

SUMMER STORMS WREAK HAVOC

Abbotsford & Colby Area Hit Hard Again By Severe Weather

It was just a few weeks earlier that the northeast part of Clark County recovered from severe weather where a tornado touched down in downtown Abbotsford. Luckily there were no injuries during that storm, but a lot of damage was done to buildings and trees in the area. For most, that one storm was enough for the summer; however, Mother Nature had different ideas.

On Tuesday, July 30, around 5:30 p.m., a very large and powerful storm moved into the area. Its focus was once again the northeast part of the county. According to the National Weather Service, there were no confirmed tornados during this storm; however, there were very powerful straight-line winds that reached 80 mph during the storm. These types of winds can and did cause a tremendous amount of damage.

As the phone calls for outages started coming in, with information on the storm and damage that it had caused, all the crews were called back into work. Staff manned the radios and dispatched the crews to outages in the affected area to start repairing the damages. The damages to the system included nearly 12 broken poles, which caused numerous electric lines to be damaged by trees due to the high winds.

Clark Electric started the job of getting everyone's electricity back on and in service. This process can be quick for some, but for others it can be slow and burdensome. The first step is to bring up the main lines—the three-phase lines out of the substation. Once these are back on, the crews work out to the other lines. Line crews must patrol the lines before they re-fuse or reset breakers. It's important to find out what is causing the outage, such as a tree on a line. If damage has been done to the service of the house, our crews must make sure of the damage. If it is damaged after the meter, an electrician must come out and make the repairs before the house can be re-energized. This is for the safety of the homeowner and his/her home.

The storm did a lot of damage, but Clark Electric crews had all members back on by Wednesday at 5 p.m. A lot of overtime without any sleep by the line crews ensured the members' electricity was



Clark Electric line crew repairs damage done to one of many households and farms that were not spared during the evening hours of the July 30 storm. In the bucket is lineman Jeff Block and on the ground is apprentice lineman Josh Burns (L) and lineman Dan Sturz (R).

on as soon as possible. A line crew and bucket truck from Price Electric Cooperative assisted our crews. What's interesting about this is that one of Clark Electric's crews helped assist Price Electric during the previous weekend when a storm did some damage to Price's system. The electric cooperatives have a program called R.O.P.E. (Restoration Of Power in Emergencies); each co-op agrees to help the other out if called on during an emergency. This helps to get members back on as soon as possible.

(Continued on Page 28 ►)

YOU HAVE AN

What To Do, And When To Do It!

Oh no, we have no electricity.” A lot of people said that on July 30. What to do is pretty easy. First, confirm that you have an outage. To do this, you need to check your circuit breakers or fuses and make sure they are not tripped or blown. Next, check with your neighbors; do they have power? If not, here’s where it gets easy.

First, call Clark Electric Cooperative and report that you have no electricity. Now, whom you will talk to depends on what time of day your outage is and also how many other members are calling. During the day, you will talk directly to Clark Electric Cooperative member services representatives or to the Operations Department. If the call volume is large, then Cooperative Response Center (CRC) will take over answering our phones; CRC also answers our phones at night. Having CRC answering at night and during heavy call volume means more calls can be answered, and with the assistance of CRC’s outage reporting system, we can gather information more quickly, which allows us to get the crews out and helps us get them the information.

Once CRC has your call, they group the calls together and deliver them to us in two different ways; they send them electronically and fax them as a backup measure.

How can you help? The most important thing is for us to have your phone number on file. This allows us to

gather outage and account information immediately when CRC is answering phones. Clark Electric Cooperative does not give out member phone numbers or addresses; your board of director’s policy maintains strict privacy. Next, if you have information such as a tree on a line or you heard a noise before the outage occurred, this can be passed on to an operator who will make sure the line crews get this information. Having this information can be important and can greatly speed up restoration during an outage. It is very important that you do CALL us. Don’t expect that someone else will call; we want every member to call when they have an outage; this will help us to know the extent and how widespread the outage is.

Now that you understand the procedures that happen during an outage and we have familiarized you with that information, you now know that someone is working on your situation. If the outage is widespread and there is a lot of damage, it will take crews some time to get the power restored. But rest assured, they will all be working, and if we need to we will get other help as needed. ■

O
U
T
A
G
E

IMPORTANT DATES

OFFICE CLOSING

Our offices will be closed Monday, September 2, 2002, in observance of Labor Day.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Be careful as the first day of school is Tuesday, September 3; watch for kids and buses now during the morning hours and after school.

**After Hours Call
800-972-5707**

**More Local News
Turn To Pages
28 & 29**

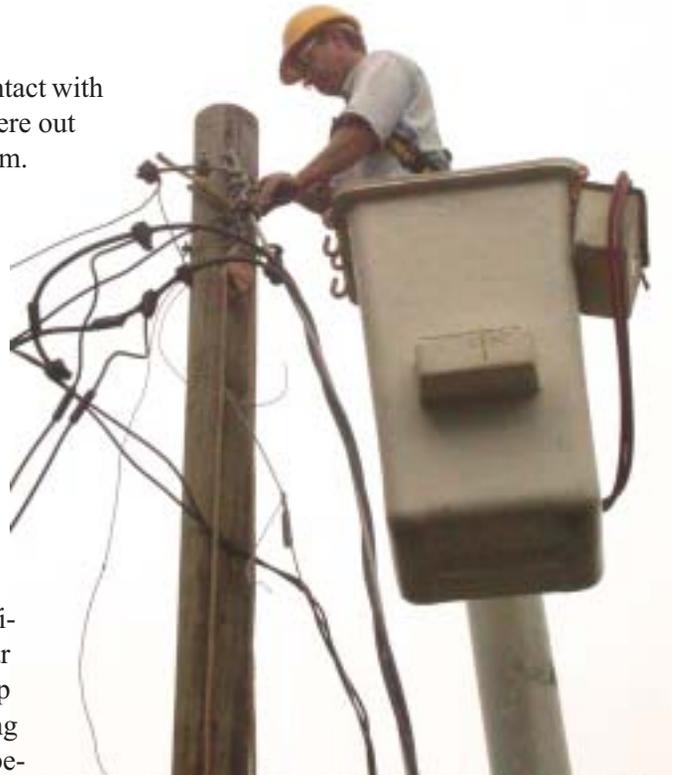
MORE LOCAL NEWS

Safety and Storms

(Continued from page 5)

We are always worried about kids and adults coming in contact with downed power lines. This was a big concern as many people were out driving around and checking out the damage done by the storm. Downed power lines are a big hazard for people, because when a line is down, you do not know if it is energized or not. We know of one electrocution because of the lines down during this storm; luckily it was not a human life. A doe and her fawn were electrocuted when they came into contact with a downed power line. They went up to investigate and then touched the line, and you can imagine the surprise of the linemen when they found this situation. Now you understand why we are always stressing to STAY AWAY FROM DOWNED POWER LINES.

Trees did most of the damage to the system during this storm. Power lines and trees are not a good combination. Having a tree trimming and spraying program in place is beneficial to the members. The cooperative has the right-of-way near our power lines cleared for this very important reason—to keep trees from coming in contact with the electric lines and causing outages or even temporary blinks. Over the last several years, because of this trimming program, we have seen our outage time de-



Lineman Jeff Block makes repairs to an electric service after the July 30 storm.

crease. If there are trees near your power lines and you are concerned, please call us and let us take care of them. Do not try to cut them down yourself; this can be dangerous for you or your neighbor, and it can be very costly.

Hopefully, we are through with the summer storm season, and by the looks of it we got through it in pretty good shape. If you see power lines down, stay away and keep others away until we get there to fix the problem. ■



Clark Electric Cooperative Economic Development Center

A Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**Commercial Building
6,600 sq.ft. For Rent**
Located in Greenwood, WI

Rentable space available for many applications

3 loading docks, free office space, heat/air & water provided
with many other unique features to promote comfort and production

For more information on renting space contact:

Dick Adler CEO/General Manager	John Knox Director of Member Services
-----------------------------------	------------------------------------------

Clark Electric Cooperative
124 N. Main St.
Greenwood, WI 54437

715-267-6188 • 800-272-6188
info@ccoop.com

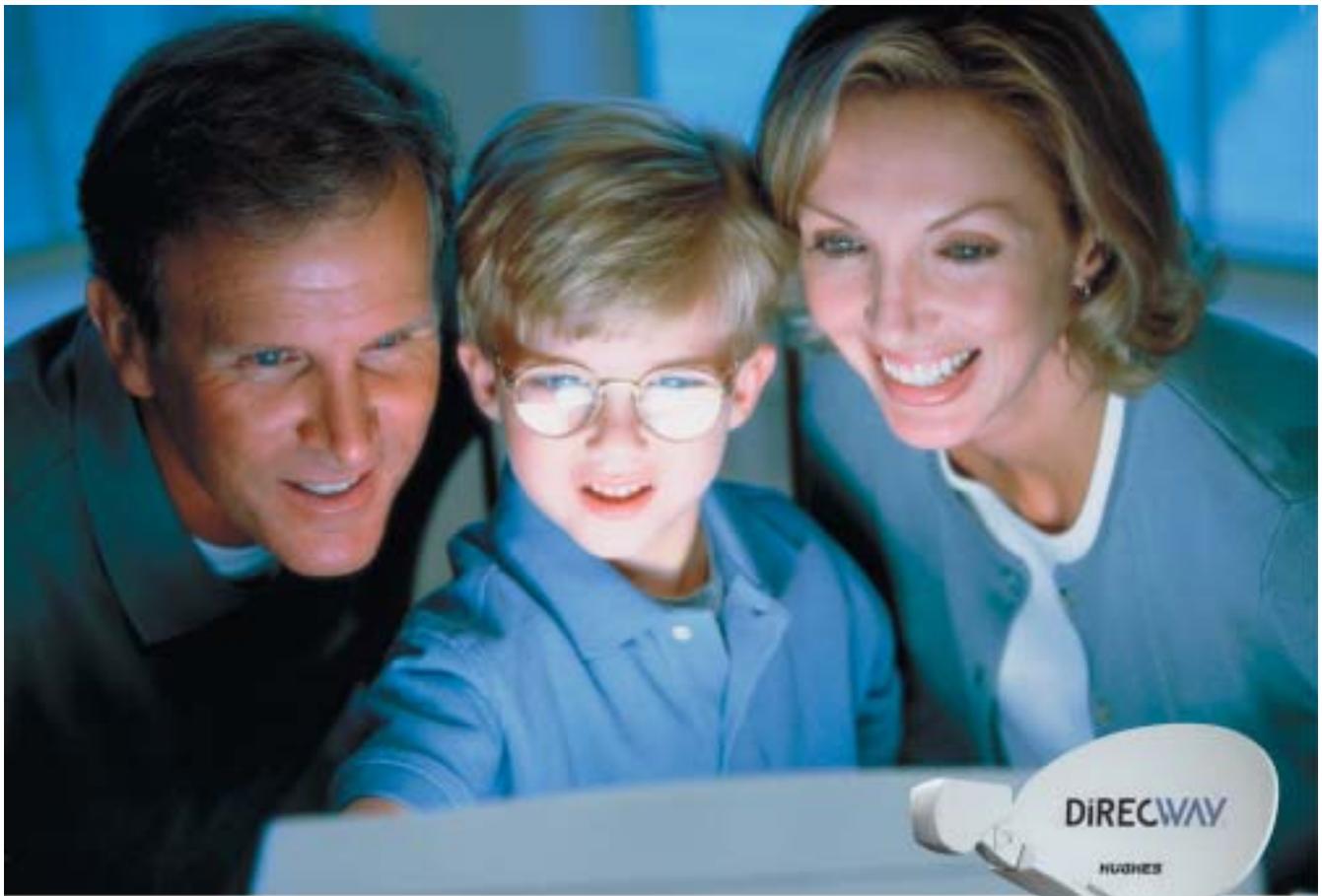


**Dick Adler, Manager
John J. Knox, Editor**

124 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 190
Greenwood, WI 54437

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

e-mail us at info@ccoop.com or at jknox@ccoop.com
WWW.CECOOP.COM



“When the Internet hit our house at high speed, we all felt the impact!”

Open your eyes to so much more of what the Internet has to offer with the incredible speed of a DIRECWAY™ two-way, high-speed satellite system.

And say goodbye to your dial-up connection forever!

Imagine the Internet at Amazing Speed!

Hook up to a new DIRECWAY™ two-way, high-speed satellite system and start experiencing the Internet at amazing speed! Even the bulkiest Web pages will load quickly. You'll get more done on the Internet. Have more fun. Download massive files in minutes. And shop anywhere you want, fast and easy!

Get Ready to See Everything the Internet Can be

And don't forget: High-speed access is where the Internet is headed. Every month, more and more major sites add a separate link for high-speed connections. So your DIRECWAY™ experience will only get better and better as the Internet moves faster and faster.



Want to see what the Internet can really deliver to your home? Access more entertainment, news, music and information than ever before? Get ready to connect...with DIRECWAY™.

DIRECWAY.

**Store Hours M-F 8:00 a.m - 5:00 p.m.
Sat 8:00 - noon**

**Clark Electric
Appliance & Satellite, Inc.
111 E. Miller St. Greenwood, WI
715-267-6544 ■ 866-279-6544**