

Gina Mazza has always enjoyed solving problems that others found challenging.

"I have had a lot of jobs where I hiked around collecting data, and I wanted to be the one answering the questions and coming up with solutions using the data I was collecting," she said.

Gina started her position at NorthWestern Energy in November 2023, and, like her past jobs, it allows her to solve complex problems. As a Wildfire GIS Analyst, she is responsible for analysis, management, creation and communication related to wildfire and spatial data. This includes map making, creating apps for data collection and conducting analysis.

Her love of maps has come in handy, as she has created several maps that will be instrumental as NorthWestern Energy implements its Wildfire Mitigation plan.

Gina's skills in problem solving and experimentation, as well as her desire to be creative and try new things are what fuel her in the kitchen. "I could eat whatever I wanted, as long as I made it," said Michael Pollan, a quote that she lives by when she cooks.

Experimentation and creativity helped Gina create an Italian-style pasta salad that is perfect for summer nights. After several trials and combinations of different ingredients that were already in her fridge, Gina perfected her pasta salad, which combines Mediterranean and Italian flavors along with a very special dressing.

"The dressing has been used by my mom for years," Gina said.



Gina's Italian Pasta Salad **INGREDIENTS:**

1 lb. Gemelli pasta 3 healthy handfuls of arugula 8 large artichoke hearts, chopped $\frac{1}{3}$ cup sun dried tomatoes $\frac{1}{2}$ red onion. sliced 1/2 cup Kalamata olives, chopped ¹/₂ cup shredded parmesan cheese

Dressing:

1 clove of garlic, pressed 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard 1/4 cup Extra Virgin Olive Oil Not quite 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar Salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS

1Cook pasta according to package instructions and allow to cool

 ${f \gamma}$ Combine all ingredients in a large bowl.

 $\mathbf{2}$ Mix the dressing ingredients.

4 Toss the dressing with the other salad ingredients.

 \Box Serve chilled and enjoy!

Feel free to experiment with ingredient quantities to suit your taste.

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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.

Estamos orgullosos de la diversidad en las comunidades que servimos. Para satisfacer mejor las necesidades de algunos de nuestros clientes, traducimos información importante del cliente a dos idiomas: español y karen

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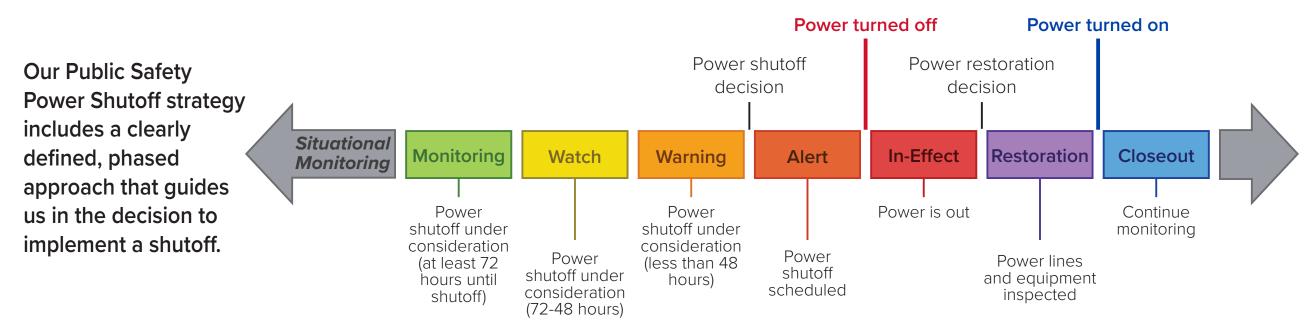
Customer Bill Insert Montana | July 2024

In this issue: Public Safety Power Shutoff Information Italian pasta salad recipe



When you shower or take a bath, use the bathroom fan to remove heat and humidity from your home.

Visit NorthWesternEnergy.com/rebates to see rebates for bathroom exhaust fans!



Public Safety Power Shutoffs help protect communities from wildfires

Due to the growing threat of catastrophic wildfires, NorthWestern Energy is exploring new ways to protect our customers and communities from wildfires. In the June issue of Energy Connections, we told you all about our 2024 Wildfire Mitigation Plan.

One new piece of that plan is implementing Public Safety Power Shutoffs. As a last resort, we will deenergize electrical infrastructure in specific areas, during periods of time where the risks of operating electrical infrastructure are unacceptably high. Known as Public Safety Power Shutoffs, or PSPS, this is an increasingly common method for energy companies to prevent wildfires.

When do Public Safety Power Shutoffs occur?

Public Safety Power Shutoffs are used only during extreme weather conditions when there is a high risk of an electrical line igniting a wildfire. We may turn off power when extreme weather conditions are expected but before they hit an area.

Public Safety Power Shutoffs are most likely to occur during fire season – the hot dry months in the summertime. However, it is possible to have a Public Safety Power Shutoff anytime of the year when it's hot, dry and windy.

Where do Public Safety Power Shutoffs occur?

All customers should be prepared for outages, including Public Safety Power Shutoffs. Public Safety Power Shutoffs are most likely to occur in wildfire-prone areas, such as forested areas on the outskirts of larger towns or cities, or rural forested areas. However, a Public Safety Power Shutoff could also be needed near prairies, grasslands and farms. The least likely place to have a Public Safety Power Shutoff is in a populated, urban area.

How long does a Public Safety Power Shutoff last?

Public Safety Power Shutoffs can vary in length. We will not restore power until weather conditions have improved to the point where we can safely operate the electrical grid. After the extreme weather conditions have passed, we will patrol electrical lines to make sure no branches, trees or other items have fallen into the lines. Once any damage has been repaired, NorthWestern Energy will restore power. A Public Safety Power Shutoff, plus the time to patrol and make repairs, could last several hours or even days. If storm damage occurs, restoration could take longer.

How will I be notified if there is a Public Safety Power Shutoff in my area?

If you will be impacted by a potential Public Safety Power Shutoff, NorthWestern Energy will notify you directly multiple times throughout the process. You will receive an automated phone call and email from us before power is turned off and after it is restored.

However, we can only contact you if we have your correct contact information. Update your contact information by logging in to My Energy Account or by calling us at 888-467-2669.

NorthWestern Energy will also post information on our website and social media accounts about Public Safety Power Shutoffs. For the most up-to-date information during an event, visit NorthWesternEnergy.com.

How can I prepare for Public Safety Power Shutoff events?

Be sure NorthWestern Energy has your current phone number and email address. Update your contact information by logging in to My Energy Account or by calling us at 888-467-2669.

Make a plan:

- Prepare for medical needs like refrigerated medicine
 or electrically powered medical equipment.
- Build a summer outage kit that includes bottled water, non-perishable food, baby food or formula and

diapers, pet food, medications and other necessities. Keep a block of ice in the freezer.

• Plan for a way to feed and water pets or livestock in case well pumps don't have power.

If the power goes out:

- 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.
- If you see a downed or damaged power line, keep your distance and call 911 immediately. Assume all power lines are energized. Never touch a power line or any object, including trees, that is in contact with a line.

What if I have special medical needs and depend on electricity?

- Make a plan for medical needs such as refrigerated medicine or electrically powered medical equipment. This could mean finding a place you can go during an outage or using a backup generator.
- For medical emergencies, call 911.

Learn more at NorthWesternEnergy.com/PSPS