

# BERNARD TELEPHONE & COMMUNICATIONS

110 Jess St, Bernard IA

563-879-3203

www.bernardtelephone.com

## Protecting your home from lightning strikes

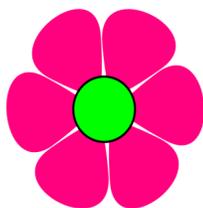
As storm season quickly approaches, there is no time like the present to make sure you have taken extra precautions in protecting your electronic investments from a catastrophic lightning strike. Though there is no foolproof way to be 100% protected from a direct lightning strike, there are steps you can take to reduce the possibility that you will be a victim.



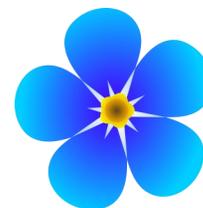
### Steps to help protect your home:

- Use Surge Protectors to help protect against voltage spikes and everyday power surges. These devices cannot protect against the violent and catastrophic burst from a close or direct lightning strike.
- To help protect against close lightning strikes, the best preventative measure you can take is to unplug your electronics prior to the start of the storm. Keep in mind though, a lightning bolt that has already jumped across miles of air will not hesitate to jump a few more inches or feet to get to the path of least resistance. If your electronics are in that path, they will get hit.
- To receive optimal protection for your electronics, install a whole home lightning protection system. These systems are designed to intercept a strike and divert it safely to the ground.

## Spring Burning?



As a friendly reminder, our fiber pedestals are flammable. When burning ditches please take special care to avoid damaging the peds. We recognize damage is typically unintentional. However, similar to cable cuts, any damage to property will be assessed and billed out to the responsible party.



## April Happenings:



**Friday, April 22nd**

Bernard Rescue Unit  
Auction & Dance  
Saturday, April 2nd  
Starts @ 7:30pm



Congratulations to this months  
winner,  
Susan Mortimer!

She will receive a \$10 credit  
on her next bill.

Winners are drawn randomly  
and everyone is eligible.

If you ever have any information you would like included  
in our news letter, please email Megan at  
megan@bernardtel.net.

## Low-Income Telephone Assistance

Lifeline is a plan that assists qualified low-income Iowans by providing a monthly reduction on their telephone bill in the amount of \$9.25. This reduction can only be applied to one wireline or wireless telephone provider per household.

To be eligible an applicant must meet income-based criterion currently defined as at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines OR participate in at least one of the following:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- National School Lunch Program (NSL)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance

Additionally you and/or no other person in your household can be subscribed to the Lifeline program.

To sign up for the Low-Income Telephone Assistance Programs call or stop by the office to obtain an application.

### FUSC Update-Federal Universal Service Charge

Effective April 1st, 2016 the Federal Universal Service Charge (FUSC) contribution factor will be decreasing from 18.2% to 17.9%. The FUSC amount is calculated by multiplying the contribution factor times your interstate service charges. This factor may change quarterly, depending upon the needs of the Federal Universal Service Fund (USF). The USF is a government mandated program that is designed to help make phone service affordable and available to all Americans, including consumers with low income, those living in areas where the costs of providing telephone service is high, and to schools, libraries, and rural health care providers.



### Controlled Burn Non-Emergency Numbers

Please call the Non-Emergency number for either Jackson or Dubuque counties when you are having a controlled burn. Controlled burn examples are brush fires and ditch burning. When you call and let dispatch know you are having a controlled burn, Fire Departments do not dispatch when a passerby reports the fire. This allows the Fire Department to be available for Emergency calls.



Jackson County (563) 652-3312

Dubuque County (563) 589-4414



**Bernard Telephone &  
Communications  
mobile site**

### Blocking unwanted calls from a particular number

To Activate:

1. Lift Receiver and dial \*60
2. Listen to the Voice instructions which tell you: whether the service is on or off; how many numbers are on your list; how to turn the service on or off; how to add or delete numbers from your list
3. To add a number press: #, then the telephone number you wish to block, then #

The number you want blocked is now on your list and will not be able to call through.

Keep in mind, you can also block numbers on your cell phone. Each phone is different so consult your manual to find out how to do this.