

## Potential risk of electric service interruptions across our region

Notice to Breckenridge Business Owners:

July 25, 2022

As summer continues, power suppliers (Midwest Independent System Operators (MISO)) of the electric grid are projecting an elevated risk of electricity shortages in our area. These projections are due to:

- Warmer than normal forecasted temperatures.
- Greater amounts of intermittent renewable generation, such as wind and solar, in the current power supply mix that may not be available when needed.
- Retirements of fossil-fueled power plants that can fill the gap when the wind doesn't blow or the sun doesn't shine.
- Public policy driving the pace of change to clean energy faster than new technologies can be developed to fill the gap.

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.

The following are suggestions for local businesses to consider while putting together your personal business power outage plan:

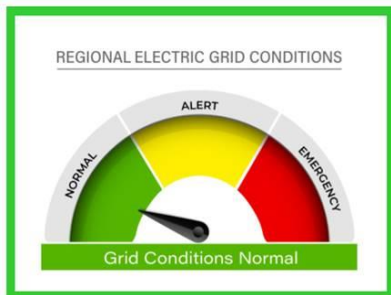
- 1 Ensure that you are signed up with Wilkin County to receive "CODE RED Alerts" as this will be the primary method of communication should these alerts be necessary.
  - a. Sign up for "Code RED" at: [www.co.wilkin.mn.us/codered](http://www.co.wilkin.mn.us/codered)

- 2 If you have your own generator, see the included generator safety sheet for safety tips.
- 3 Adjust your thermostat appropriately to conserve energy.
- 4 Consider clientele safety in the event of a loss of power
- 5 Please shut off any unnecessary lights and equipment.
- 6 Delay using large appliances like ovens, and dishwashers until conditions allow.
- 7 Consider protecting electronics against potential power surges when power is restored.
- 8 Monitor sump pit water levels and have a plan if needing to deal with basement water. (i.e., Battery backup)
- 9 Have a paper system in place for currency exchange in the event of power outage.
- 10 Have flashlights and batteries available.
- 11 Reduce water consumption to help prevent possible sewer backup because in the event of a power outage, our sewer lift stations will be non-operational.
- 12 If you are uncertain of how to protect against sewer backup, contact your local plumber for their advice.
- 13 Consider temporarily suspending business during the outage.

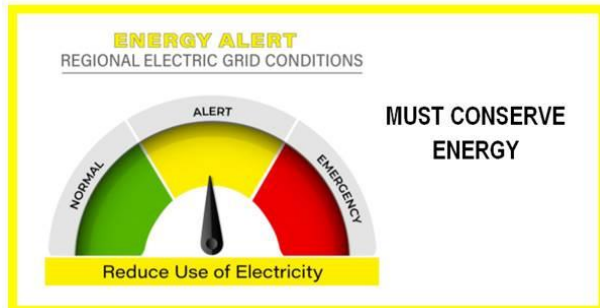
Every business has their own unique needs. Customize your plan to fit your needs. Hopefully the need will never arise but if it does, you must be prepared.

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:**

