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Sunday, June 17th



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Play It Safe Around Lightning

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June is Lightning Awareness Month. Norris Public Power District wants you to have a game plan to stay safe when severe weather strikes.

There's nothing like spending a warm day outside enjoying your favorite sports activity, whether it's on the golf course, baseball diamond or out on a fishing boat to name a few. When the weather is right for outdoor sports, it can also be perfect conditions for a thunderstorm to roll in, with the potential for lightning.

About 30 people are killed by lightning each year, according to the National Weather Service. Two-

thirds of those fatalities are associated with outdoor recreational activities. Norris Public Power District wants you to be safe this season with the following tips to protect you while participating in outdoor sports.

* Organized sports activities should have a designated official that will watch for approaching dark clouds and any lightning in the area. Designated officials and anyone participating in outdoor sports should have a lightning safety plan with tips on when the activity should be stopped, where people should go for safety and when activities can resume.

* Stop outdoor activity if you see lightning. Lightning can strike up to 10 to 15 miles away from the storm. Follow the simple phrase "When Thunder Roars Go Indoors."

* No place outside is safe during a storm including dugouts, sheds or rain shelters. If you don't have access to a sturdy building, a hard-topped metal vehicle with the windows rolled up would provide good protection from the elements.



Because electrical charges can linger in clouds even if the storm has passed, weather experts recommend you wait 30 minutes since you last heard thunder before resuming any outdoor activity. If it is an organized sports activity the designated official should make the call on when to return to the field.

Whether it is an organized sports activity, a round of golf with friends or a game of basketball in the driveway, plan to make your outdoor sports safe this season and don't let lightning strike you out.

EnergyWiseSM Tip: Electric Vehicles

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If you think electric vehicles (EVs) are an up-and-coming trend, you might be surprised to know during the first decade of the 1900s, there were twice as many EVs on the road compared to cars with internal combustion engines. Low top speeds, ranges of only a few miles, development of electric starter for gas-driven vehicles in 1912 and the discovery of large domestic reserves of petroleum limited interest in EVs for nearly the next century.

As we approached our current millennium, a few companies started to mass-produce hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) such as the Toyota Prius and Honda Insight. Due to limitations in battery technology, HEVs use combustion engines, running an electric generator to supplement power to electric motors that propel the vehicle. Combining technologies yielded higher fuel efficiency rates while fostering interest in improving battery performance and range. Eventually, true EVs, vehicles powered only by electricity, began to see a resurgence. In 2008, the Tesla Roadster came into the market and started the growing demand. By the end of 2016, more than one million pure electric cars and vans were owned globally.

So why would you consider driving an EV? Here are some things to think about:

Safety - EVs must pass the same safety tests as gas-powered vehicles. EVs are far less likely to catch fire than gas-powered vehicles. On average, gas-fueled cars will catch fire at the approximate

rate of one fire every 20 million miles driven. For EVs, the rate is one fire per 120 million miles driven.



Less Maintenance - EVs have fewer moving parts, so there is less to maintain. You'll still have brakes to maintain, but regenerative braking technology means they will last much longer than they do on a gas-powered vehicle. Battery replacement can be expensive, but most models today come with an eight-year/100K mile warranty and can last up to 15 years or more.

Quiet - EV cars are quiet inside and outside. Especially the first few times you come to a stop in traffic, you'll notice it's the other vehicles with combustion engines idling around you that are making the noise and not you.

Performance - EVs have extremely high torque power and their pick-up is very quick and smooth. Even modest-looking sedan EVs have some incredible zero to 60 mile-per-hour ratings that leave gas-powered vehicles eating dust.

Range - Recent EV models are making huge gains in range performance due to advancements in battery technology and electric regenerative vehicle braking. As an example, in 2017, the Chevrolet Bolt boasted a range of more than 200 miles. The Volkswagen e-Golf sports a 124-mile (201-km) range.

Tax Credits - You may be eligible for federal income tax credits up to \$7,500 to defray some initial purchase costs. As with other tax credit opportunities, consult your tax preparer for additional information.

No Emissions - EVs are 100 percent eco-friendly as they run on electrically-powered motors. As your Nebraska public power utilities draw more and more energy from renewable energy resources, fewer combustion by-products are released into our environment.

Charging Stations - The fear of not being able to charge your EV on a road trip is becoming a concern of the past. Numerous agencies and groups provide online locators and maps to help plan your journey and take range anxiety away.

Fuel Cost - As opposed to miles-per-gallon, EV drivers refer to their fuel use as kilowatt-hours (kWh) per 100 miles driven. The new Chevy Bolt touts an efficiency rating of 28 kWh per 100 miles. Assuming electricity costs \$0.12/kWh, driving 100 miles will cost \$3.36. The non-hybrid/non-electric Chevy Spark is rated at 38 miles-per-gallon of unleaded gasoline on the highway. At this rate, it requires about 2.6 gallons of gas to cover the same 100 miles. Considering the current Nebraska average gasoline price is around \$2.80 a gallon, the trip will cost \$7.28 in fuel. That's more than double the fuel cost!

Incentives - A \$200 EnergyWiseSM incentive for the installation of a residential vehicle charging

station is available for a limited time to help with the cost of charging your EV at home.

Patriotic Pizza

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4th of July Flag Fruit Pizza

Crust:

1 package refrigerated sugar cookie dough

Sauce:

1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened

¼ cup powdered sugar

4 oz. frozen whipped topping, thawed

Glaze:

¼ cup sugar

¼ cup orange juice

2 Tbsp. water

1 Tbsp. lemon juice

1 ½ tsp. cornstarch

Pinch of salt



Spray a pizza sheet with cooking spray. Spread cookie dough evenly over sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes until very lightly golden brown. Let cool for an hour or more.

Beat cream cheese and powdered sugar until smooth. Stir in whipped topping. Spread evenly over the crust.

Make glaze while crust is still cooling. In a saucepan, bring sugar, orange juice, water, lemon juice, cornstarch and salt to boil, stirring constantly for 2 minutes or until thickened. Let cool and brush over fruit. Store in the refrigerator. Best if made the same day as served.

Suggestion: Wait to place the fruit on the pizza until the glaze is made and cooled. This prevents browning of the bananas.

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