

## Potential risk of electric service interruptions across our region

Notice to Breckenridge residents:

July 25, 2022

As summer continues, regional operators of the electric grid are projecting an elevated risk of electricity shortages in our area. These projections are due to generator retirements and increased demand on the electrical system.

Electricity is a unique product in the fact that the generation of electricity must be kept in balance with the usage of electricity at all times. Under normal conditions, regional grid operators ramp generators up or down to match the demand for electricity. If the demand for electricity outpaces supply, then grid operators may issue an **Energy Alert** or even an **Energy Emergency alert** to balance the electric system to avoid catastrophic failure of the grid.

If **Energy Alert** or **Energy Emergency** conditions occur, regional utilities will run all types of available generation to prevent electrical outages. Should such events occur, Breckenridge Public Utilities will call upon local businesses that have generators to operate them. Other steps include operating our load management system, which cycles air conditioners and water heaters off and on intermittently for periods of time.

During an **Energy Alert**, we will ask you, our customers, to reduce your energy use as much as possible to help us avoid outages. Some ways you can help reduce power load are listed below.

If these and other measures are not successful, the regional grid operator may issue an **Energy Emergency** and require that utilities initiate a series of controlled temporary outages, or rolling blackouts, to maintain the stability of the electric grid. In that situation, Breckenridge Public Utilities will be required to methodically shut off electrical circuits in the community until we meet the load reduction requirement from our power supplier.

If you rely on life support equipment in your home, you will need to contact your care provider and have a plan in place in the event of an outage.

The following are suggestions for local residents to consider while putting together their own personal power outage plan:

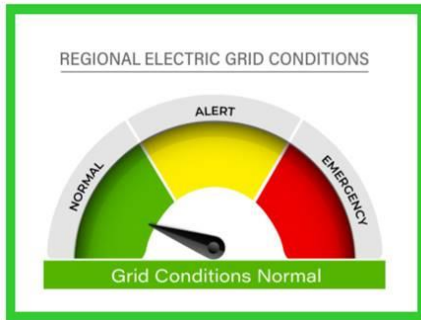
1. Ensure that you are signed up with Wilkin County to receive "Code RED Alerts" as this will be the primary method of communication should these alerts be necessary.
  - a. Sign up for "Code RED" at: [www.co.wilkin.mn.us/codered](http://www.co.wilkin.mn.us/codered)
2. If you have your own generator, see the included generator safety sheet for safety tips.
3. During Summertime – close window curtains and blinds to reduce thermal heat from the sun and adjust the thermostat in your home to reduce air conditioner energy consumption.
4. Shut off any unnecessary lights and equipment.
5. Delay using large appliances like ovens, washing machines and dishwashers until later in the evening.
6. Consider protecting electronics against potential power surges when power is restored.

7. Familiarize yourself on manual operation of your automatic garage door opener.
8. Monitor sump pit water levels and have a plan if needing to deal with rising water.
9. Minimize entry into freezers and refrigerators.
10. Have flashlights available.
11. Reduce water consumption to help prevent possible sewer backup.

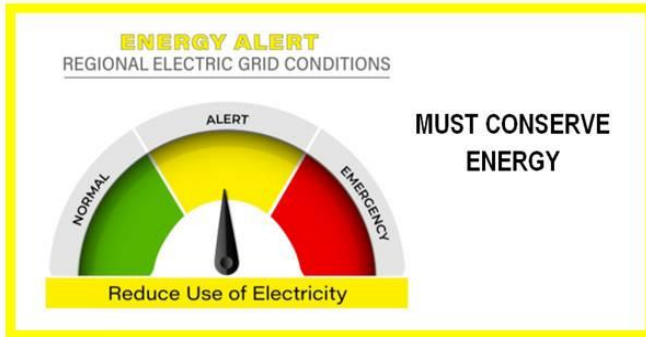
Every household has their own unique needs. Customize your plan to fit your needs. Hopefully the need will never arise but if it does, you must be prepared.

Please listen for radio announcements on KBMW 1450 AM, friend us on Facebook for updates and information. Please monitor the **Energy Alerts** link on our home page at [www.breckenridgemn.net/emergency-energy-action-plan](http://www.breckenridgemn.net/emergency-energy-action-plan) so you don't miss important informational updates.

Notices:



**Energy Alert:**



**Energy Emergency:**

