

Squirrels, trees and storms. Oh, my.

OPPD works to uphold its reputation for high reliability.

Neither rain, nor snow, nor mischievous critters can keep OPPD from providing reliable electric service.

Although Mother Nature routinely tests us, we have proof of some pretty crazy animal antics that also cause power outages.

Weather is the leading cause of power outages in our region, according to the American Public Power Association.

The data comes from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), 2016 statistics.

Weather was among the top outage causes for OPPD in 2017, as well, with the utility's fourth-worst-ever storm in terms of outages hitting last June, impacting 76,500 customers.

In addition to Nebraska, region 3 includes

North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri. As the map shows, the Midwest weather includes a mix of wind, tornadoes, lightning, snow and ice.

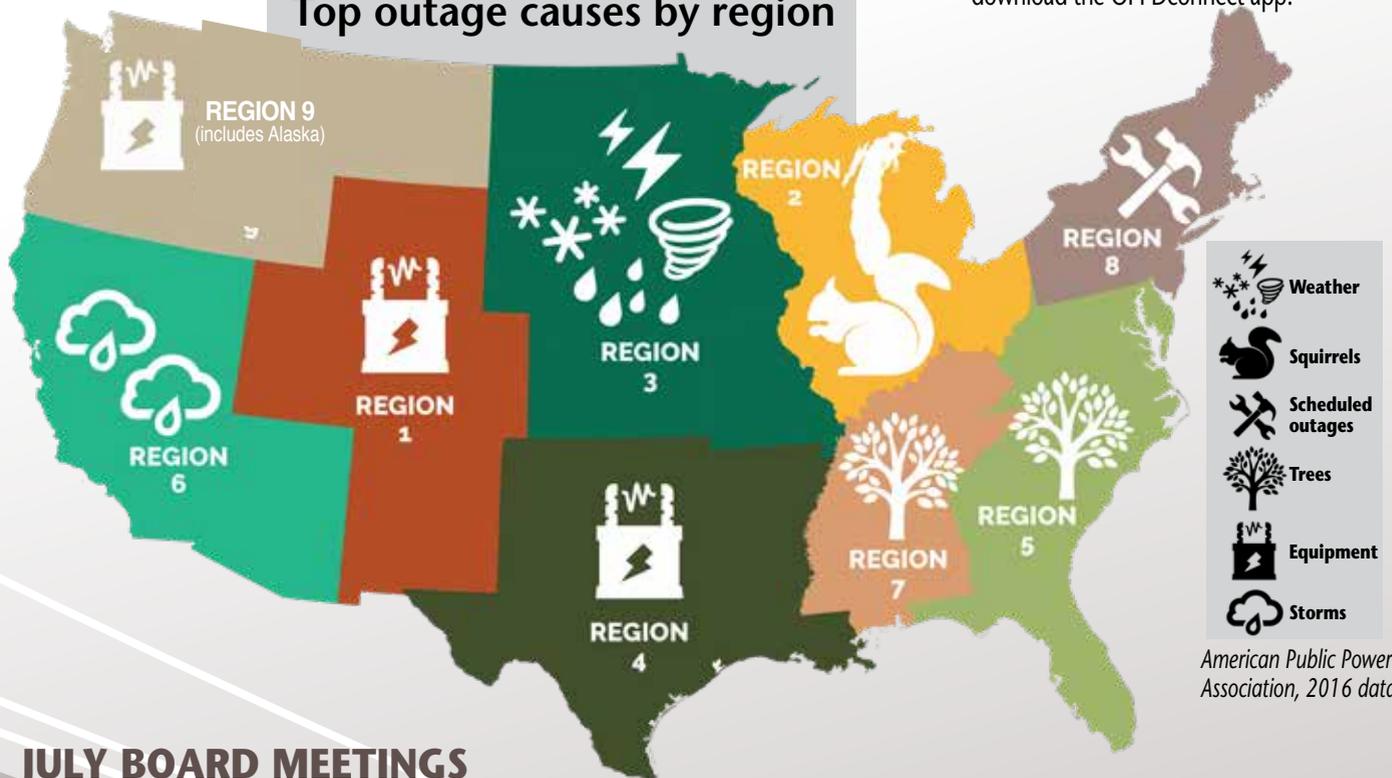
Weather also topped the outage causes for region 6; however, rain storms were to blame in that southwest region, which covers California, Nevada and Arizona.

In other regions in the nation, equipment, trees, squirrels and scheduled outages were top causes.

Despite OPPD's diligent tree-trimming and system maintenance efforts – covering more than 15,700 miles of electric line, substations and related equipment over 5,000 square miles – there are other outage causes, too.

- **Humans** – With overhead and underground cables, people often interfere with service by digging into cable or trimming trees that fall into power lines.
 - **Vehicles** – Motorists hitting power poles account for many outages.
 - **911 calls** – Some emergency situations require cutting power to allow emergency workers or others safe access to a site.
 - **Critters** – Squirrels aren't the only offenders. Raccoons, birds, bats, snakes and other creatures are often to blame, as well.
- According to the EIA, Nebraska had the shortest outage duration in the nation in 2016. When a power outage occurs, OPPD personnel work to restore service as quickly and safely as possible. If you need to report an outage, please call 800-554-6773 or download the OPPDconnect app.

Top outage causes by region



JULY BOARD MEETINGS

Committee: Tuesday, July 10, 8:30 a.m., Energy Plaza, 444 S. 16th St., Omaha. **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, July 12, 4 p.m., same location. Hearing-impaired may call 402-636-3208, 72 hours prior to request an interpreter. Meetings are livestreamed online at oppd.com.

Outlets

OUR MISSION

Provide affordable, reliable and environmentally sensitive energy services to our customers.



8 outdoor safety tips

Whether you are painting your house, trimming a tree or simply relaxing on the deck, always be aware of your surroundings and potential electrical hazards.

1. Treat every line you see as though it is a LIVE WIRE. Don't go near downed lines, and report downed power lines to OPPD (1-800-554-6773) or 911 as quickly as possible.
2. Position and move ladders carefully, making sure they are set securely away from power lines.
3. Don't climb any tree or let kids climb any tree that has power lines in or near it.
4. Use only weather-proof fixtures and approved wire for outdoor lighting and wiring.
5. Prior to a digging project, call Nebraska811 to have underground utility lines located and marked. Call 811 or 800-331-5666.
6. Use power tools outdoors only in dry weather. Stand on dry surfaces and use only dry materials.
7. Make sure power tools are properly grounded wherever you use them; always use a ground fault circuit interrupter.
8. Inspect all cords and plugs prior to use to make sure they are in good condition.

For more electrical safety tips, visit oppd.com/safety.



In-lieu-of-tax payments total \$32.9 million

Omaha Public Power District distributed more than \$32.9 million in 2017 in-lieu-of-tax payments to 11 southeast Nebraska counties earlier this spring.

"This is one way we, as a public power utility, can give back to our customer-owners and contribute to our communities," said OPPD Board Chair Mike Cavanaugh.

Payments are based on 5 percent of OPPD's gross revenues from the previous year's retail electricity sales in incorporated cities and towns; they take the place of property taxes and are distributed to school districts, cities and other entities to fund services and improvements.

The payments (rounded to the nearest dollar) made to each county are as follows:

Douglas	\$26,638,506
Sarpy	\$4,857,254
Washington.....	\$646,012
Saunders	\$310,359
Cass	\$268,196
Dodge	\$138,259
Nemaha.....	\$38,236
Johnson	\$14,337
Richardson	\$13,591
Otoe	\$4,211
Colfax	\$3,947

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