

A RECORD-SHATTERING BLIZZARD

OPPD workers faced a massive undertaking in March when a record-shattering blizzard raged through eastern Nebraska one day before the start of spring.

The blizzard knocked out power to 106,681 at the event's peak, but because OPPD managed to restore some customers while the blizzard was still happening, the number fluctuated. A total of 132,000 lost power at some point during the storm.

The outage was the fifth-largest OPPD's history as measured by the number of outages, but the biggest by far in terms of damage to the utility's infrastructure.

Over the eight-day restoration, OPPD replaced 1,595 utility poles (distribution and transmission). By contrast, during OPPD's largest-ever outage in July 2024, workers replaced 433 poles after hurricane-forced devastated the Omaha metro and surrounding areas. OPPD devoted more than 1,000 workers, contractors and mutual aid partners to the on-the-ground restoration effort, plus many others behind the scenes.



JUNE BOARD MEETINGS

All-committee meeting: Tuesday, June 17 (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). Regular board meeting: Thursday, June 19, 5 p.m. (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). Hearing-impaired call 531-226-3515, 72 hours prior to request an interpreter. Agendas posted and meetings viewable on oppd.com/BoardMeeting.

ENCOURAGING GIRLS TO LOOK AT ENGINEERING

OPPD engineers joined an effort recently by Omaha Public Schools to show girls all the important, rewarding and in-demand work they could do as engineers.

The annual "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day" encourages girls to consider engineering as a viable career path with many benefits.

In 2023, women accounted for just 16.7% of the professionals in architecture and engineering careers, according to the Society of Women Engineers. The event was hosted by Westview High School.

OPPD engineers told girls that



engineering pays well and offers flexibility and a chance to creatively solve problems. OPPD hires engineers from all sorts of disciplines, including the mechanical, electrical, civil,

chemical and industrial fields. Their work helps provide reliable, affordable and sustainable power to people throughout OPPD's service territory in eastern Nebraska.

The event at the Embassy Suites hotel and conference center in La Vista featured dozens of employers, including Google, Olsson Associates, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, University of Nebraska Omaha Biomechanics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Aerospace Club and University of Nebraska-Lincoln Biomedical.

TIPS TO KEEP YOU SAFE DURING SEVERE WEATHER

Spring is here, and so is Nebraska's famously wild weather.

Eastern Nebraska sees its share of thunderstorms, floods, derechos, tornadoes and late-season snowstorms.

The National Weather Service (NWS) wants everyone to be prepared for bad weather and has a variety of tips to help.

Because severe weather can cause power outages, it's also important to plan accordingly for your family and friends.

Blizzards

The NWS defines a blizzard as either a storm with large amounts of snow OR blowing snow that lasts at least three hours or with winds greater than 35 mph and less than a quarter-mile of visibility.

The obvious dangers are low visibility, slick roads, frigid temperatures and dangerous wind chills. The NWS advises against

traveling or spending time outdoors when wind chills are extremely low.

Thunderstorms

Severe thunderstorms can pose a threat as well. The NWS considers a thunderstorm "severe" when it produces quarter-inch to 1-inch hail or larger in diameter, winds of at least 58 mph, or a tornado.

Thunderstorms can cause damage through wind, hail, lightning, floods, flash floods and tornadoes.

Tornadoes

Tornadoes can strike at any day at any time. A powerful, fast-spinning funnel of air descends from the sky and touches the ground, causing devastation in some areas while leaving others untouched.

Be prepared

No matter the weather, it's always smart to have a plan of action before severe weather strikes so you can respond quickly.

KEEPING PIPES WELL-INSULATED

We all know that wall insulation slows the flow of heat and help make your home energy efficient, but what about pipe insulation?

Your water pipes can and should be insulated, if possible, in unconditioned spaces. Insulated pipes can deliver water 2-4 degrees Fahrenheit hotter than uninsulated pipes. That can mean a lower water heater tank setting.

Use a minimum rating of R-4 for your pipe insulation. The most common form is tubular foam insulation. Be sure the inside diameter of the foam insulation matches the pipe's diameter. The foam should cover the pipe completely.

Insulate hot water pipes from the water heater to the fixtures that use hot water (bathroom, kitchen, etc.). Don't worry about lines you can't reach. Insulate cold water pipes for the first 5 feet of cold water line, starting at the water heater.

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