



Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

RESTORING ELECTRICAL SERVICE AFTER A STORM

While not all power outages can be avoided—such as when Mother Nature decides to intervene—the impact can be diminished. As we all know, storms in Wisconsin can be severe and cause brief outages.

As a member of Clark Electric Cooperative, your power is extremely reliable. This is something we are very proud of because day in and day out, we work hard to maintain exceptional levels of reliability. There are no shortcuts to achieving reliable power. It's labor, time, and capital intensive...and it's an area of our business in which we can't afford to cut corners or expect anything less than near perfection.

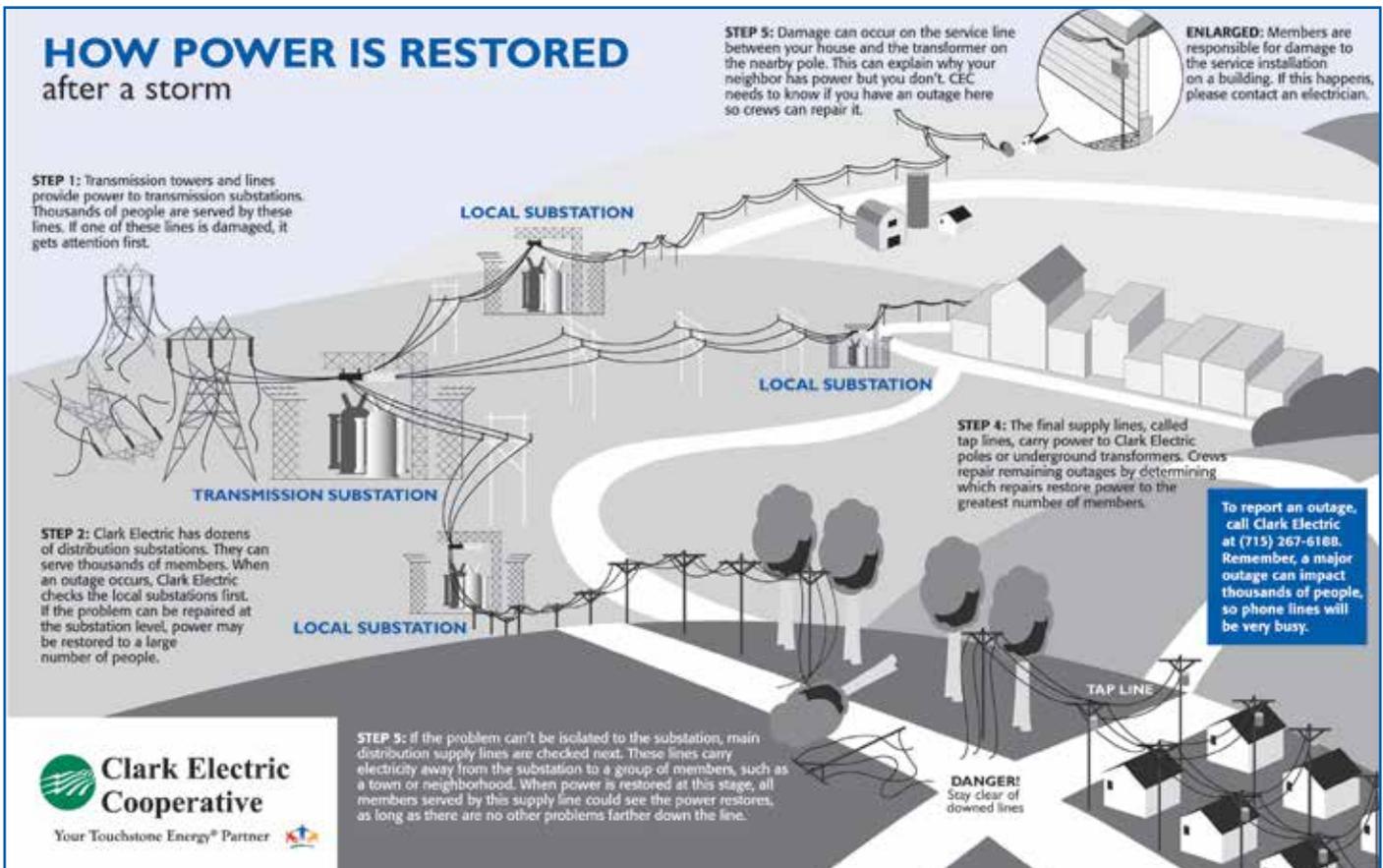
Restoring electric service is a logical process. The diagram below shows a simplified version of a large-area outage. Our lineworkers start from the substation out onto the main feeder lines. It would be useless to repair a pole if the main lines were not energized.

Once there's power at the substation and the feeder lines have been repaired, the tap lines off the three-phase feeder lines are repaired. The last lines to be repaired are the single-service outages. In general, the lines that will get the most services energized in that particular area are repaired first.

How the Process Starts – Clark Electric Cooperative utilizes the Cooperative Response Center (CRC) to answer our telephones after normal business hours and/or during very high-volume telephone traffic. CRC is best equipped to handle the large amount of calls that come during a large-scale outage. Members may be greeted by an automated attendant that will prompt you through the steps necessary to report your outage.

By allowing CRC to answer incoming calls, we are able to concentrate on getting service restored as quickly as possible.

(Continued on page 16)



MY CO-OP

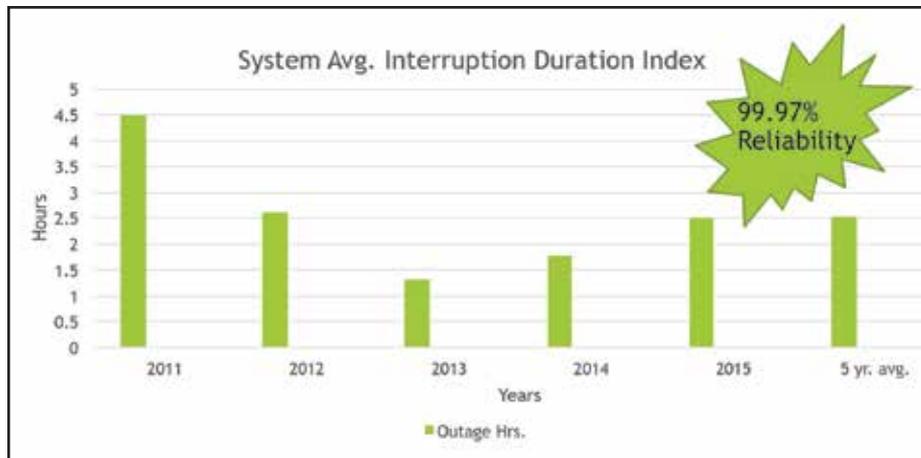


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Extreme Outages – Clark Electric Cooperative has a mutual aid agreement with other electric cooperatives throughout the country. We’ve helped other cooperatives restore power after severe storms affected much of their service territory. So, while we can’t prevent all power outages, we stand ready to respond as needed, when needed.

Power Outage Viewer – Clark Electric Cooperative introduced our Online Outage Map in 2012. The power outage map can be found on our website, www.cecoop.com. Simply go to the Outage Tab and then to the Outage Map, which will display a map with the outline of the Clark Electric Cooperative service territory. The map will not show any activity most of the time. That is a good thing as it means that there are no outages.

The map is updated every five minutes and is tied into our outage management system. Outages are color coded



according to the number of members affected. In addition, as outages occur a table is built that tells you how many members are affected and the percentage of members without power. You have the ability to sort the outage information by township, zip code, or county.

If you are traveling away from home and want to know if you are affected by an outage, you can log into your SmartHub account to see if you are predicted out of service or not. This online outage

map is especially helpful during times of severe weather that result in widespread power outages. The map shows areas hardest hit, helps chart progress on power restoration, and helps provide feedback at a click of a button. The map not only works with your computer, but also with your mobile device such as your smart phone, iPad, or tablet.

Even with this great technology, it is still vitally important to report power outages anytime they occur.

IN BRIEF

Linework remains a dangerous job

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics put electric utility linework among the nation’s top 10 most hazardous professions, according to the agency’s most recent data. Electric line technicians recorded a 19.2 fatality rate per 100,000 workers, ninth on the list. While the number of line-worker fatalities has declined since 1994, about 3 million nonfatal incidents were reported in 2014. Those employed as loggers, commercial fishermen, aircraft pilots, and flight engineers led the rankings, with logging notching a fatality rate well above 100.

Source: CFC Solutions, May 9, 2016

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By Meghaan Evans

The month of July has always been a favorite of mine. It's the middle of summer, the kids are out of school, and of course, we celebrate Independence Day!

Typically, we celebrate our nation's independence with grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, ice cream and other sweet treats, and last but not least, fireworks. This is a time for fellowship with family and friends, but at Clark Electric Cooperative, we also want to make sure our members focus on safety.

To ensure you have the best Fourth of July possible, we would like to remind you about a few important safety tips from The American Red Cross.

Nothing says "Fourth of July" like a spectacular fireworks display! The safest way to enjoy this part of the celebration is to head to a local fireworks show. But, if you want to put on your own show at home, be sure to follow these safety tips:

- Always follow the instructions on fireworks' packaging and never give fireworks to small children.
- Keep a supply of water close by as a precaution.
- Make sure to wear protective eyewear when lighting fireworks.
- Light only one firework at a time, and never attempt to relight "a dud."
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from children and pets.
- Never throw or point a firework toward people, animals, vehicles, structures, or flammable materials.

Cookouts are a great way to bring folks together on the

Fourth. Whether you are grilling in your back yard or at a community park, make sure your feast includes a generous portion of fun and a side helping of safety! We recommend the following safety tips:

- Supervise your grill at all times.
- Use the proper tools for cooking on a grill.
- Keep the grill out in the open, away from the house, deck, tree branches, or anything that could catch fire.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when the coals have already been ignited. Better yet, avoid charcoal altogether and use a safe, clean electric grill!
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when using grills.

Fireworks and cookouts wouldn't be complete without a sunny day. Here's hoping we have good weather, and if we do, make sure you are practicing sun safety:

- Use a broad spectrum SPF sunscreen and reapply often.
- Protect your eyes by wearing sunglasses.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Be on the lookout for signs of heat stroke (hot red skin; changes in consciousness; rapid, weak pulse; rapid, shallow breathing).

However you choose to celebrate, Clark Electric Cooperative wishes you a safe and Happy Fourth of July!

Meghaan Evans writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



**Safety
First!**

Dairy farm rewiring loan and grant program

Many agricultural facilities are aging, and reinvestment in them has been made more difficult due to low milk prices. Wisconsin's electric cooperatives have created a farm re-wiring financial assistance program for dairy producers.

Dairy farmers who are members of electric cooperatives can apply to their local cooperative for a cost-sharing package to re-wire their existing agricultural facilities to meet current electrical code standards. (New construction is not eligible.)

This process involves a pre-program inspection performed by a state-certified electrical inspector (which is provided by your cooperative), and an application to the cooperative for up to \$6,000 (or 20 percent) in grant funds and up to \$24,000 (or 80 percent) in low-interest loan funds. Farmers have five years to repay the loans.

The work must be completed by a master electrician licensed by the State of Wisconsin. Before final payment is made for the re-wiring project, the work must pass a final electrical inspection performed by the provided state-certified electrical inspector.

Wisconsin electric cooperatives are offering this financial assistance in order to protect the safety of their members and help preserve and extend the life of farmers' important assets.

Clark Electric Cooperative encourages its members with operating dairy farms to participate in the Safety First Wiring Program. Please contact our Operations Department for additional information on this program.

Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

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www.cecoop.com



Clark Electric Cooperative's
office will be closed
Monday, July 4, for
Independence Day.
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holiday!



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