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# PREMA

## Congratulations!



PREMA General Manager, Ryan Rieber recently recognized Janet Toedtli, Billing Accountant, for 10 years of service. Thank you Janet, for your continued service to PREMA and our members.

## 3-Step HVAC Test

As summer temperatures rise, so do electric bills. Follow these steps to test the efficiency of your HVAC unit.

The outdoor temperature should be above 80 degrees, and you should set your thermostat well below the room temperature to ensure the system runs long enough for this test.

1. Using a digital probe thermometer (about \$12), measure the temperature of the air being pulled into your HVAC filter.
2. Measure the temperature of the air blowing out of your A/C vent.
3. Subtract the A/C vent temperature from the HVAC filter temperature. You should see a difference of about 17 to 20 degrees. If the difference is less than 17 degrees, you may need a licensed technician to check the coolant. If the difference is greater than 20 degrees, your ductwork may need to be inspected for airflow restrictions.



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# Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!



## NO-COST TIPS

Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.

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Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.

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Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.



## LOW-COST TIPS

Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.

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Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.

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Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance and provide free electricity.



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## **Outdoor Safety during a Thunderstorm**

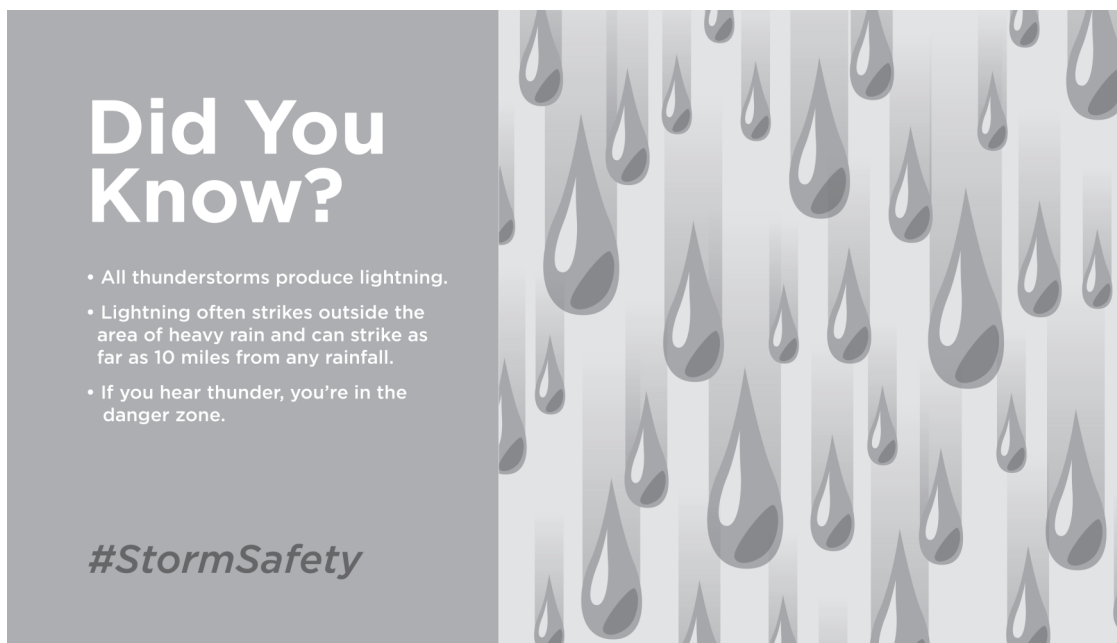
Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the area in which it is raining and you do not have to see clouds. This means that if you can hear thunder, you're within striking distance, and it is time to take safe shelter. When the storm is over, wait 30 minutes after the last lightning strike you see before going back outside.

If caught outdoors during a thunderstorm and unable to take shelter in an enclosed building, take the following precautions:

- Try to take shelter in a vehicle with a solid metal roof. Close the windows, and avoid contact with electrical conducting paths—such as the steering wheel, ignition, gear shifter, or radio.
- Do not seek shelter under tall, solitary trees; canopies; small picnic or rain shelters; or in any open-frame vehicles such as jeeps, convertibles, golf carts, tractors, or mowers.
- Avoid water, high ground, or open spaces.
- Do not stand near power, light, or flag poles; machinery; fences; gates; metal bleachers; or even other people. If you are in a group, spread out so that you are at least 20 feet apart.
- If your skin tingles or your hair stands on end, lightning may be about to strike. Squat down low to the ground with your head between your knees making yourself the smallest target possible.

If a person is struck by lightning, call 911 and care for the victim immediately. You are not in danger of being electrocuted by the victim.

More information on lightning safety can be found at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website at [www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov](http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov). Additional information on storm safety can be found at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).




## It's Time for Spring Safety Checks

As long as you're doing spring cleaning and putting the house in order for nice weather, check for accidents-waiting-to-happen in your home, especially those that involve electricity.

Conduct an audit of your home—something you should turn into an annual ritual. Check that all of your appliances are still in working order by turning them on and off, listening to the sound of the motor (is it “normal?”) and inspecting their cords and plugs for damage.

Some more quick tips:

- If you have young children at home, plug wall outlets with child-safety caps.
- Replace appliances whose cords are frayed or worn. You can't fix those.
- Resolve to buy new appliances that have the thumbs-up from an independent testing laboratory like Underwriters Laboratories.
- Choose light bulbs with the correct wattage for each lamp and overhead light fixture. You'll find the maximum safe wattage imprinted on the fixture.
- Get those electrical cords out from under your carpets! Covering cords can cause them to overheat and start a fire.
- Put your extension cords away. They're not meant for everyday use.
- Install waterproof covers on your outdoor outlets.



### ELECTRICAL SAFETY CHECKUP: Cords

**Are any cords cracked, frayed or damaged?**  
→ Damaged cords cause a shock or fire hazard.

**Are any cords pinched by furniture, or attached to something with staples or nails?**  
→ This can damage the insulation, causing shock or fire hazard.

**Do you use extension cords on a permanent basis?**  
→ Only use them temporarily.



**Serving Arthur, Box Butte, Cherry, Dawes, Garden, Grant, Hooker,  
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