



Don't rely on luck, plan to be safe

We may celebrate the “luck of the Irish” in March but staying safe can't be left up to chance.

Whether or not March comes in like a lion, we know that severe weather is likely during a Kentucky spring. In March, that could be a tornado or ice or both. Either way, planning is key.

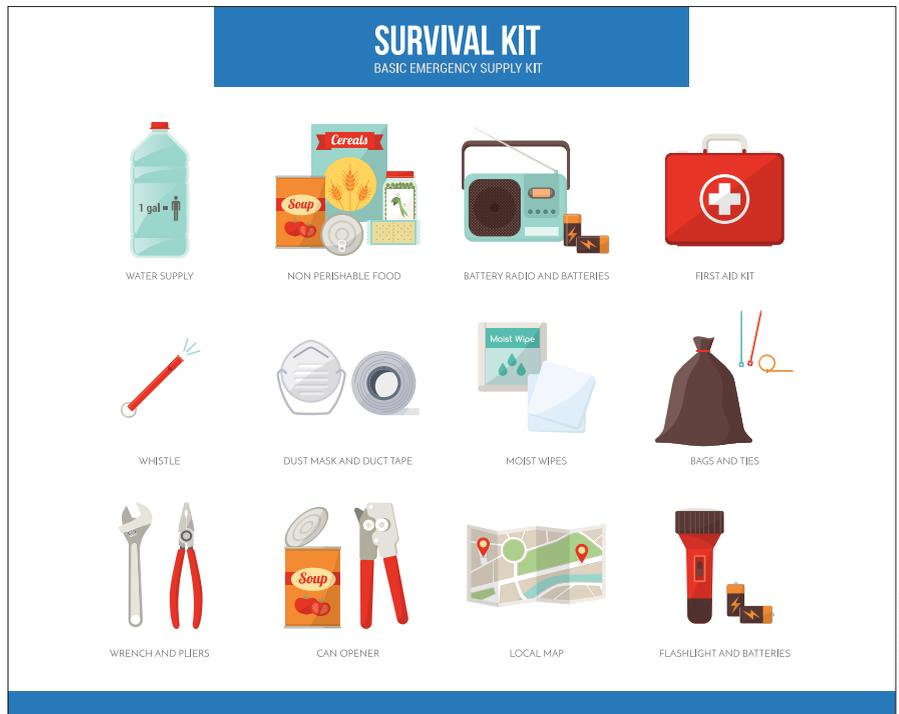
High winds can cause a lot of damage. Inspect your property for dead trees, overhanging branches near structures and loose roofing. Trampolines might be fun for the kids, but they are hazards in high wind conditions, so make sure they are secured or even stored away when possible.

Removing dead trees and branches is also a good way to help avoid damage if ice is in the forecast. Always consult a professional about trimming a tree near a power line and give us a call if you see a branch touching a line—don't ever try to remove it yourself!

Heavy rains from storms can quickly cause flooding conditions, so always be aware if you need to be out on the roads. Never enter a flooded roadway—even a few inches of water can cause you to lose control.

There are other important ways to be prepared regardless of the weather event:

- **Have a backup plan for medical devices.** If you or a loved one rely on a device that requires power, it is crucial to have a plan for a time you are without electricity in your home. Significant weather events can cause extended outages and having a “plan B” is essential.



- **Determine the safest location for you and your family.** Tornadoes and severe thunderstorms mean seeking shelter, so have a place you can go for protection. The lowest interior level of a home is usually the best spot, but sometimes the safest choice might be relocating to a neighbor or family member's home.
- **Create/update your emergency kit.** Water, medication and batteries are among the most important items to have stored in a safe location. Find a list of suggested items for home and vehicle kits in the illustration above and discover more resources at ready.gov.

- **Have a way to receive alerts and other information.** It may seem a bit old-fashioned, but a battery-powered radio (plus fresh batteries) or a hand-cranked version is one of the most reliable ways to receive information during an emergency situation. Fully charged cell phones are also typically a great resource, but cell service can be impacted by severe weather.

These are just a few ways to be prepared for whatever March has in store for us. Find other tips for keeping you and your loved ones safe at <https://nolinrecc.com/safety>.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



SARAH FELLOWS

Bob Croan—Maintenance Technician, 1.5 years of service



SARAH FELLOWS

Deanna Barfield—Facilities Custodian, 1.5 years of service

PETRA RICHLI/WOBBE STOCK

Vacuuming the dust off the back of your refrigerator will help it run more efficiently.

Spring cleaning equals energy savings

Many of your once-a-year spring cleaning chores can save energy all year round. Some examples:

- Clean windows inside and out. The cleaner the panes are, the more sunlight can shine through them, making it less necessary to turn on lights and run space heaters in the spring.
- Replace the air filters in your HVAC system. If they're full of dust, dirt and pet hair, air will have a hard time passing through them. Poor airflow makes your air conditioner work harder to do its job.
- Clear branches, leaves and other debris that might have fallen on the outdoor unit of your HVAC system over the winter. For the unit to work properly, air needs to circulate around it.
- Dust ceiling fan blades. When the fan starts running, it can knock accumulated dust into your room, which is bad for air quality and can wind up in your air conditioning vents or filters.
- Clean out your dryer vent or hire a pro to do it for you.
- Pull your refrigerator slightly out from the wall and vacuum exposed coils.

STAY ALERT DURING SPRING PLANTING

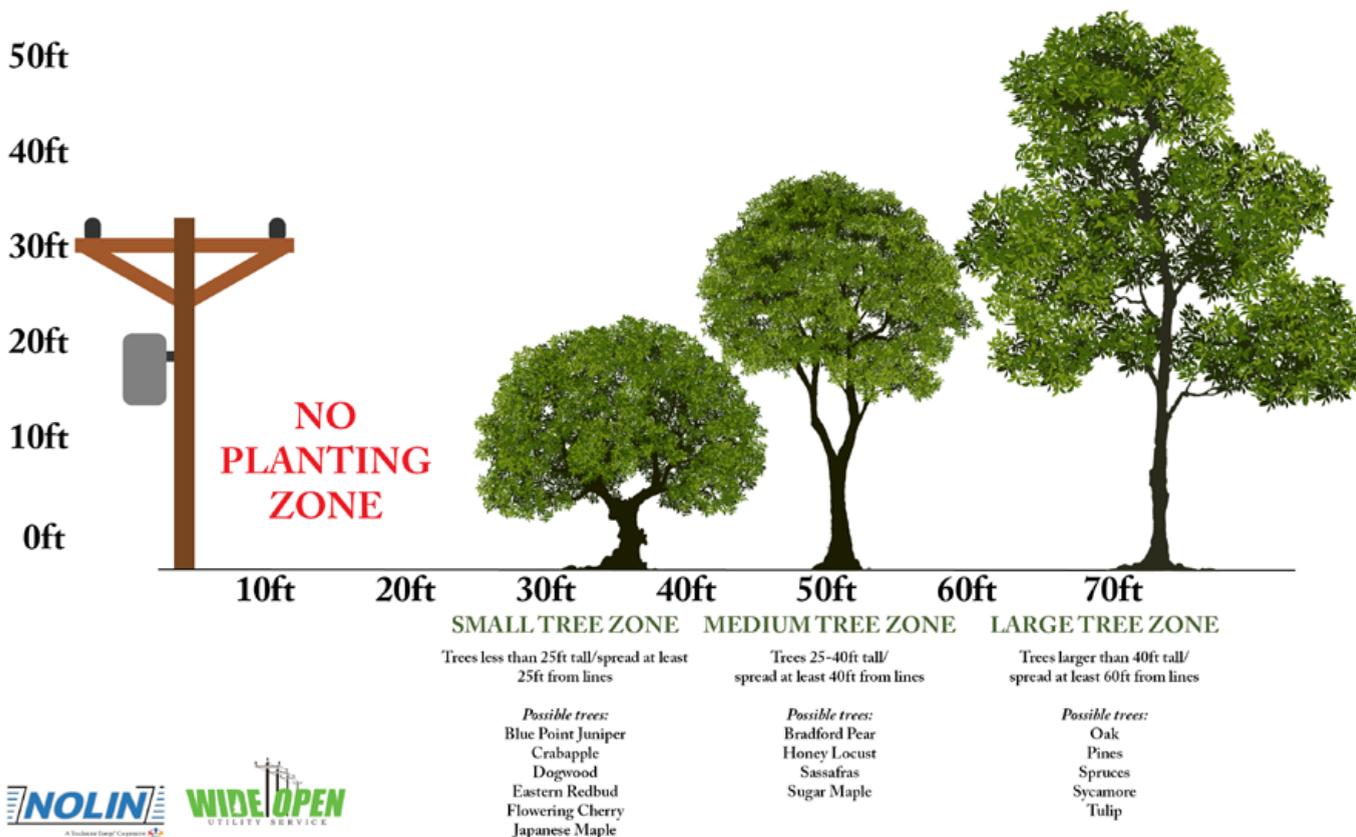
Spring has sprung in the Bluegrass state. It's planting season for many of the state's farmers.

- To prevent electrocution, make sure farm equipment safely clears overhead power lines. This tall equipment can easily become entangled in power lines. A good rule of thumb, try to maintain a 20-foot distance from power lines in all directions.
- Contact 911 immediately if your equipment comes into contact with a guy wire or pole.
- Water, dust and farming often go hand in hand. Install waterproof and dustproof electrical boxes and outlets at the farm.



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Our right-of-way corridors are cleared on both sides of the utility pole to help prevent fires, outages and other hazards. If you plant trees, please follow these recommendations.



NIKCHOM TREEVECTOR/SHUTTERSTOCK

Pay-by-phone number change



There are multiple ways to pay on your Nolin RECC account. If you choose to pay by phone, the number to use changed as of February 1, 2023. The new number to call to pay by phone is (855) 938-3651. Find all payment options at www.nolinrecc.com/pay-your-bill.

Working hard to serve you

Congratulations to Nolin RECC District 3 Director Rick Thomas for achieving his National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Director Gold certification. NRECA provides training opportunities like this certification program for cooperative directors to help them stay up to date with current issues facing the industry and develop skills to lead the cooperative into the future.



ALLISON COFFEY



Operation Round-Up spotlight: Hardin County Schools preschool classroom

How to reach Nolin RECC

ELIZABETHTOWN OFFICE

411 Ring Road | Elizabethtown, KY 42701
8 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon-Fri | (270) 765-6153

RADCLIFF OFFICE

101 West Lincoln Trail Blvd.
Radcliff, KY 40160
8 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon-Fri

TOLL-FREE BUSINESS CALLS

1-888-637-4247

PAY DIRECT BY PHONE TOLL FREE

1-855-938-3651

FOR EMERGENCIES

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Download our SmartHub App



One of the recipients of the 2022 Operation Round-Up Community Impact Grant was the Hardin County Schools preschool outdoor classroom. Located at Cecilia Valley Elementary School, the classroom is open five days a week from 7:15 a.m.-1 p.m. Hardin County Schools Director of Early Childhood Education Carlena Sheeran says students spend at least 2 1/2 hours outside every day. Reading, math and writing are taught indoors and outdoors. Learning centers are also in both settings.

The students enjoy the opportunity to learn in all natural elements says Ruthann Smith, outdoor classroom preschool teacher. "Rainy days are the most exciting learning days, and I get so excited to explore with my students."

Sheeran says the money from Operation Round-Up is being used to purchase worm farms, an observation table, large outdoor blocks, an outdoor paint easel and dry erase board. "These purchases continue to extend daily learning in our outdoor environment."

"There are many benefits of outdoor learning/play including: using all five senses on a daily basis, enhancing gross motor skills, expanding creativity in play, encouraging independence and



Preschool students learning in the outdoor classroom.



Students learn in the outdoor classroom five days a week, rain or shine. Photos: Ruthann Smith

developing an appreciation of nature." says Sheeran.

Operation Round-Up is a program in which Nolin RECC members volunteer to round up their monthly bill to the next dollar. This money is distributed by a volunteer board of Nolin members to local projects. To participate in Operation Round-Up, select the option in Nolin's free SmartHub app or call (270) 765-6153. Find more details at www.nolinrecc.com/operation-round-up.

Right-of-way work schedule

To keep our members informed, we are providing information about where our right-of-way crews plan to work each month. This information is subject to change.

March 2023: Vertrees Substation, Hardinsburg Road/HWY 86, Vertrees Church Lane, N Grandview Church Road, S Grandview Church Road, Church of God Road

Free wood chips are available. Call (270) 765-6153, ext. 2714, for details.



J.J. BROWN