of Sept. 11, severe thunderstorms moved across southeast S.D. into M.N. and I.A., bringing 80 to 100 mph straight line winds and three brief EF-2 tornadoes in Sioux Falls. The Avera Health Complex, several commercial spaces, and a neighborhood were damaged.

Jerauld Tornadoes – June 18, 2014

In the evening, a thunderstorm over Jerauld County produced an EF-4 tornado that traveled over 11 miles from Lane to Alpena. The tornado measured 880 yards at its widest. The same storm produced several more tornadoes, including an EF-2 that ravaged Wessington Springs.

Bowdle Tornado – May 22, 2010

A supercell in north central S.D. produced multiple tornadoes, including an EF-4 and golf ball-sized hail near Bowdle. NWS reported nearly 100 downed utility poles.

YOUTH TOUR 2025 IN BOOKS

Stokesbury, Pickard represent Sioux Valley Energy on Minnesota, South Dakota Youth Tours

Two teens with Sioux Valley Energy's EmPOWER Youth Leadership Program represented the Cooperative on the National Rural Electric Youth Tour.

Samantha Stokesbury of Pipestone traveled with the Minnesota Rural Electric Association group of 29 students while Isabelle Pickard of Rutland traveled with the South Dakota Rural Electric Association group from June 15-21. A total of 36 teens represented 22 South Dakota cooperatives. In addition to sight-seeing in the

Washington, D.C., area, students participated in NRECA's Youth Day which brought together 2,000 youth tour students from across the country. The students also met with their state's respective Senators and House of Representative members.

The experience was memorable for both.

"Take the picture. Even if it's not a good one, it's a moment frozen in time, a

memory to last a lifetime!" said Pickard.

"Say yes to new people, open your heart to quick hellos, and embrace messy photos. Every new face is the start of a story you'll never forget," said Stokesbury.



Above: Minnesota's Youth Tour delegation of 29 students poses for a photo on the west steps of the U.S. Capitol. **Left:** South Dakota's 36-student group poses near the U.S. Marines Corps Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.



Below: Isabelle Pickard, left, traveled with the South Dakota group and had a photo op at the White House, while Samantha Stokesbury, right, traveled with Minnesota.





Rounding UP

Members of the West Sioux II 4-H Club of Volga assemble extension cords. Using an Operation Round Up® grant, club leaders purchased the supplies for the activity.

More than \$32,000 in Operation Round Up® Grants Awarded

Sioux Valley Energy and its members are making an impact in their local communities. During the most recent quarterly meeting of the Sioux Valley Energy Customers' Trust Board of Directors, \$32,725 in grants were awarded by the Cooperative's Operation Round Up® program. An additional \$5,000 was reserved for scholarships. The recipients are listed at right.

More than \$2.5 million has been donated to area non-profits, schools, and communities since the year 2000 when Sioux Valley Energy started its Operation Round Up® (ORU) program. The program is simple – participating members “round up” their electric bill to the next high dollar and those “rounded up” funds are placed into a trust. Additionally, many Sioux Valley Energy employees donate from their paycheck each month. Each quarter the Operation Round Up Board of Trustees meets to review applications and consider grant requests.

A list of recent grant recipients, as well as information on how local organizations can apply for funding, can be found at <https://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/operation-round-up>

The next deadline to apply for funding is August 20 with grants being awarded in September.

Right: CTE Academy students and instructors and a Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sioux Falls representative present house keys to Rebecca and family. Operation Round Up funds were used for the 2024 student-built home.



Second Quarter 2025 Operation Round Up® Recipients included:

Bath, South Dakota – **South Dakota FFA Foundation, Inc.**

Brandon, South Dakota – **Midwest Street Medicine and Service Leadership Academy**

Brookings, South Dakota – **Brookings Area Habitat for Humanity**

Chester, South Dakota – **Chester Girls Basketball**

Colton, South Dakota – **Tri-Valley Elementary - PT**

Dell Rapids, South Dakota – **St. Mary's Catholic School**

Flandreau, South Dakota – **Moody County Historical Society and Museum and VFW Moody Post 3351**

Hartford, South Dakota – **Humboldt Sharpshooters**

Hills, Minnesota – **Hills-Beaver Creek Community Education Robotics Program**

Holland, Minnesota – **Holland Fire Department**

Luverne, Minnesota – **Luverne Elementary and Luverne Initiatives for Tomorrow (LIFT)**

Pipestone, Minnesota – **Pipestone Area Chamber of Commerce, Pipestone Area Softball and Baseball Association, Pipestone EDA, and Pipestone Elementary School**

Sioux Falls, South Dakota – **Bread Break, Feeding South Dakota, Glory House, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sioux Falls, and Midwest Food Bank - Tristate**

Valley Springs, South Dakota – **Charles R. Doman American Legion Post 131**

Volga, South Dakota – **West Sioux II 4-H Club**

REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at Dakotafest or the South Dakota State Fair to win a prize!

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____



Photo courtesy of Travel South Dakota

AUG. 27-SEPT. 1
South Dakota State Fair
Huron, SD

SAVE THE DATE
1-800-234-1960

AUG. 9 **Safety Day**

9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Sioux Valley Energy
Brandon Service Center
108 N Heritage Rd.
Brandon, SD

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

UNTIL AUG. 10
Annual Red Cloud Indian Art Show
Painting, photography,
beadwork, quillwork
Red Cloud Indian School
100 Mission Dr.
Pine Ridge, SD 57770
(605) 867-8257

JULY 26
Honey Days
Bruce, SD
605-627-5671

JULY 26
Planes, Trains, & Automobiles
Car Show, Train Rides, Flyovers
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

JULY 26
South Dakota Chislic Festival
10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Freeman, SD
www.sdchislicfestival.com

JULY 27
The Everly Set
Concert in Opera House
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

AUG. 1-3
Beaver Days
Beaver Creek, MN

AUG. 1-10
85th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally
Sturgis, SD

AUG. 7-10
South Dakota Senior Games
Huron, SD
605-295-2039
southdakotaseniorgames.org

AUG. 9
Day of Honor
End of WWII 80th Anniversary
10 a.m.
Battleship South Dakota Memorial
12th Street & Kiwanis Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD

AUG. 10
Czech Heritage Festival
Bechny, MN
320-522-1218

AUG. 16
Extreme Bull Riding Tour
7:30 a.m.
Yankton, SD
605-760-2153

AUG. 21-24
Steam Threshing Jamboree
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

AUG. 23
McCrossan Boys Ranch Xtreme Event Challenge Rodeo
4 p.m. Gates Open, 6 p.m. Rodeo
Sioux Falls, SD

AUG. 23
Hartford Area Fire & Rescue 7th Annual Public Safety Day
10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Hartford Fire Station
305 W. South St.
Hartford, SD

Note: We publish contact information as provided. If no phone number is given, none will be listed. Please call ahead to verify the event is still being held.