

BGMU

DOWNED POWER LINES: STAY AWAY!



Springtime often brings powerful storms that cause damage to trees and power lines. If you ever encounter a downed power line, follow these steps to stay safe!

- Stay away from the line and call 911 to report the situation. You can also call our dispatch center at 270-782-4302.
- If your vehicle makes contact with the line, the safest place to stay is inside the vehicle until help arrives. The line could still be energized.
- If your vehicle catches on fire, you'll need to exit quickly by jumping away from it. Without touching the sides for balance, jump as far as possible and land with both feet on the ground. The vehicle could also be energized, so stand away from it while waiting for help to arrive.

Connecting BOWLING GREEN

TREE PLANTING 101

BGMU is committed to providing customers with safe, reliable electric service. During inclement weather, tree branches that contact power lines can cause power outages. These outages may result in risk to the public from downed power lines and potential property damage.

In November 2004, BGMU started a trim cycle program with the goal of covering all electrical circuits from substations in four years. After the first year, tree related outages decreased by 30%. Aside from being inconvenient, power outages also pose a threat to public health and safety. For example, outages affect those on life support and may interrupt service to schools, hospitals, traffic signals, and sewer and water pumping facilities. BGMU's line clearance program is designed to minimize these interruptions and hazards by clearing limbs, trees, vines and other vegetation away from power lines. Being proactive helps us provide safe and reliable electric service. For more information on our tree trimming program, click on the **Community** link from our website, bgmu.com.

With springtime comes tree planting. Strategically planting large trees on the east, west and northwest sides of your home will reduce your energy consumption. They block the sun during summer months and cold winds during winter months, which means lower energy bills throughout the year!

Planting soon? Don't forget to call 811 or visit <https://kentucky811.org/> at least 48 hours in advance to have underground utilities located. For tree planting advice and assistance, contact our right-of-way foreman and arborist at 270-782-4558.



SPRING 2021

Mark's Corner

Greetings to our Customers — the focus of all we do at BGMU!

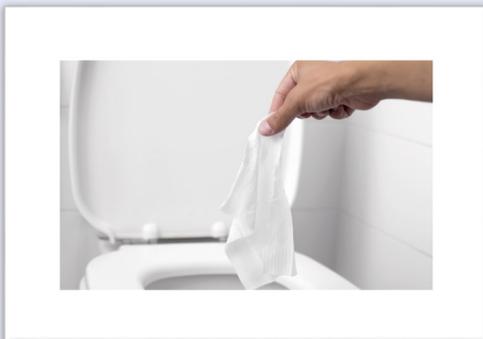
As of this writing, the news cycle the past couple of days has focused on the electric grid blackout conditions in Texas. For several days in a row, under extreme cold, snow and ice, large portions of major cities in Texas as well as other parts of the state were in the dark due to rolling blackouts. No power. No heat. In some cases, no water too. It was a mess that had deadly consequences.

The reasons? Broadly speaking, they're two-fold. First, decades ago Texas decided to "go it alone" and not interconnect with utilities in surrounding states because Texas didn't want to be subject to federal reliability regulations. Because of this independence, there was no regional grid to lean on when events warranted; they were on their own. Secondly, Texas regulators in charge of ensuring power reliability had failed to consider "worst case" possibilities. In that failure, they didn't require utilities to perform maintenance. They didn't require utilities to provide sufficient generating reserves. They didn't require utilities to weatherize their equipment for temperature extremes. In all, these decisions led to a catastrophic failure when the weather turned extreme.

Fortunately for us, we have a great partner in our power supplier, TVA. TVA regularly performs power supply and grid capacity planning, tests its emergency response plan and performs needed maintenance to keep plants running, among other efforts. TVA has a diverse portfolio of generating resources at its disposal and a robust transmission system to move power to customers, all of which are subject to federal reliability standards. TVA is interconnected to the Eastern Interconnection Power Grid comprising of interconnected utilities in the Midwest, the South East, and the East Coast of the United States. You can rest a little easier knowing there is a whole industry of dedicated professionals who work tirelessly to keep you safe and comfortable.

Mark Iverson, General Manager

What to Flush



BGMU is experiencing difficulties with the wastewater system throughout various areas in Bowling Green. As a reminder, please throw all trash in the garbage!

These items will clog your sewer pipes:

- * Rags
- * Paper towels
- * Wipes
- * Trash
- * Feminine hygiene products
- * Syringes (also a huge safety risk)

Do not flush wipes, even if the package says the product is flushable or biodegradable. These include baby wipes, personal care wipes and cleaning products such as Clorox wipes and Swiffer pads. All of the above items can clog your sewer lines and cause backups into your home.

What do you flush? Toilet paper and human waste — that's it. Thank you for helping us keep the system working properly!

