



Diana Waltee is the Lead Mail Specialist at NorthWestern Energy and has been with the company for 44 years. While she's always picked up aluminum cans while out and about, a couple of years ago Diana decided to take things a step further, asking herself, "How many cans can I collect in a year?" That question sparked a new personal Earth Day tradition.

On Earth Day 2025, after collecting cans for a year, Diana brought her first haul to Pacific Steel & Recycling. That initial drop included 20 large (39-gallon) bags of aluminum cans, totaling 330 pounds. Impressive as that was, she almost doubled her efforts this past Earth Day. On April 22, 2026, Diana turned in 35 of the large bags weighing an astonishing 659 pounds.

Diana finds cans just about everywhere, but most often along curbs, in parking lots, and underpasses. She also walks her yellow lab, Cooper, every day and often finds cans along the way. Cooper even helps by nosing or pawing at cans when he spots one. Diana's mission has gained support around the NorthWestern Energy office as well, with coworkers bringing in cans from home and janitorial staff setting aside clean cans they find discarded.

Over the year, the collection fills her basement, garage, and patio but the effort is worth it. On Earth Day, Pacific Steel & Recycling doubles the price paid per pound of aluminum. "This year, I got back about \$461, which is great because then Cooper gets lots of treats," Diana said. In addition, Diana removes the tabs from every can she collects and donates them to the Ronald McDonald House in Billings through a coworker connection, helping support families with children receiving medical care, proving that even the smallest actions can make a meaningful difference.



## Ham Dip

### INGREDIENTS

- 4- 2 oz packages of Buddig Ham cut up into pieces
- 1 container (16oz) Sour Cream
- 1 cup of Hellman's or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise
- 1 package Knorr Vegetable Recipe Mix
- 1 can (8oz) Water Chestnuts drained and chopped (Optional)
- 3 Green Onions chopped (Optional)

### DIRECTIONS

- 1 Combine all ingredients in a bowl and mix.
- 2 Chill the Ham Dip for about 2 hours.
- 3 Serve this classic Ham Dip with your favorite dippers, like crackers or veggies, or cut up a loaf of French Bread into bite size pieces for dipping or make a sandwich.

## CONTACT US

### MONTANA

Customer Contact Center 888-467-2669  
 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. M-F  
 Emergency 24/7 Service  
 Call Before You Dig 811  
 Energy Efficiency 800-823-5995

### NEBRASKA AND SOUTH DAKOTA

Customer Contact Center 800-245-6977  
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 Emergency 24/7 Service  
 Call Before You Dig 811

### PAYMENT

Paymentus Automated  
 Phone Payment Option:  
 (via checking, savings, credit or debit card)  
 English: 833-970-2262  
 Spanish: 833-970-2263

### CONSTRUCTION CENTER

1-83-FOR-BUILD (1-833-672-8453)

[NorthWesternEnergy.com](http://NorthWesternEnergy.com)    

We are proud of the diversity in the communities we serve. To better serve the needs of some of our customers, we translate important customer information into two languages: Spanish and Karenic. To request translated customer information, please contact us at the numbers listed above.

Estamos orgullosos de la diversidad en las comunidades a las que servimos. Para satisfacer mejor las necesidades de algunos de nuestros clientes, traducimos información importante del cliente a dos idiomas: español y karénico (Karen). Para solicitar información traducida del cliente, contáctenos a los números indicados arriba.

ပသးခုဒီးပင်ကမာလာဘဉ်ပသးလာ ပမာစာဘဉ်ပုၤကဗျာ်ဖိအိကလုၤအိဉ် လာအအိဉ်လာ လီၤကဝီၤဖဲအံၤန့ၢ်လီၤ. ဒ်သီးပမာစာဘဉ်သုကအါထီၢ်အဂီၢ်, ပကွဲးလီၤလံာ်ကတိၤကျိၢ်ထံ တၢ်ဖျါအရုၤဒိၣ်တဖၣ်ဆူ (Spanish)စပဲနးအကျိၢ် ဒီး (Karen)ကညီကျိၢ် န့ၢ်လီၤ. သုမ့ၢ်လီၤဘဉ်လံာ်လံာ်လာ ပုၤကွဲးကျိၢ်ထံ အံၤဝဲဒီး, ဝံသးစုၤသုဆဲးကျိၢ်ပုၤသုဖဲ လီၤတဲဖိနီၣ်ဂံၢ် ဒ်အအိဉ်ပျါလာတၢ်ဖိအိဉ် အသီးန့ၢ်လီၤ.

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# Energy Connections

Customer Bill Insert  
**July 2026**

In this issue: Outage safety | Kids Safety Corner  
 Watch for downed power lines | Ham Dip Recipe



**Bright ideas to save**

## Stay cool – grill outside

Using your oven and stove heats up your home. Cook outside instead.

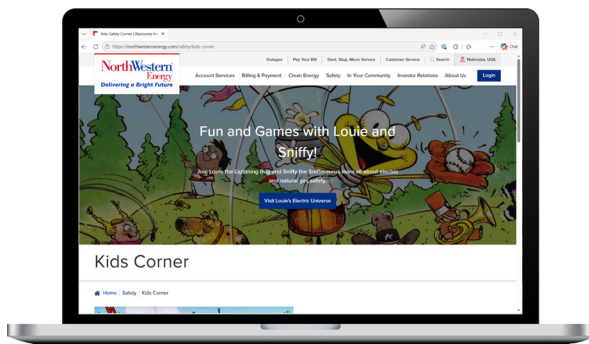
# You may experience more outages in the summer

NorthWestern Energy is doing our part to help prevent wildfires. One way we do that is by changing the way we operate the electrical grid when fire danger is high.

We use Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS) to make the electrical system more sensitive to potential hazards. If a fault occurs, such as a tree branch contacting a powerline, power is shut off automatically.

A line that has been automatically de-energized will remain off until our crews can patrol the area to check for damage before safely restoring power.

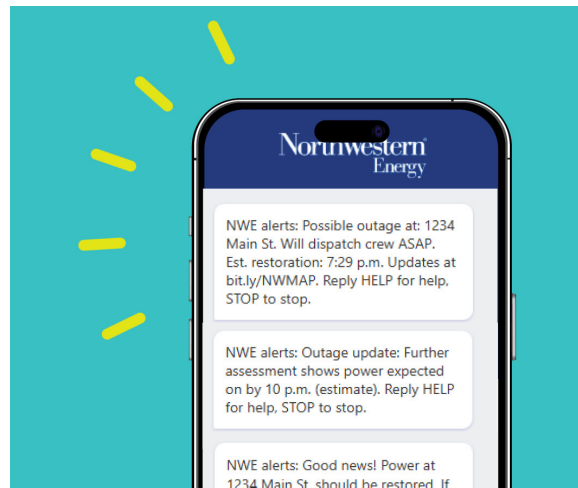
Learn more at [NorthWesternEnergy.com/wildfire](http://NorthWesternEnergy.com/wildfire).



# Hang with Louie and Sniffy this summer

If you're looking for some educational fun this summer, spend some time with Louie the Lightning Bug and Sniffy the Sniffasaurus to learn about electric and natural gas safety. We have games, activities and videos for kids of all ages to help them learn the importance of playing it safe around electricity and using your senses around natural gas.

Visit [NorthWesternEnergy.com/kids](http://NorthWesternEnergy.com/kids).



# Do you know what to do during a power outage?

Summer thunderstorms and windstorms can cause unexpected outages at your home or business. Here are some important tips to help you and your family during an outage:

- **Ensure you're receiving outage alerts in My Energy Account.** Verify your email address, phone number, and notification settings by going to My Energy Account or by creating a My Energy Account.
- **Check our online outage map.** Find the most up-to-date outage information on our online outage map at [NorthWesternEnergy.com/outages](http://NorthWesternEnergy.com/outages).
- **Check fuses or circuit breakers to rule out problems with electricity inside your home.** If a fuse is blown, replace it with the appropriate fuse. If a breaker has tripped, reset it from off to on. If you are unsure about fixing a fuse or circuit breaker, call an electrician.
- **Do not open freezers or refrigerators more than necessary.** A refrigerator will keep food cold for about 4 hours if it is unopened. A full freezer will keep the temperature for approximately 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full) if the door remains closed.

For more information about safety during outages, please visit [NorthWesternEnergy.com/outagesafety](http://NorthWesternEnergy.com/outagesafety).

# Keep away from downed power lines

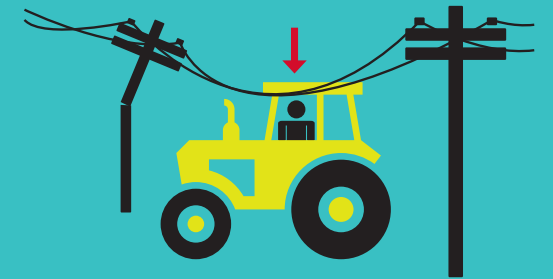
Summer storms may damage power lines. Contact with downed power lines or nearby objects may cause serious injury or death. Downed lines may be energized even if they don't hum or spark, and lines that appear dead could become re-energized at any moment. Downed power lines may energize the ground or nearby puddles, metal fences, vehicles, trees, power poles, and other wires.

Be especially alert for downed lines hidden by water and tree branches after high winds and storms. Consider any downed electric or communication line to be energized and dangerous. Call 911 and NorthWestern Energy to report it. Stay as far away as possible from all downed or low conductors.



# What to do if your vehicle contacts a power line

Stay in the vehicle and call 911 for help.



If you must exit the vehicle because of a fire, tuck your arms across your body and jump clear of any wires with your feet together, never touching the equipment and ground at the same time. Then hop or shuffle at least 40 feet away, keeping your feet together.



Stay away from the equipment until the authorities tell you it is safe.

