



ALWAYS BE PREPARED

By Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager



**Clark Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

As winter is fast approaching, I thought it might be a good idea to talk about being prepared for the unexpected. Here at Clark Electric Cooperative, we work hard to prevent power interruptions, but power outages can and do happen. That's why it is important for members to take precautions before they occur.

While Clark Electric Cooperative is always committed to providing members with reliable electricity, at times it's impossible for us to guarantee uninterrupted power 100% of the time. Outages are caused by a whole host of activities such as storms, trees, animals, vehicle accidents, and equipment failures, just to name a few. While most outages are of short duration, more severe storms could last days.

If your health depends on power that must never be interrupted, you need to make sure you have a backup plan. We recommend having a battery backup or generator to keep the equipment operating. Alternatively, you can devise a plan so the person who relies on critical care medical devices will have somewhere to stay until power is restored. Make sure your battery backup is kept fully charged and ready to go when needed. Please remember, due to the engineering of the electric grid, it is impossible to guarantee that an individual outage can be restored ahead of other outages such as other supply lines.

Generator Safety

There are two major types of generators: portable and standby or permanent. During long-term power outages, many rely on portable generators for emergency power. Their growing popularity has resulted in more of them being placed in homes and small businesses. We urge members to understand the proper safety steps that must be taken when operating them.

Without taking the proper precautions, using a generator could endanger you and others; in fact, it could cost you your life or the lives of others, including your family, friends, neighbors, and electric utility crews trying to restore service.

We cannot emphasize this enough: NEVER use a generator indoors or in enclosed spaces such as garages (even if the garage door is open), crawl spaces, or basements. Make sure the generator has 3 to 4 feet of cleared space around it and place it at least 20 feet away from all doors and windows. Do not use in an area that is wet or damp, and never plug a generator into a wall outlet or connect directly to a home's wiring.

Carbon monoxide emitted from generators is an odorless, colorless, toxic gas, making it extremely dangerous, and just being exposed to it for a few minutes can be fatal.

Permanent Standby Generators

Properly connecting the generator into the system is a critical step for safe and effective use. A licensed professional should install a permanent, standby electric generator and can help with proper equipment for safely using a portable generator.

All standby generators require a permanently (and professionally) installed transfer switch. (High-end generators permanently installed to power some or all rooms of the home typically have the switch built into the system. Other generators require you to manually throw the switch.)

The transfer switch has an important job, and that is to break the path of electricity between the power lines and your main electrical panel. This is the best way to protect you, your neighbors, and electric utility crews from "backfeed," which occurs when an improperly connected generator begins feeding electricity "back" through the power lines. This can seriously injure or kill anyone near lines, especially crews working to restore power.

Safety for those who use generators and for those who work to restore power cannot be over-emphasized. Consult a qualified electrician to ensure proper installation and electrical grounding, as well as to prevent circuit overloads and to meet local electrical code.

Portable Generators

Many homeowners choose smaller, portable generators to power essential electrical equipment during outages. Here are some tips for the safe operation and use of portable generators:

- **Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions to properly ground the generator.** Be sure you understand them before hooking up the generator.
- **Maintain adequate ventilation.** Generators emit carbon monoxide. NEVER operate a generator in your home, garage, or other enclosed building. Place it in a dry, outside location.
- **Never plug a portable electric generator into a wall outlet or connect directly to a home's wiring.** This can energize utility power lines and injure you or others working nearby. Electrical back feed also can damage the generator and home electrical equipment.
- **Turn off generator and allow cooling before refueling.** Gasoline and its vapors may ignite if they come in contact with hot components or an electrical spark. Store fuel in a properly designed container in a secure location.

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SUNSHINE AND SMILES AT THE MEMBER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

A beautiful Saturday morning began with members of Clark Electric Cooperative and River Country Co-op gathered at the Clark Electric headquarters for the Annual Member Appreciation Day Pancake Breakfast/Kick Off to Co-op Month event. The breakfast included pancakes, eggs, sausage, fresh cheese curds, milk, and coffee. Approximately 740 members were served breakfast, which was just the beginning of the many activities that were available for members of all ages.

The kids enjoyed inflatables, pumpkin crafts, picture frame crafting (including their own picture to put in it), gravity box basketball as well as rides on the “Locomotive” train.

Marshfield Medical Center – Neillsville and Clark County Health Department participated with child safety information, including door prizes for the kids. They also provided health-screening information for the adults.

Greenwood EMS and Fire Department were on hand with their equipment on display and performed free blood-pressure checks. The Clark County Sheriff’s Department was present to do a “Drug Take Back” event, which was very successful.

A Food Drive for the local food pantry was included in the events and provided a great way to demonstrate the 7th Cooperative Principle, Concern for Community.

Students from the Loyal school district volunteered to assist with the kids’ activities. PowerPac from Marshfield provided a side-by-side to assist members to and from their vehicles if needed.

CEO Tim Stewart and several directors were on hand to answer questions about the all-electric vehicle and visit with members as they enjoyed the morning.

Clark Electric Appliance and Satellite was there with information on products offered through their department.

Congratulations to the door prize winners!



Kids 12 and under were asked to guess the weight of a huge pumpkin. The actual weight was 134 pounds. Amara Guedmundson from Dorchester, Oliver Fellenz from Spencer and Hayes Anderson from Marshfield received a gift card as winners of the kid’s door prize for having the closest guess.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this year’s event, and we hope to see you again next year!





Each year in November we set aside Veterans Day to honor all the men and women who have served our country in uniform. We are especially thankful for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy the freedoms their service affords us in this great country of ours.

At Clark Electric Cooperative, we are grateful to have a veteran within our ranks. Wyatt Phillips served in the United States Army from 2013-2016. While serving, Wyatt supervised others in highly dangerous situations, constantly ensuring all were following strict safety precautions and still achieving the desired outcome. Wyatt earned a slot for a chance at Airborne and the Ranger Assessment and Selection Process for a chance to get into the Special Operations unit, the 75th Ranger Regiment. Applying hard work and doing the right thing, he was able to beat the odds of a 66% attrition rate and pass the grueling school.

We are proud to serve veterans and their families within our local community. In addition to providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy, we care for the veteran community and show our appreciation through our actions and ongoing commitment to them and their families.

We also partner with local charitable and business organizations in our service territory that support veterans and their families, such as the Highground Veterans Memorial Park in Neillsville. The memorial was built as a tribute to fallen veterans and as an honor to the surviving military personnel.

We are not alone in our efforts to honor and serve veterans. Clark Electric Cooperative is part of a network of more than 900 electric cooperatives across the country that support and honor our nation's veterans of all generations. As part of our national association of electric cooperatives, spanning 48 states and serving 13% of U.S. consumers, there are countless programs that our family of electric co-ops has initiated.

Clark Electric is proud to be a part of the electric cooperative network that honors and supports veterans of all ages, ranks, and branches of the military. Please join us in taking a moment to show your appreciation to a veteran—not just this month, but every month.

Honoring our VETERANS



Generators

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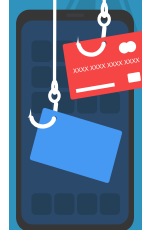
- **Protect your appliances.** Turn off or disconnect all appliances and lights before you begin operating the portable generator. Once the generator is running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit.
- **Use proper extension cords.** Use only safety-tested, shop-type electrical cords designed and rated for heavier, outdoor use to connect appliances. Many generators are equipped with twist-lock connects to reduce the chance of accidental disconnections due to vibrations.
- **Shut down generator properly.** Before shutting down a generator, turn off and unplug all appliances and equipment being powered by the generator.
- **Remember maintenance between uses.** It's important to drain the gasoline from the generator while it is being stored. It's also a good idea to inspect the fuel and oil filters, spark plug, oil level, and fuel quality and start the generator on a regular basis before an emergency situation happens.

It is also a good idea that these safety guidelines and basic operating instructions be posted in the home and with the generator. — *Provided by Safe Electricity.org*

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Scammers will try anything to pressure customers into providing their personal information. If you are ever asked to pay your utility bill through a third-party transaction app, such as Cash App or Venmo, it's a scam. Remember, utilities will never request a payment through a third-party app. Always use authorized payment methods when paying your utility bills.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 2

If you are on our Time-of-Day Rate, you probably have a time clock controlling devices. Remember to switch the time clock on these devices back one hour as Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 2. It is important that your time clocks are reset to avoid using electricity during peak time, resulting in a higher-than-normal electric bill. Clark Electric Cooperative's Time-of-Day Rate can save you money on your electric bill; however, you must be willing and able to shift your electric usage around so that you can utilize the lower cost of electricity. For more information, contact our office or visit our website at www.ccecoop.com.



Safe Electricity.org®

PREPARING FOR THE HUNT

- Maintain a distance of at least 10 feet from overhead lines and electrical infrastructure.
- Don't use utility poles to support tree stands or blinds.
- Never climb a utility pole.
- Avoid aiming toward power lines or equipment.



From our family to yours,

Happy Thanksgiving

Our offices will be closed Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. We are incredibly grateful for your membership as our team spends this special time with loved ones.

LOAD MANAGEMENT TEST SET FOR NOVEMBER 19

The Load Management 2025 Winter Preparedness Event for Interruptible Heat (Dual Fuel) accounts is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, beginning at 6:55 a.m. This load control test is performed in advance of the winter Full Load Control season to ensure member familiarity with the control sequence and to ensure that backup heating systems have been validated for proper function. An approximate timeline for the event will be:

Time	Event Status
Evening prior to event	Event notifications issued to Everbridge and Messenger contacts
6:55 a.m.	Event start time – loads will begin to be interrupted
7:00 a.m.	All loads will be interrupted (2, 2W, 4B)
10:00 a.m.	Class 2, 2W, and 4B will begin diversified restoral
10:30 a.m.	Class 4B loads will be fully restored
11:00 a.m.	Class 2 and 2W loads will be fully restored

If you experience any problems during this test, or if you have questions, please contact Clark Electric Cooperative at 715-267-6188 or 1-800-272-6188.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

With the holiday season approaching and more time spent in the kitchen, consider ways to save energy in the heart of your home. When possible, cook meals with smaller, energy efficient appliances, such as toaster ovens, slow cookers and air fryers. When using the range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they reflect heat more efficiently. After your holiday meals are complete, load the dishwasher fully before starting the wash cycle.

Source: energy.gov



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Clark Electric Cooperative

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Office Hours:

7:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.—May through October
7:30 a.m. —4:00 p.m.—November through April