

# Ruralite

2025 Calendar



Midnight sun on Cakeater Road.

Photo by Annie Rexford





# January

Snowy owl.

Photo by Kevin Fisher

DECEMBER 2024

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

FEBRUARY 2025

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |    |

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY                               | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY   |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|----------|--------|--|
|  |  |                                       | 1 <span>New Year's Day</span><br><br>BUECI Closed | 2        | 3      | 4  |
|  | 5  | 6<br><br><span>› First Quarter</span> | 7   | 8        | 9      | 10<br><br><span>Discount Deadline</span><br><span>Donation Request Deadline</span> |
| 12   | 13<br><br><span>○ Full Moon</span>                             | 14                                    | 15  | 16       | 17     | 18   |
| 19   | 20 <span>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</span><br><br>BUECI Closed | 21<br><br><span>☾ Last Quarter</span> | 22  | 23       | 24     | 25   |
| 26   | 27   | 28                                    | 29<br><br><span>● New Moon</span>                 | 30       | 31     |  |



# February

Sunset sea ice mirage.  
Photo by Kevin Fisher

| JANUARY 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    | MARCH 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S            | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S          | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|              |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |            |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 5            | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 2          | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 12           | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 9          | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 19           | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 16         | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 26           | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    | 23         | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
|              |    |    |    |    |    |    | 30         | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY                               | TUESDAY              | WEDNESDAY         | THURSDAY             | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---|----------|
|  BUECI<br>BARROW UTILITIES AND<br>ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC |                                      |                      |                   |                      |   | 1        |
| 2   | 3                                    | 4<br>› First Quarter | 5                 | 6                    | 7   | 8        |
| 9   | 10<br>Discount Deadline              | 11                   | 12<br>○ Full Moon | 13                   | 14<br>Valentine's Day<br>Donation Request<br>Deadline | 15       |
| 16  | 17<br>Presidents Day<br>BUECI Closed | 18                   | 19                | 20<br>☾ Last Quarter | 21  | 22       |
| 23  | 24                                   | 25                   | 26                | 27<br>● New Moon     | 28  |          |



# March

Polar bear.  
Photo by Kevin Fisher

| FEBRUARY 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    | APRIL 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S             | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S          | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|               |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |            |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| 2             | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 6          | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 9             | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 13         | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 16            | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 20         | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 23            | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |    | 27         | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY                  | TUESDAY                                | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY                  | FRIDAY                          | SATURDAY             |
|--|-------------------------|--|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
|  |                         |  |           |                           |                                 | 1                    |
| 2  | 3                       | 4                                      | 5         | 6<br>› First Quarter      | 7                               | 8                    |
| 9<br>Daylight Saving Time Begins   | 10<br>Discount Deadline | 11                                     | 12        | 13<br>○ Full Moon         | 14<br>Donation Request Deadline | 15                   |
| 16   | 17<br>St. Patrick's Day | 18<br>Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day | 19        | 20<br>First Day of Spring | 21                              | 22<br>◀ Last Quarter |
| 23<br>30   | 24<br>31                | 25                                     | 26        | 27                        | 28                              | 29<br>● New Moon     |



# April

Snow bunting.  
Photo by Kevin Fisher

| MARCH 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    | MAY 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S          | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S        | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|            |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |          |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 2          | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 4        | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 9          | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 11       | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 16         | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 18       | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 23         | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 25       | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| 30         | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |          |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY | TUESDAY            | WEDNESDAY             | THURSDAY          | FRIDAY                               | SATURDAY  |
|--|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
|  |        | 1 April Fool's Day | 2                     | 3                 | 4                                    | 5         |
| 6  | 7      | 8                  | 9                     | 10                | 11                                   | 12        |
|  |        |                    |                       | Discount Deadline | Donation Request Deadline            | Full Moon |
| 13   | 14     | 15                 | 16                    | 17                | 18 Good Friday                       | 19        |
|  |        |                    |                       |                   | National Lineworker Appreciation Day |           |
| 20   | 21     | 22                 | 23                    | 24                | 25                                   | 26        |
| Last Quarter   |        |                    | Admin Assistant's Day |                   |                                      |           |
| 27   | 28     | 29                 | 30                    |                   |                                      |           |
| New Moon   |        |                    |                       |                   |                                      |           |



# May

Northern sea nettle.

Photo by Kevin Fisher

APRIL 2025

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |    |
| 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |

JUNE 2025

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |    |

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY              | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY                            | SATURDAY |
|--|--|----------------------|-----------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|
|  |  |                      |           | 1        | 2                                 | 3        |
| 4  | 5  | 6                    | 7         | 8        | 9<br>Donation Request<br>Deadline | 10       |
| Drinking Water Week  |  |                      |           |          |                                   |          |
| ) First Quarter  |  |                      |           |          |                                   |          |
| 11<br>Mother's Day   | 12<br>Discount Deadline<br>○ Full Moon           | 13                   | 14        | 15       | 16                                | 17       |
| 18   | 19   | 20<br>☾ Last Quarter | 21        | 22       | 23                                | 24       |
| 25   | 26<br>Memorial Day<br>BUECI Closed<br>● New Moon | 27                   | 28        | 29       | 30                                | 31       |



# June

Whalebone arch.  
Photo by Darlene Kaleak

| MAY 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    | JULY 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S        | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S         | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|          |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |           |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| 4        | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 6         | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 11       | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 13        | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 18       | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 20        | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 25       | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 27        | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |

| SUNDAY             | MONDAY               | TUESDAY                                | WEDNESDAY            | THURSDAY         | FRIDAY                          | SATURDAY  |
|--------------------|----------------------|--|----------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 1                  | 2<br>D First Quarter | 3                                      | 4                    | 5                | 6                               | 7   |
| 8                  | 9                    | 10<br>Discount Deadline<br>O Full Moon | 11                   | 12               | 13<br>Donation Request Deadline | 14<br>Flag Day  |
| 15<br>Father's Day | 16                   | 17                                     | 18<br>C Last Quarter | 19<br>Juneteenth | 20<br>First Day of Summer       | 21  |
| 22                 | 23                   | 24                                     | 25<br>New Moon       | 26               | 27                              | 28  |
| 29                 | 30                   |  |                      |                  |                                 |  <b>BUECI</b><br>BARROW UTILITIES AND<br>ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC |



# July

Sea hunting.  
Photo by Brendan Hollis

| JUNE 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    | AUGUST 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| S         | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S           | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |   |
| 1         | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |             |    |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2 |
| 8         | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 3           | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |   |
| 15        | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 10          | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |   |
| 22        | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 17          | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |   |
| 29        | 30 |    |    |    |    |    | 24          | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |   |
|           |    |    |    |    |    |    | 31          |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY                           | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY |
|--|--------|---------|-------------------------------------|--|---|----------|
|  |        | 1       | 2<br><small>› First Quarter</small> | 3  | 4<br><small>Independence Day</small><br><br><small>BUECI Closed</small> | 5        |
| 6  | 7      | 8       | 9                                   | 10<br><small>Discount Deadline</small><br><small>○ Full Moon</small> | 11<br><small>Donation Request Deadline</small>                          | 12       |
| 13   | 14     | 15      | 16                                  | 17<br><small>☾ Last Quarter</small>                                  | 18  | 19       |
| 20   | 21     | 22      | 23                                  | 24<br><small>● New Moon</small>                                      | 25  | 26       |
| 27   | 28     | 29      | 30                                  | 31   |   |          |



# August

Arctic fox.  
Photo by Kevin Fisher

| JULY 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    | SEPTEMBER 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| S         | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S              | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |   |
|           |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |                |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6 |
| 6         | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 7              | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |   |
| 13        | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 14             | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |   |
| 20        | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 21             | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |   |
| 27        | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    | 28             | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |   |

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY



|          |                         |    |    |    |   |                     |
|----------|-------------------------|----|----|----|---|---------------------|
|          |                         |    |    |    | 1<br>First Quarter                          | 2                   |
| 3        | 4                       | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8<br>Donation Request Deadline<br>Full Moon | 9                   |
| 10       | 11<br>Discount Deadline | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15<br>Last Quarter                          | 16                  |
| 17       | 18                      | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22<br>New Moon                              | 23                  |
| 24<br>31 | 25                      | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29  | 30<br>First Quarter |



# September

Walrus on ice.  
Photo by Kevin Fisher

| AUGUST 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    | OCTOBER 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S           | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S            | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|             |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |              |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 3           | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 5            | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 10          | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 12           | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 17          | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 19           | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 24          | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 26           | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |
| 31          |    |    |    |    |    |    |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY                             | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY                   | THURSDAY | FRIDAY                              | SATURDAY |
|--|------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|----------|
|  | 1<br>Labor Day<br><br>BUECI Closed | 2       | 3                           | 4        | 5                                   | 6        |
| 7<br><br>○ Full Moon   | 8                                  | 9       | 10<br><br>Discount Deadline | 11       | 12<br><br>Donation Request Deadline | 13       |
| 14<br><br>☾ Last Quarter   | 15                                 | 16      | 17                          | 18       | 19                                  | 20       |
| 21<br><br>● New Moon   | 22<br><br>First Day of Autumn      | 23      | 24                          | 25       | 26                                  | 27       |
| 28   | 29<br><br>☽ First Quarter          | 30      |                             |          |                                     |          |



# October

The sea meets the shore.


Photo by Brendan Hollis

SEPTEMBER 2025

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |

NOVEMBER 2025

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY          | WEDNESDAY             | THURSDAY | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY         |
|--|--|------------------|-----------------------|----------|--|------------------|
|  |  |                  | 1                     | 2        | 3  | 4                |
| 5  | 6<br>○ Full Moon                               | 7                | 8                     | 9        | 10<br>Discount Deadline<br>Donation Request Deadline | 11               |
| 12   | 13<br>Indigenous Peoples Day<br>☾ Last Quarter | 14               | 15                    | 16       | 17<br>BUECI Closed to Observe Alaska Day             | 18<br>Alaska Day |
| 19   | 20   | 21<br>● New Moon | 22                    | 23       | 24   | 25               |
| 26   | 27   | 28               | 29<br>☽ First Quarter | 30       | 31<br>Halloween                                      |                  |



# November

Whalebone arch and  
aurora borealis.

Photo by Yves D. Brower

OCTOBER 2025

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |

DECEMBER 2025

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY                      | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY            | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY                                 | SATURDAY |
|--|-----------------------------|--|----------------------|---|--|----------|
|  |                             |  |                      |   |  | 1        |
| 2<br>Daylight Saving<br>Time Ends  | 3                           | 4<br>Election Day  | 5<br><br>○ Full Moon | 6   | 7<br><br>BUECI Closed                  | 8        |
| 9  | 10<br><br>Discount Deadline | 11<br>Veterans Day<br><br>BUECI Closed<br>☾ Last Quarter | 12                   | 13  | 14<br><br>Donation Request<br>Deadline | 15       |
| 16   | 17                          | 18   | 19<br><br>● New Moon | 20  | 21                                     | 22       |
| 23<br>30   | 24                          | 25   | 26                   | 27<br>Thanksgiving Day<br><br>BUECI Closed<br>☽ First Quarter | 28<br><br>BUECI Closed                 | 29       |



# December

Barrow light pillars.  
Photo by Kevin Fisher

| NOVEMBER 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    | JANUARY 2026 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S             | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S            | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|               |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |              |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 2             | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 4            | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 9             | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 11           | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 16            | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 18           | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 23            | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 25           | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| 30            |    |    |    |    |    |    |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY                           | THURSDAY                            | FRIDAY                          | SATURDAY              |
|--|--------|---------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
|  | 1      | 2       | 3                                   | 4<br>○ Full Moon                    | 5                               | 6                     |
| 7<br>Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day  | 8      | 9       | 10<br>Discount Deadline             | 11<br>☾ Last Quarter                | 12<br>Donation Request Deadline | 13                    |
| 14   | 15     | 16      | 17                                  | 18                                  | 19<br>● New Moon                | 20                    |
| 21<br>First Day of Winter  | 22     | 23      | 24<br>Christmas Eve<br>BUECI Closed | 25<br>Christmas Day<br>BUECI Closed | 26                              | 27<br>☽ First Quarter |
| 28   | 29     | 30      | 31<br>New Year's Eve                |                                     |                                 |                       |

# Electrical Safety

## Wet Electrical Equipment

My home wasn't flooded, but some electrical appliances have gotten wet. What safety rules apply to my situation?

Do not use electrical appliances that have been wet until they have been examined by a qualified service repair dealer. Water can damage the motors in electrical appliances, such as furnaces, freezers, refrigerators, washing machines and dryers.

## Portable Generators

Is there anything special I should know about installing a new generator?

ESFI strongly recommends a licensed electrician install home generators to ensure they meet all local electrical codes. Also, make sure your generator is properly grounded in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Can't I just plug my generator directly into one of my home's outlets?

Do not connect generators directly to the household wiring unless an appropriate transfer switch has been installed by a licensed, qualified electrician.

Without the proper transfer switch, power provided by the generator can "backfeed" along the power lines, creating a significant electrocution hazard for anyone coming in contact with the lines, including lineworkers making repairs.

I've heard generators should be kept dry. Can I run it in my garage to protect it from the rain?

Never operate a generator inside your home or in any other enclosed—or even partially enclosed—area. Generators produce carbon monoxide, which can quickly

## During and After Storms

Severe storms and natural disasters can cause a variety of electrical safety hazards in and around our homes. Lightning, downed power lines and floods are just a few of the serious safety concerns associated with storms. Many of these electrical safety hazards remain long after the storm has passed.

To help protect you from storm-related electrical hazards, the Electrical Safety Foundation International and your electric utility, provide answers to frequently asked safety questions.

### Lightning

**What should I do if I am caught outside during a lightning storm?**

Move to a low point. Lightning hits the tallest available object, so get down low in a crouched position if you are in an exposed area. Stay away from trees.

Avoid metal. Don't hold onto metal items like bats, golf clubs, fishing rods, tennis rackets or tools. Stay away from metal sheds, clotheslines, poles and fences.

Stay away from water, including pools, lakes, puddles and anything damp—like grass. Don't stand close to other people. Spread out.

**What should I do if I encounter a lightning storm while driving in my car?**

Slow down and use extra caution. If possible, pull off the road into a safe area. Do not leave your vehicle during a thunderstorm. A

vehicle is considered safe during a thunderstorm if it is fully enclosed with a metal top such as a hard-topped car, minivan, bus, truck, etc. While inside a safe vehicle do not use electronic devices.

**Are we safe from lightning if we stay inside the house?**

Follow these indoor lightning safety tips to help keep your family safe inside while it's storming outside:

- Stay away from windows and doors.
- If possible, unplug electronic equipment before the storm arrives. Avoid contact with electrical equipment and cords during storms.

- Avoid contact with water and plumbing, including sinks, baths and faucets.

### Power Lines

**What should I do if I spot a downed power line?**

If you see a downed power line, move at least 10 feet away from the line and anything touching it. The human body is a ready conductor of electricity.

The proper way to move away from the line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock.

Electricity wants to move from a high voltage zone to a low voltage zone—and it could do that through your body.

**What can I do to help someone who has come in contact with a downed power line?**

If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with a downed line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim.

Call 911 instead.

**Can I use something that is not metal to try to move a downed power line myself?**

Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or stick. Even non-conductive materials like wood or cloth, if slightly wet, can conduct electricity and then electrocute you.

**What should I do if I see a downed power line in the street while driving my car?**

Do not drive over downed power lines. If you are in your car and it is in contact with the downed line, stay in your car. Tell others to stay away from your vehicle.

If you must leave your car because it's on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together. Avoid contact with the live car and the ground at the same time. This way you avoid being the path of electricity from the car to the earth. Shuffle away from the car.

**Is a downed power line still dangerous if it has come down in water?**

Water is a good conductor of electricity. Any amount of water—even a puddle—could become energized. Be careful not to touch water—or anything in contact with the water—near where there is a downed power line.

and easily enter your home. Opening windows or doors or using fans does not provide adequate ventilation to prevent the buildup of carbon monoxide.

Place the generator on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure. Do not operate the generator in wet conditions or where there is standing water.

Remember your neighbors, too. Keep your generator a safe distance away from their homes as well.

Preliminary research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institute of Standards and Technology indicates even 15 feet from the home is too close to operate a generator safely.

#### What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas created when common fuels such as natural gas, oil, wood or coal burn incompletely. This odorless, colorless, tasteless gas is called the “silent killer” because it is virtually undetectable without the use of detection technology like a CO alarm.

Extremely high levels of carbon monoxide can be fatal within minutes.

More than 80% of carbon monoxide deaths related to portable generators occur in the home, often resulting from operation of a portable generator within the living space of the home, including the basement, closets and doorways.

#### What are the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning?

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning may include fatigue, shortness of breath, drowsiness, headache, and nausea. Get to fresh air

right away if you feel dizzy or weak while running your generator.

#### Post-Evacuation

**The storm is over. Can I go home now?**

First and foremost, do not

return home until instructed by the appropriate local authorities. Once they give the go-ahead:

- Return home during daylight hours, especially if power has not been restored.
- If you smell gas, leave the

premises and notify emergency authorities immediately. Do not turn on lights, light matches, or engage in any activity that could create a spark.

Even if you have been authorized to return home, you should still take precautions. ■

# How Power Is Restored

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible.

## 1 High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations—and thousands of members—rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

## 2 Distribution Substation

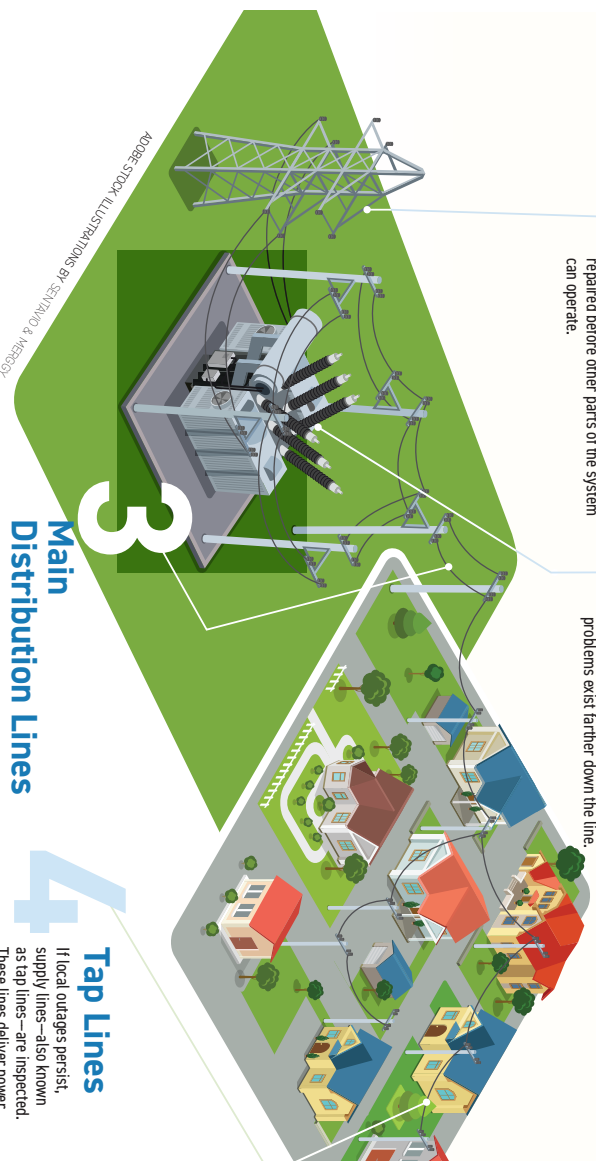
A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if problems exist farther down the line.

## 3 Main Distribution Lines

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

## 4 Tap Lines

If local outages persist, supply lines—also known as tap lines—are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers—either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service—outside businesses, schools and homes.



ROBE STOCK ILLUSTRATIONS BY SCIANNO & MEROY





# Use Less Energy to Save More Money

By implementing energy-efficiency practices, you can save energy and reduce your electric bill.

Here are some easy, no-cost or low-cost ways to use energy wisely:

## Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning

- Clean or replace HVAC filters every 30 days.
- Keep interior doors and vents open to help air circulate.
- Find and seal cracks, gaps and leaks. Check insulation.
- Use a programmable thermostat to manage your day and night settings automatically. Save 5% on monthly cooling costs for each degree you turn it up.
- Consider adding insulation to ceilings, walls and attics. It can reduce cooling costs by 5% to 25%.
- Set the thermostat to the highest comfort level in the warmer months and the lowest in the colder months.
- Use fans to augment cooling but turn them off when you are not in the room. Ceiling fans do not actually cool a room. They just make you feel cooler.

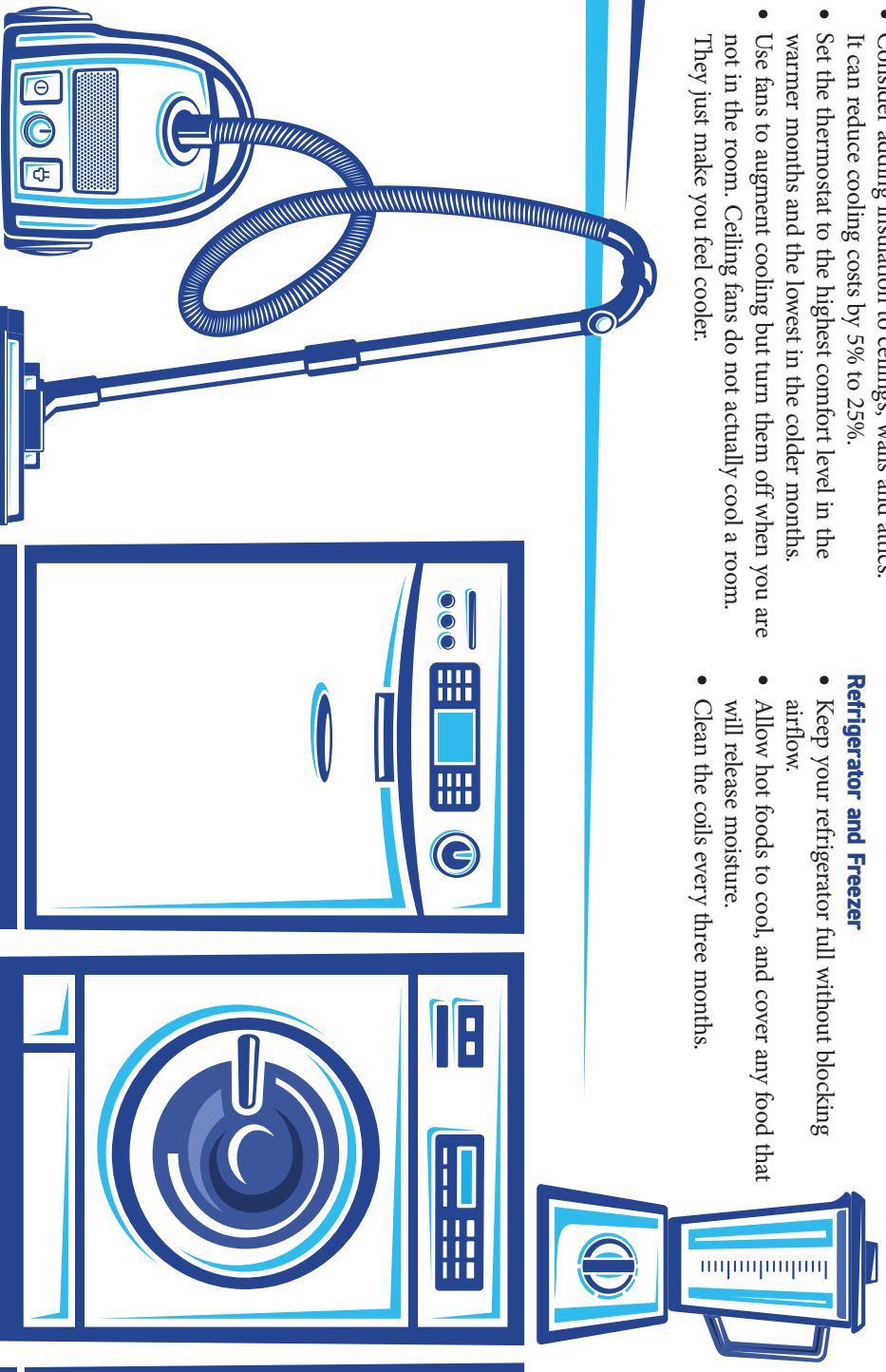
- Have your HVAC system tuned up by a professional. Help your system run as efficiently as possible by having it professionally maintained at least once a year.
- Consider a new, more efficient HVAC if your current system is more than 10 years old or needs frequent repairs.

## Water Heater

- Install low-flow faucets and showerheads.
- Buy an Energy Star model.
- Set the water heater thermostat to 120 degrees.

## Refrigerator and Freezer

- Keep your refrigerator full without blocking airflow.
- Allow hot foods to cool, and cover any food that will release moisture.
- Clean the coils every three months.



- Replace old refrigerators or freezers with newer, more efficient models with an Energy Star rating.

### **Fight Against Humidity**

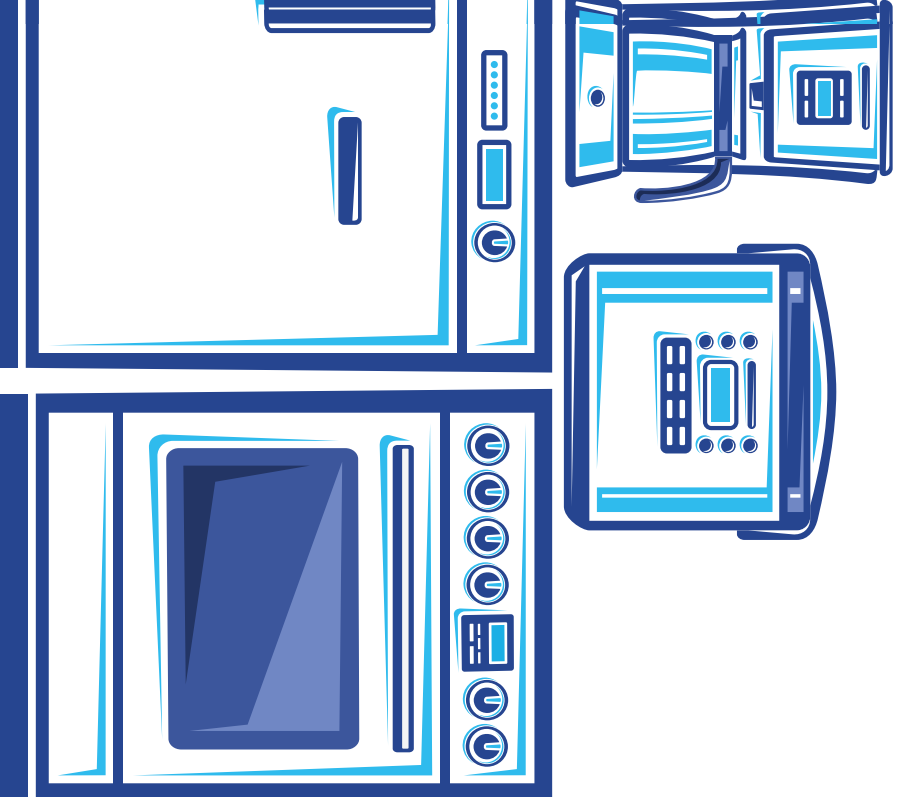
- Use bathroom exhaust fans to remove humidity when showering.
- Use the kitchen exhaust fan to remove heat and humidity produced while cooking.
- Avoid running humidifying, heat-producing appliances (washing machine, dryer, dishwasher) during the heat of the day.
- Cover aquariums to keep moisture in.

### **Reduce Heat Transfer**

- Close blinds or curtains to keep direct sunlight out of your home to reduce heat gain and improve cooling efficiency.
- Consider installing tint film or a solar shade on windows to decrease heat gain further.

### **Washer and Dryer**

- Use cold water when possible.
- Adjust the water level to match the load size, especially when using hot water.
- Clean the dryer lint filter before each dry cycle.
- Do not overload the dryer.



- Use the auto sensor function to avoid the dryer running longer than necessary.

### **Stove Top and Oven**

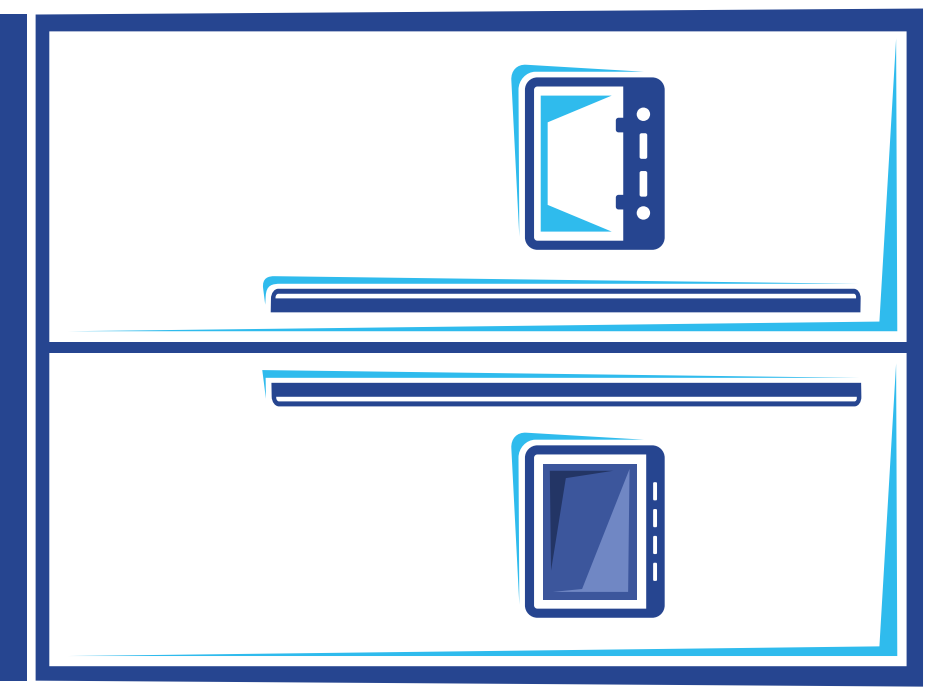
- Use less energy by cooking with a toaster oven or microwave.
- Plan ahead and cook several items at the same time.
- Match the size of your pan to the burner to get more heat to the pan and reduce loss in the air.
- Use the oven light to check cooking progress instead of wasting energy by opening the oven.

### **Pool Pump**

- Limit your pool pump to run no more than eight hours daily during swimming season.

### **Electronics**

- Consider buying LED TVs. Remember, the larger the screen, the more energy it consumes.
- To avoid “vampire loads,” consider using smart power strips to turn plugged-in devices on and off from your phone via Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. Many also include surge protection.
- Set computers to automatically switch to sleep mode instead of using a screen saver. Screen savers do not reduce energy use. Choose a few of these tips to start saving money today. ■



# 2026

## JANUARY

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## FEBRUARY

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## MARCH

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## APRIL

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## MAY

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## JUNE

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## JULY

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## AUGUST

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## SEPTEMBER

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## OCTOBER

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## NOVEMBER

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## DECEMBER

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