



Electric Line Newsletter

National Linemen Appreciation Day

Right now, it is highly likely that you are reading this on an electronic device. If you're reading this on a desktop, your computer is plugged into the wall, coursing with electricity. If you are on your phone, it is certain that you have recently charged it through an outlet in your wall. You know that when

you flip the switch, the lights in your home come on. You know that when you press the on button on your coffee pot, coffee will come out. However, do you know the countless men and women who decipher the complexity of electricity to make all of this possible?

Enter the linemen. Linemen are the men and women who build and maintain power systems. Linemen work all across the electrical spectrum; from power plants, to poles along the side of the road, all the way to member's meters. Sometimes linemen work high in the sky operating on poles, or



they work underground laying wiring. It is a dangerous job that comes with high risk and higher reward. Every day, linemen put their lives on the line to provide you and your community power, and without them, we would still likely be living in the primitive stages of electricity.

April 9th is National Linemen Appreciation Day; a day in which we take time to observe and honor the men and women who help keep the lights on. During this time, we would love you to express with us our utmost gratitude towards those who work countless hours' day in and day out to ensure that we are able to live our daily lives with comfort and ease. Thank you John Bestul, Gabe Posphyalla, Mack Yarbrough, Quin Zdroik, Dell Olson, Chris Tuszke, Richard Lashua, and Sam Walter!

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Taken by our member, Kevin Patrick.



**Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative**
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Taken by our member, Marlene Cordie.

“Safety is key”



Taken by our member, Lauri Kosmalski.

What To Do When An Outage Occurs

Last summer, Central Wisconsin was rocked by storms. Many of us think we are prepared when disaster hits, but not many of us respond in the proper fashion. During times such as these, safety is and always will be the number one priority. In order to stay safe, having an emergency plan in place will save time and lives. There is a list of tasks that need to be accomplished before power is restored, so being prepared is of the utmost importance.

Before we discuss what to do during an outage, first we must understand what goes into restoring power. When an outage occurs, power restoration relies on a few different factors. The extent of the storm's destruction, how many outages there are, and when it becomes safe for utility crews to get to the damaged areas all play a major role in when you will receive power again. There are many steps that need to be taken by cooperatives when going about restoring power. Clearing downed lines, ensuring that public health and safety centers are operational, checking power stations and transformers, repairing power structures and substations, and finally, ensuring that distribution lines are functioning.

When an outage occurs, it is important that you have prepared a storm safety kit. Within this kit, there should be drinking water, food, pillows, blankets, basic toiletries, flashlights, batteries, a battery operated radio, emergency contact information, and any prescription medicines that you may take.

Safety is key, and when an outage occurs, it is important that you are properly prepared. There are a plethora of steps that need to occur before power is restored, so it is best to have all the basic essential items close by. In times like these, it is best to err on the side of caution. With a suitable plan in place, the chances of survival are much higher. Instead of being scared, be prepared.



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CWEC employees are always ready to serve our members!



Important Dates

April 1st-Member photo contest for the 2019 calendar begins. More details at www.cwecoop.com

April 9th-National Linemen Appreciation Day

April 14th-Annual Meeting at Rosholt High school, doors open at 9:00am

Focus on Safety

The need to be safe extends far past basic power outages. Anything that requires electricity can cause serious bodily harm, and any repair work should be handled by a qualified professional. With that being said, here are some tips to ensure safety within your own home:

- ◆ Have any loose, cracked, or worn outlets replaced.
- ◆ Watch for hot or discolored switch plates, flickering lights, or buzzing sounds.
- ◆ If you have an older home, get routine electrical check ups.
- ◆ Use bulbs with the correct wattage for light fixtures.
- ◆ If children are present, have tamper resistant outlets installed.
- ◆ Unplug electronics if you smell anything burning.
- ◆ Use extension cords temporarily, and not as permanent wiring.
- ◆ Educate your household on electrical safety.
- ◆ Keep cords out of walkways and other high traffic areas.
- ◆ If you suspect a problem; seek help!

Safety is always key, and with these additional tips, we hope to make your home a safer place.

To report a power outage,

please call:

1-800-377-2932.