



# REDUCE THE RISK OF WILDFIRES

Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

Gone are the days when wildfires were primarily confined to the western United States. Rising temperatures, prolonged drought and shifting weather patterns are creating dangerous conditions in places that historically experienced few major fires. Today, more than thirty states, including Wisconsin, face elevated wildfire risk. The reality is clear: wildfire risk is no longer regional—it is national. And it demands action from all of us.

At Clark Electric Cooperative, protecting our members and the communities we serve is our highest priority. As we recognize National Wildfire Awareness Month in May, I want you to know that wildfire mitigation is not seasonal work for us. It is a year-round commitment embedded in how we operate and invest in our local system.

One of the most important ways we reduce wildfire threats is through our comprehensive vegetation management and tree trimming programs. Overgrown trees and power lines are

a dangerous combination, particularly during dry and windy conditions. Throughout the year, Clark Electric Cooperative proactively trims and removes vegetation that could come into contact with power lines and other critical infrastructure. This work requires careful planning, coordination with property owners, ongoing inspection, and area rotations. While it may not always be visible, it is one of the most effective tools we have to prevent fire ignition, reduce outage times, and maintain good reliability. The Cooperative anticipates spending approximately \$700,000 on vegetation management and tree trimming in 2026.

Wildfire mitigation also requires thoughtful public policy. Managing electric infrastructure in and around public lands can present unique challenges. That is why we support practical, commonsense solutions such as the Fix Our Forests Act, which would streamline the ability of electric cooperatives

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## Getting Ahead of Wildfires

As the threat of wildfires increases nationwide, electric cooperatives are working to mitigate the risk of fires and protect their local systems and communities. Co-ops are:

- Deploying advanced technologies, like power line sensors and advanced imaging cameras, to help detect fires or conditions that lead to them.
- Proactively managing vegetation near power lines and other electrical equipment to decrease the volume of "fuel" and slow the spread.
- Advocating for smarter land-management policies like the Fix Our Forests Act that would allow co-ops to better maintain power lines on public lands and reduce wildfire risk.



and other utilities to maintain power lines on federal lands and reduce hazardous “fuel” buildup. Policies that promote responsible land management are an essential part of a comprehensive wildfire prevention strategy. In addition, the Cooperative applied for, and received, a grid strengthening grant to convert overhead conductor to underground conductor in the Chequamegon National Forest near Perkinstown. This grant was awarded, in part, for fire mitigation.

While we are committed to doing our part, wildfire prevention is a shared responsibility. There are important steps each of us can take to protect our homes and neighborhoods.

Properly extinguish fires by dousing them with water, stirring the ashes and ensuring they are cool to the touch before leaving the area. Avoid outdoor burning on windy or excessively dry days. Maintain a defensible space around your home by clearing dry leaves, dead branches, and other flammable debris. Use lawn equipment carefully, particularly during hot conditions, and always check local regulations for burn bans or restrictions.

Wildfires are becoming more complex and more widespread, but through proactive system management, smart investments, sound policy, and community partnership, we can reduce risks and strengthen resilience.

## FirstCall Medical Monitoring Help at the push of a button

Living alone can be an uneasy situation for medically-at-risk seniors. FirstCall Medical Monitoring service is a reliable, non-intrusive, cost-effective solution that provides individuals the satisfaction of living independently with the peace-of-mind that comes in knowing help is only a button push away.



### CLARK ELECTRIC APPLIANCE & SATELLITE INC.

1209 West Dall-Berg Road, Greenwood  
From Greenwood, west on CTH G, south on River Road,  
and West on Dall-Berg Road  
866-279-6544 or 715-267-6544  
Hours: M-F 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

## CLARK ELECTRIC CREW RESPONDS TO ROPE (RESTORATION OF POWER IN AN EMERGENCY)



Clark Electric Cooperative linemen Kole Hinker and Jake Waldhart responded to Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative in Rosholt the morning of April 2 through April 7 after an ice storm hit their cooperative’s service territory.

ROPE (Restoration Of Power in an Emergency) is a very unique program of cooperatives helping cooperatives. When a major storm rolls through a cooperative’s service territory and causes extensive damage to its distribution system, that cooperative can request mutual aid and activate the ROPE program. Needed personnel and equipment from unaffected cooperatives travel to the affected area to help restore power.

Clark Electric Cooperative has sent crews to a number of other co-ops in recent years including Eau Claire Energy, Clay Electric in Keystone Heights, Florida, Bayfield Electric, Barron Electric, Oconto Electric, and Washington St. Tammany Electric Cooperative in Franklinton, Louisiana, after Hurricane Katrina.

While Kole and Jake volunteered to respond to the latest call for help, every one of our linemen at Clark Electric Cooperative stands ready to assist other cooperatives through the ROPE program.

## HONORING ALL WHO SERVED MEMORIAL DAY

Clark Electric Cooperative’s office  
will be closed Monday, May 25.



# MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Electricity lights homes and businesses, provides warmth and keeps appliances and equipment running smoothly. During Electrical Safety Month, Clark Electric Cooperative and Safe Electricity provide these electrical safety tips to avoid hazards both inside and outdoors.

## Staying safe on the road

Downed power lines can happen because of wind, storms, animals, or an auto accident/collision.

1. If you see a downed power line, call 9-1-1 to report it and stay in your car. You cannot tell by looking or listening if the power line is deenergized. Wait in your vehicle until an electric utility crew member says it is safe to get out.
2. Do not drive over a downed power line. Doing so could cause a domino effect and bring down other lines, poles, and equipment.
3. The only time you should exit is if your vehicle or cab is on fire. If this is the case, make a solid jump from the car or cab without touching it, landing with both feet together. Then, hop away with your feet together as far as you can.

## Staying safe outside

When working outside, be aware of overhead and underground power lines.

1. Keep at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Keep any items you are carrying or using, such as long poles or other extended equipment, 10 feet away from power lines at all times. Carry an extension ladder or other far-reaching tools or equipment horizontally.
2. Make sure that all outside outlets are ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protected.
3. Before digging, call 8-1-1 or your state's underground locating service. Buried lines, such as electric, gas, water, sewer, and other lines bring services indoors. Besides the dangers of coming in contact with a gas or electric line, fines due to damage are the responsibility of the homeowner or landowner. Privately owned lines and systems will not be marked by the free service.
4. When you see lightning, take shelter inside the house, shop or a hard-topped vehicle for protection. Stay away from high places, and do not take shelter under an isolated tree. Stay away from items that conduct electricity, such as metal fences. If you are swimming or in a hot tub, get out. Water is an electrical conductor that is dangerous during a storm.

## Staying safe inside

With so many people working from home, the workplace and where you live can be one and the same. This means more devices are plugged into outlets or circuits that may not be able to handle the load.

1. Have a qualified electrician/licensed contractor check for hazards if you notice the following: dimming lights,

a sizzling or buzzing sound, the smell of warm plastic, a switch plate that feels warm or looks scorched, sparks when plugging in or unplugging items, or circuits that trip often.

2. When working with electrical equipment inside the house or shop, be aware that electrical equipment can spark when flammable vapors, gases, or dust are present.
3. Do not overstretch a cord or use frayed or damaged cords.
4. During storms, lightning can enter homes through corded phones, televisions, radios or computers. Lightning can also travel through plumbing, so do not take a bath, shower, or wash dishes when you see lightning strikes. If possible, unplug appliances and electronics before the storm, including cell phones that are charging via electricity. Surges caused by lightning can damage electronics and appliances.

For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

**5 OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL HAZARDS**

- 1. Power Lines** – Always look up and out for power lines. Keep you and your equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines.
- 2. Outdoor outlets** – These should be powered by a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), which turns itself off if it senses a current leak or a short circuit.
- 3. Pools** – Use battery-powered electronics around the pool. Have an electrician inspect your pool, spa or hot tub before the beginning of each swim season to avoid electrical hazards.
- 4. Extension Cords** – Use extension cords that are rated for outdoor use. Using an indoor cord, which cannot withstand the weather conditions, could result in a shock or fire hazard.
- 5. Electric Garden Tools** – Never use electric garden tools in wet or damp conditions. Check for cracked or frayed cords before use and replace if damaged.

Learn more at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

# REMINDER

## Clark Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting



**May 20, 2026**

**Neillsville American Legion Hall**  
**Business meeting starts**  
**at 9:30 a.m.**

### TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



If you receive a call from someone stating you have overpaid your energy bill and you should provide your banking information or a credit card number to receive a refund, hang up because it's likely a scam. If you overpay your bill, your utility will apply the overpayment credit to your account balance or mail a check. They will not call and request your banking information to issue the refund.

*Source: Utilities United  
Against Scams*



## Dairyland Power Cooperative Annual Meeting

**June 2, 2026**

Clark Electric Cooperative is looking for 11 members who would like to attend the Dairyland Power Cooperative Annual Meeting, held on June 2, 2026, in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

If you would like to attend, please contact Michelle Walde, administrative assistant, by May 19, 2026. Michelle can be reached by calling the cooperative office at 715-267-6188 or at 800-272-6188.

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As temperatures start to rise, many homeowners focus on staying cool. Don't forget about the small gaps around windows and doors. While air sealing is often associated with keeping cold air out during winter, it's just as important during summer. Tiny cracks and worn weatherstripping allow cool, conditioned air to escape and hot, humid air to seep indoors. This forces your air conditioner to work harder than necessary and increases energy costs. Take a few minutes to check for drafts, replace weatherstripping and seal leaks. A tighter home keeps you more comfortable and helps manage energy use.

*Source: energy.gov*



### Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

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**Clark Electric  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

#### Office Hours:

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