



EV Curious?  
Find Out More!



Are you  
Electrically  
Resilient?



Scammers  
Beware! Know  
How to Deal.

SEPTEMBER 2023

# ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives  
The power of human connections®



## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Nucla**  
170 W. 10th Ave.  
P.O. Box 817  
Nucla, CO 81424  
(970) 864-7311  
Toll Free: (877) 864-7311

**Ridgway**  
720 N. Railroad St.  
P.O. Box 1150  
Ridgway, CO 81432  
(970) 626-5549  
Toll Free: (877) 864-7311

**Both Offices Open:**  
M - TH, 7:00a.m. - 5:30p.m.

[www.smpa.com](http://www.smpa.com)  
[www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower](https://www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower)

In the event of a power outage,  
contact your local SMPA office to  
reach our 24-hour dispatch.

## QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

[energywise@smpa.com](mailto:energywise@smpa.com)  
(970) 626-5549 x2120



- Ensure AFCIs are installed where needed.**
- Install carbon monoxide and smoke alarms.**
- Plug appliances directly into the wall.**

San Miguel Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call

(866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

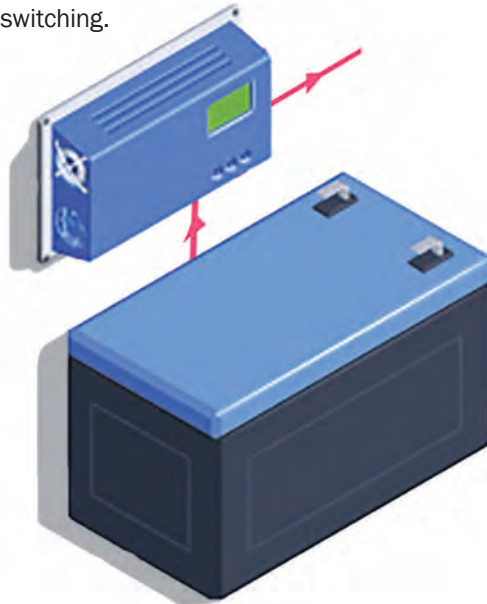
(3) email: [program.intakeusda.gov](mailto:program.intakeusda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

## Battery Backups vs. Generators: Resiliency Options for Power Outages

**BATTERY BACKUPS AND GENERATORS SERVE AS SOURCES OF EMERGENCY POWER DURING OUTAGES, BUT THEY DIFFER IN THEIR MECHANISMS AND ADVANTAGES.**

Battery backups store energy in rechargeable batteries and supply power through an inverter. They are quiet, compact, and emit no fumes, making them suitable for indoor use. However, they provide power for a limited time, usually hours, depending on the battery capacity. They're ideal for short-term power interruptions, offering quick and automatic switching.



Generators, on the other hand, produce electricity through engines fueled by gasoline, diesel, natural gas, or propane. They offer higher power output and longer runtimes, making them suitable for prolonged outages or high-energy demand situations. Generators are bulkier, noisier, and emit exhaust fumes, requiring proper ventilation and outdoor placement.



The choice between the two depends on factors such as duration and frequency of power outages, required power capacity, environmental concerns, and budget. If you're considering a purchase of a home battery, be sure to factor in our rebates. **Learn more at [www.smpa.com/energy#berebates](http://www.smpa.com/energy#berebates).**

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR HUNTERS



**TAKE NOTICE** of posted warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.

**DO NOT SHOOT** at or near power lines or insulators.

**KNOW** where power lines and equipment are located on the land where you hunt.

**BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL** in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.

**DO NOT PLACE DEER STANDS** on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.

**DO NOT PLACE DECOYS ON POWER LINES** or other utility equipment. Any non-electrical equipment attached to a pole can pose an obstruction and serious hazards to our line crews.

# Don't be SCAMMED!

Utility bill phone scams are fraudulent activities where scammers call over the phone to extort money, posing as representatives from utility companies, like the power company. Scammers use various tactics to make their calls seem convincing. They might manipulate caller ID information to display the utility company's name, create a fake sense of urgency by claiming that the victim's services will be shut off if they don't pay immediately, and even provide a callback number that sounds legitimate.

Once they have the victim's attention, scammers instruct them to make payments using methods that are difficult to trace or reverse, such as prepaid debit cards, wire transfers, or even cryptocurrency. In some cases, they might ask for personal and financial information, which can be used for identity theft or further fraudulent activities.



## To avoid falling victim to utility bill phone scams, it's important to be vigilant and follow these precautions:

- 1 Verify the Caller:** Ask for the caller's name, department, and contact information. Hang up and independently look up the utility company's official contact information to confirm the call's legitimacy.
- 2 Never Share Personal Information:** SMPA does not typically request sensitive information over the phone. Never give out personal or financial details to unsolicited callers.
- 3 Avoid Immediate Payments:** SMPA provides ample notice before disconnecting services. If a caller pressures you to make an immediate payment, it's likely a scam.
- 4 Don't Trust Caller ID:** Scammers can manipulate caller ID information to appear as though they're calling from a legitimate company.
- 5 Stay Informed:** Keep yourself updated about common scams and their tactics. Share this information with friends and family to help protect them as well.
- 6 Report Suspicious Calls:** If you receive a suspicious call, report it to your local consumer protection agency, or the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

**Stay informed and exercise caution. You can always check your account status by calling SMPA during regular business hours or reviewing your account on [smpa.smarthub.coop](http://smpa.smarthub.coop).**



## Celebrate National Co-op Month!

Celebrated by cooperatives nationwide during the month of October, National Co-op Month is an annual opportunity to raise awareness of a trusted, proven way to do business and build communities. Here at SMPA, we celebrate National Co-op Month by showing your appreciation for our members. Come into our lobbies for a snack and hot beverage. This year, we have a super-cool gift for members. Get yours while supplies last.

- One gift per membership
- Member must collect in person at an SMPA Office Location
- While supplies last

### COOL SPRING 12-CAN COOLER

The Cool Spring 12-Can Cooler features a mesh pocket, a side pocket, a zippered main compartment, PEVA lining and a 1" x 35" adjustable strap.

## Curious about Electric Vehicles? Will your next car never need an oil change?

### Check out the 2023 EV Ride & Drive!

**Saturday, 16 Sept from 10-2 in the Ridgway Town Park S parking lot (w the chargers)**

Come talk to EV (and PHEV) owners about their vehicles, sit in those vehicles, perhaps take a ride, and potentially drive an EV. Ask about the savings and the role of EVs in combating climate change.



## SMPA POWER PLAY

**This Month's Puzzle:  
YES START MY HEET BOM**

Hint... Stay warm during a winter outage.

**SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER**  
and be entered into a drawing  
for a fun prize to:

**EnergyWise**  
**PO Box 1150**  
**Ridgway, CO 81432**

 **GIVE BLOOD |**  
**vitalant.org**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18**  
**11:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.**  
**170 W. 10<sup>TH</sup> AVE., NUCLA**