

### Be Prepared for Severe Storms



The months of April through July represent the most active months for severe storms, lightning strikes, and tornadoes. Mike Ruff, director of operations, would like to remind everyone of a few tips to stay safe before, during, and after severe storms.

“You just never know when a storm may hit, creating potential electrical hazards for you and your family,” Ruff said. “The best solution is to be prepared ahead of time. This checklist will help keep your family safe year-round.”

#### Before the Storm:

- Assemble a kit of essentials, like battery-operated flashlights and radios. Keep a list of emergency phone numbers that includes the electric utility. Be prepared for the possibility of a prolonged outage due to power line and electric equipment damage.
- Fill spare containers with water for washing, and keep a supply of bottled drinking water on hand. Maintain a supply of non-perishable food items, along with a hand opener for canned food.
- During an outage, switch off lights and appliances to prevent overloading circuits and damaging appliances when power is restored. Leave one lamp or switch on as a signal for when your power returns.
- Be sure to tune into your local weather station if you suspect severe weather is brewing. Understand the National Weather Service warning classification system. A tornado or severe storm watch means that conditions are favorable for those weather conditions forming. A warning means that dangerous weather conditions are developing and imminent.
- Consider having Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) professionally installed or purchasing a portable GFCI. GFCIs can cut off power if there is

a problem and are recommended for outdoor outlets and areas of the home that are prone to water exposure such as basements, bathrooms, kitchens, laundry rooms, etc.

- Lightning can travel up to 10 miles away from a storm, so seek shelter as soon as you hear thunder.

#### After the Storm:

- When venturing outside after a severe storm, stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Assume that any dangling wires you encounter are electrical, and treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Warn others to stay away and contact Clark Electric Cooperative at 715-272-6188.
- If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away, and contact emergency personnel or Clark Electric Cooperative. Also when driving, be careful at intersections where traffic lights may be out. Stop at all railroad crossings, and treat road intersections with traffic signals as a four-way stop before proceeding with caution.
- Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off. Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you can't reach your breaker box safely, call Clark Electric Cooperative to send someone out to shut off power at the meter.
- Never step into a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances, or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords, or wires while you are wet or standing in water.
- Cleaning up and using water-damaged appliances also carry safety risks. Electric motors in appliances that have been drenched or submerged should be thoroughly cleaned and reconditioned before they are put back into service. It may be necessary to repair or replace electrical appliances or tools that have been in contact with water. Do not use any water-damaged appliance until a professional has checked it out.
- When using a generator, follow all manufacturers' recommendations to avoid tragedy. Keep the generator dry and never plug it into a wall outlet or directly into the home's wiring. This could inadvertently energize the utility lines and injure yourself or others working to restore power. —Source: *Safe Electricity.Org* ■

## Introducing A New Free Service... Easy Account Management at Your Fingertips!

Great news! An easy-to-use online account management system is on the horizon. This new, user-friendly technology is called SmartHub. In addition to being able to make a payment quicker, members will find it easier to view monthly and daily electric usage, either on your computer or smart-phone, 24/7. Our goal is to make it convenient and quick for you, our members, to get up-to-date information, from when your bill is due to how much electricity you used yesterday.

With SmartHub you will be able to view your daily and monthly usage and compare your usage to previous months or years. The graphs will also have the average temperature for that time frame so you can easily compare. You will also be able to quickly and easily pay your bill, get outage information, sign up for paperless billing, and report address changes. Members can choose to receive e-mail or text alerts when a payment is due or for a variety of other account activities. Members who



are already registered E-bill customers using our online system now will automatically be upgraded to our new SmartHub website. If you do not have an e-mail account to register your electric account with, no problem: There is the “Pay Now” feature that does not need an e-mail address to register your electric account.

Have you ever wondered how much electricity you use in a day? SmartHub comes with an app for smartphones. So now you will be able to make a payment or check how much electric you used on any given day right from your phone, wherever you may be.

SmartHub doesn’t stop there. You will be able to report an outage and gather additional useful information. The app is free! You can download it from the Apple App store or Android marketplace beginning mid-April.

### We have an app for that!

SmartHub turns your smartphone, tablet, or computer into Account Central! ■

## Annual Meeting Will Be Held On April 10<sup>th</sup>

Plan to join us for Clark Electric Cooperative’s 77<sup>th</sup> annual meeting on Thursday, April 10, 2014, at the American Legion Hall in Loyal, starting at 9:30 a.m.

The annual meeting is an important event for the cooperative and you, the members. You will hear reports about the cooperative and the electric industry, review financials, and elect two directors for three-year terms.

So, plan to attend the annual meeting, enjoy a nice meal, register for door prizes, and help conduct the business of your electric utility. Member involvement is critically important to the success of your cooperative.

## Paystations

- Abby Bank—401 E Spruce St., Abbotsford, WI 54405, 715-223-2345
- Forward Financial—1122 N Division St., Colby, WI 54421, 715-223-3998
- Advantage Community Bank—101 W. Center Ave., Dorchester, WI 54425, 715-654-5100
- Citizens State Bank—110 Maple St., Granton, WI 54436, 715-238-7169
- Forward Financial Bank—212 S Main St., Greenwood, WI 54437, 715-267-7221
- Pioneer Bank—106 S Main St., Greenwood, WI 54437, 715-267-6250
- Citizens State Bank—400 N Main St., Loyal, WI 54446, 715-255-8526
- Loyal Farm & Home Center—606 E. Elm Drive, Loyal, WI 54446, 715-255-8200
- BMO Harris—204 S Main St., Loyal, WI 54446, 715-255-8586
- Citizens State Bank—2 Boon Blvd., Neillsville, WI 54456, 715-743-7494
- BMO Harris—106 W Division St., Neillsville, WI 54456, 715-743-3197
- Heritage Bank—201 W Clark, Spencer, WI 54479, 715-659-2430
- Citizens State Bank—302 S Pacific, Spencer, WI 54479, 715-659-5159
- Forward Financial—353 S Broadway St. Stanley, WI 54768, 715-644-2566
- Northwestern Bank—111 N. Washington St., Thorp, WI 54771, 715-669-5707
- Forward Financial—410 Division St., Withee, WI 54498, 715-229-2188
- Pioneer Bank—N14570 Cty. Rd. O, Withee, WI 54498, 715-229-2796
- Forward Financial—105 S. Washington St., Thorp, WI 54771, 715-669-5341
- Scott & Lori’s Family Foods—707 W. 3rd St., Owen, WI 54460, 715-229-2148

# Clark Electric Crew Responds Through ROPE

Clark Electric Cooperative responded to a call to assist Eau Claire Energy Cooperative after several inches of wet, heavy snow fell in Eau Claire Energy's service territory through the night February 20 and into the next morning. It was around 8 a.m. Friday, February 21, when Clark Electric received a call that Eau Claire Energy needed help restoring power to some of their members still out of power from the snowstorm the night before. Linemen Jarred Martens and Matt Wiese volunteered to head west to assist Eau Claire Energy in restoring power to their members.

ROPE, or Restoration Of Power in an Emergency, is a very unique program of co-ops helping co-ops. It is administered by Dairyland Power Cooperative on be-



Jarred Martens (left) and Matt Wiese (right)

half of all its member cooperatives. When a major storm rolls through a cooperative's service territory and causes extensive damage to its distribution system, that co-op can call Dairyland Power and activate the ROPE program. Dairyland Power will then go to work to find crews from other cooperatives unaffected by the storm to help restore power to the affected cooperative's system. Electric

cooperatives typically have large service territories with a limited number of linemen to cover it, so it's nice to know help is just a phone call away through the ROPE program, said CEO/General Manager Tim Stewart.

Clark Electric Cooperative has sent crews to a number of other cooperatives in recent years, including Washington St. Tammany Electric Cooperative in Franklinton, Louisiana, after Hurricane Katrina. While Matt and Jarred volunteered to respond to the latest call for help at Eau Claire Energy, every one of our linemen at Clark Electric has been involved with assisting another cooperative through the ROPE Program. ■

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*Happy Easter*

Our office will be closed April 18 for Good Friday.



**Represent Your Cooperative at the Dairyland Power Cooperative Annual Meeting Wednesday, June 4, 2014**

Representing your cooperative and your fellow members at various meetings is an opportunity that we ask our members to participate in every year. The Dairyland Power Coop-

erative Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, in La Crosse.

**11 Delegates and 4 Alternates needed**

By attending and being a delegate for your cooperative, you help keep Clark Electric Cooperative strong and prosperous. If you would like to represent Clark Electric Cooperative at this meeting, please contact Tracy Nelson, administrative assistant, by Monday, April 7, 2014.

Tracy can be reached by calling the cooperative office at 715-267-6188 or at 800-272-6188. ■

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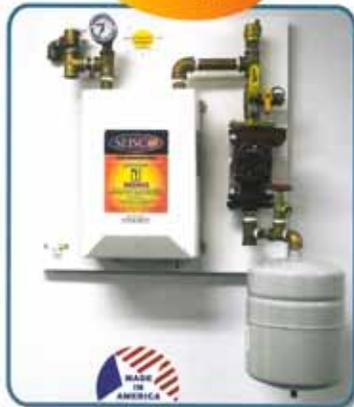
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HRC2699-7	7	23,890	40	29	24" X 24"
HRC1542-9	9	30,710	50	38	24" X 24"
HRC2699-9	9	30,710	50	38	24" X 24"
HRC1542-11	11	37,540	60	46	24" X 24"
HRC2699-11	11	37,540	60	46	24" X 24"
HRC2699-14	14	47,780	80	59	24" X 32"
HRC2699-18	18	61,430	100	75	24" X 32"
HRC2699-22	22	75,080	120	92	24" X 32"

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**Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month**

These days, it may be easier to trim your refrigerator's energy use than it is to trim your waistline. Consider this energy-saving and maintenance regimen to keep your refrigerator in shape. Set the refrigerator temperature above 37 degrees Fahrenheit. Make sure door seals are in place and are snug when closed. And keep outside coils unobstructed and clean; dirty ones could overwork the unit's compressor.—Source: Energy.gov



**Clark Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

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