



Steve Lucas, CEO

# NINE THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT POWER RESTORATION

**A**s we are in the middle of the summer storm season, it's common to receive questions from our members about power outages and why it can take time to get the lights back on. Given our reliance on electricity, there's simply never a good time to be without it.

This month, I'd like to shed light on our restoration process to help our members understand what may be happening behind the scenes. Here are nine things you might not know about restoration:

1. **We need you.** When your power goes out, it might be just at your home or a small section of a neighborhood. There is a chance we may not know about it, and no one has reported it. We rely on you to let us know if your power is out. Please contact us at 800-236-2141.
2. **Our employees might be affected too.** Since Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative (SREC) is a local electric cooperative, our employees live here too. When you're without power, our people might be too.
3. **It's a team effort.** When your power goes out, we all work together as quickly and safely as possible to get your lights back on. Our entire team is busy taking your calls, surveying damage, clearing hazards, dispatching crews, and repairing lines.
4. **We assess the situation first.** Every outage is different, and we don't know how dangerous it is or what equipment might need to be replaced. When responding to outages, we first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need and a plan for how to fix the problem(s) without compromising electric flow for the rest of our members.
5. **Restoration is normally prioritized by the largest number of members we can get back on in the shortest amount of time.** Our crews focus on responding first to public safety issues and critical services. Then we complete work that impacts the largest number of people first.
6. **Our employees face many dangers.** Besides working around high-voltage electricity, our crews are on alert for weather elements, falling trees, wild animals, and fast-moving cars. (If you ever drive past one of our vehicles, please do so slowly.)
7. **Flickering lights are a good thing.** Some folks mistake flickering lights for outages, but these "blinks" are important because they indicate our equipment did what it was designed to do and prevented a possible outage likely caused by stray tree limbs on the lines or animals. If your power keeps blinking, please let us know as we will want to investigate the issue.
8. **You need a backup plan.** We do our best to help those who need it, but if you depend on electricity for life support purposes, you must have a backup plan—remember, we don't always know how long restoration efforts will take.
9. **Sometimes it's a waiting game.** Our portion of the power grid is connected to Dairyland Power Cooperative - our wholesale power provider. If our outage is due to an issue from their feed into our system, we must let them do their repairs and be mindful of what they're going through to fix it.

If you experience an outage, please call our office at 800-236-2141.



We do our best to avoid power disruptions, but they are inevitable from time to time. If the lights go out, know that the SREC team is working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power.

If you experience an outage, please call our office at 800-236-2141.



## SAFETY FIRST AT RURAL SAFETY DAY



This year, our team highlighted the importance of electrical safety at the Grant County Rural Safety Day held at the fairgrounds in Lancaster. This free event, which began in 1992, is designed to promote safety and awareness among youth.

Organized by the Grant County Health Department and supported by community sponsors, the event offers educational yet fun sessions, T-shirts, door prizes, lunch, and an ice cream snack for all attendees.

Throughout the day, 267 children entering grades 2-8 were divided into small groups and rotated through various sessions covering important age-appropriate topics such as ATV safety, first aid, nature safety, fire safety, internet and stranger safety, mental health,

physical activity/injury prevention, and electrical safety. Each session was led by community members knowledgeable in the respective topics.

The electrical safety session was led by two members of our Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative line department, Phil Schneider and Matt Rasmussen, featured a hands-on demonstration of the protective equipment our crews use when working around electrical lines, an informational video about electrical safety, and a hotline demonstration.

The hotline demonstration, a staple at this event for years, shows the dangers of touching a live wire and the effects of a tree on an electrical line. This powerful demonstration aims to leave a lasting impression, reinforcing the importance of staying safe when playing outdoors.

Our team's involvement in this event is a reflection of our larger commitment to the well-being and safety of our community. We are proud to be a part of this community, providing our youth with valuable knowledge they can use and share throughout their lives.





# OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS for kids

Share these **ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS** with children and teens to help keep them safe.

1

**DO NOT** climb or sit on green boxes or other electrical equipment.



**STAY AWAY** from electrical equipment marked "keep out," "high voltage" or "danger."

2

3

**NEVER ENTER** the fenced area around a substation to retrieve an item or pet.



**FLY** kites, remote-control devices and drones **FAR AWAY** from overhead power lines.

4



Safe Electricity.org

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight and drafts.

Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



This month's featured photo is "Windmill Power," by Kathy Miller of Cuba City.



# FLOODING FORCES METER REMOVAL EFFORT



At the end of June, our Crawford County crew traveled by boat to service locations by the Mississippi River as the flood stage reached 18 feet. Their mission? To disconnect power and detach meters to prevent potential damage to the equipment before the water levels rose. The linemen carefully and diligently followed all safety procedures, including having life jackets on board, as they carried out these tasks. Other service areas were also impacted by flooding as the water levels continued to rise in July. We are grateful to our members for their cooperation and patience during this time.



**SAFETY REMINDER:** NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF WATER. TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN.



The crew uses their electronic maps to locate meters near Ambro Road, which lies below the flooded waters between the trees.





Steve Lucas, CEO

206 County Road K  
Lancaster, WI 53813  
lancaster@srec.net

300 Barth Drive  
P.O. Box 127  
Darlington, WI 53530  
darlington@srec.net

15985 St. Hwy. 131  
Gays Mills, WI 54631  
gaysmills@srec.net

608-723-2121 • 800-236-2141 • [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop)  

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