



Steve Lucas, CEO

WHAT IS GRID RESILIENCY?

Resiliency of the grid is one of the most popular concepts being talked about in the electric industry today. This concept recently made headlines in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto

Rico's electric grid, resulting in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history. Lack of resilience became the go-to phrase to describe Puerto Rico's grid. Here in Wisconsin, what does grid resiliency mean for you?

Resiliency is many things—it's reliability in your electric service, it's our ability to efficiently restore your power, it's being able to meet the demands of new technology, and it's how we serve you with various generation sources without skipping a beat. Ultimately, resilience is how we deliver on our promise to improve the quality of life for our member-owners.

When it comes to having a resilient electric grid, it begins with a system that is designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cybersecurity threats, and other disruptions that could result in outages. A resilient grid is also flexible and adaptable by allowing different

types of generation—such as wind, solar, coal and hydro—to seamlessly work together to provide you with safe and reliable power. The way our systems react to advancements in technology—from demand response investments to serving the needs of electric vehicles—all factor into the resilience of our grid.

Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-days-a-year task. Whether it's the power lines, substations, or generation facilities on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly. With thousands of consumers without power for months, the lack of resiliency in Puerto Rico's power grid wasn't solely caused by hurricane

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damage; it was the result of years of neglect in taking care of their system and preparing for a worst-case scenario.

In a similar way to how we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, inspections, and tire rotations, a grid must also be properly maintained. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct pole and line inspections. Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes one. For example, if we find a weak pole that is damaged, we replace that pole. Doing so ensures that pole is as strong—or as resilient—as it can be.

Same goes for right-of-way maintenance. We are fortunate to be living in a beautiful corner of the state here in southwest Wisconsin. But the soaring trees that provide so much pleasure can also cause a lot of service interruptions if they're not maintained regularly. That pretty row of trees growing along the roadway may seem harmless at first glance, but if their growth is not maintained constantly they can interfere significantly with reliable service down the road, causing outages when overgrown limbs fall onto or are blown onto power lines.

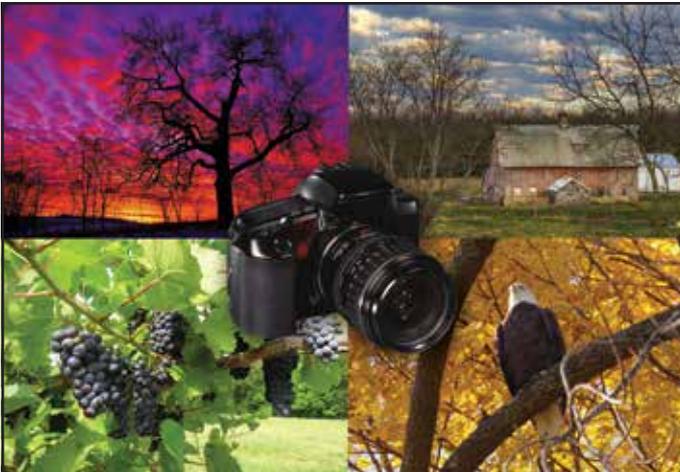
Living in Wisconsin, we know that significant power outages can occur, especially as we enter the summer storm season. Whether we're at the mercy of tornadoes or blizzards, we have confidence in the resiliency of our system to recover from the situation with as little disruption as possible.

In the dictionary, resilience is defined as “the ability to bounce back, recover quickly and go back into shape or position after being stretched.” When it comes to providing our member-owners with resilient service, this is what we work toward — day in and day out!



MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH

The the winning picture for July in SREC's 2017 Member Photo Contest was taken by Karen Hlavacek of Argyle. She described this picture as, “After an afternoon rain in Hidden Valley.” The 2018 Member Photo Contest is underway; please turn to page 16 for more details.



2018 SREC MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

There's still time to enter Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative fourth annual Member Photo Contest! Photos can be submitted through August 21. Winning photos will appear in SREC's 2019 calendar. Photos may also be used in future newsletters or cooperative publications.

Photo Contest Criteria:

- Photos must be taken within the Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative service area.
- Photos should capture scenic life in rural Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape, etc.).
- Photos must be horizontal (landscape).
- Photos can be in color or black and white.
- Photos MUST be at least 300 dpi and 8"x10".

Photo Contest Rules and Details:

- Contest will run through August 21, 2018; however, submitted photos can be taken outside of this date range.
- Three (3) photos per member will be accepted.
- All SREC members 18 years old and over are eligible to submit photos.
- An SREC member under the age of 18 years old is eligible to participate, but must submit a parent/guardian form with entry.
- A completed entry form must accompany each photo.
- Member must own rights to photo.
- SREC employees will choose winning photos.

Entry forms can be downloaded from www.sre.coop, picked up at a SREC office, or emailed to you.

Please email all photos to hpierce@SREC.net.

RECYCLE THAT OLD FRIDGE AND GET \$35!

Looking to replace that old refrigerator? You can get rid of it safely and responsibly—and get \$35 for doing so!



That's because you're a member of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, and your co-op partners with Focus on Energy, which offers a \$35 incentive and free pick-up of qualifying old refrigerators for all members. Just contact Focus on Energy at focusonenergy.com or 800-354-1898 to schedule a pickup.

We can also help you pay for an energy-efficient replacement. SREC has energy efficiency rebates available for qualifying appliances. Check them out at www.sre.coop/content/energy-rebates.



By shifting flexible electricity use to the hours before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m. during June, July, and August, you help SREC keep rates affordable by "shifting" the demand for electricity to times of the day when electricity costs less to purchase. Here are a couple ideas:

- Do laundry before 11 a.m. or before 7 p.m.
- Go solar with Mother Nature and hang up clothes to air dry.



Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative lineman Matt Rasmussen used a hot dog to demonstrate the effect of electricity on human skin.

KEEPING KIDS SAFE

SREC participates in Grant County Rural Safety Day

More than almost anything, parents want to keep their children safe. And while farms are a great place to grow up, there are heartbreaking stories of children losing limbs or lives in farm accidents.

Knowledge is one way to keep safe when little people are around big equipment or animals. That is one of the reasons for the Grant County Rural Safety Day, held June 12 at the fairgrounds in Lancaster.

“We live in town, but we do visit farms,” said Amber Gebhard, of Cuba City, who brought her daughter and her daughter’s best friend to the safety day. “When I was a kid, my dad always promoted safety.”

So she wanted her daughter and her friend to hear how to stay safe when they visit a farm.

And if you live on a farm, staying safe needs to be part of everyday life.

Grant County was the first county in Wisconsin to start a Rural Safety Day nearly 30 years ago, said Troy Moris, environmental health coordinator for five counties, including Grant.

Health department research had shown a high number of farm accidents, particularly with injuries to children. The

numbers have declined, Moris said, and he would like to think the Rural Safety Day has had a part in that.

Three hundred youngsters who will be in second to eighth grade this fall registered for the day. Sessions included how to stay safe on the internet, near farm machinery and animals, on ATVs, in severe weather, a fire, and around electricity.

Ellen Burkholder, of Hazel Green, came with a group of 36 students from Southwestern Wisconsin School District.

“I’ve been coming here for 23 years. We live in a rural community, so the opportunity to learn about safety in a rural setting” is worthwhile, she said.

When she told her daughter, now 27, that she was coming to Rural Safety Day, she asked “So, Mom, are they going to do the electricity demonstration where they blow up a hot dog?”

They did. When Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative linemen Matt Rasmussen and Lucas Ritchie used a hot dog to simulate what could happen to human skin that comes in contact with a live wire, it made a memorable impression on the youngsters.

Ritchie and Rasmussen talked about the safety measures they take when working with electricity, about conductivity, fuses, and when to call the power company or 911.

“I hope it just reiterates what we tell them at home,” said Maria Kindrai, of Lancaster, who had three of her four children at the event. “The more times kids hear something and the more people they hear it from, the better.”

The day started with doughnut holes and milk or juice, with

“The more times kids hear about something and the more people they hear it from, the better.”

—Maria Kindrai



hot dogs, cheese curds, fruit, chips, ice cream, and milk for lunch. Popcorn and a drink was the afternoon snack, and every child went home with a goodie bag that included a T-shirt. The event was free, with much of the food and prizes donated.

The brochure for the Rural Safety Day said “they will learn how to identify potential hazards, prevent possible accidents, and respond correctly if an accident does occur.”

Former Major League Baseball pitcher Steve Woodard told the students he grew up on a farm in Alabama, knows accidents can happen on farms, and urged them to slow down and be safe.

“You want to do things right. You want to be safe. You want to be careful. Don’t get in a hurry doing things. Pay



Addison Taylor, of Lancaster, Sydney Gradel, of Platteville, and Catherine Kindrai, of Lancaster, posed with Rick Place of the Grant County Sheriff’s Department after a session on internet safety.

attention to details. Pay attention to your surroundings,” he said.

He warned that social media posts will be around forever, and could impact getting hired for jobs later in life.

Woodard, a former Milwaukee Brewer, shared advice that his father gave him: “Good things happen to those who work hard.” And he had them repeat this motto: “Successful people do daily what unsuccessful people do occasionally.”

“I wanted to be a leader. I didn’t want to be a follower. I wanted people to follow me,” Woodard said. “You are going to fail. Those failures are going to help you down the road,” and character is built and revealed in how you act when things aren’t going your way.

Dave Lawrence, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in La Crosse, wanted to inform the students about how to keep themselves safe and what to do if they are home alone during severe weather.

Even though school let out about a week earlier, there was learning going on. Addison Taylor, of Lancaster, said she learned “not to go close to machinery.” Sydney Gradel, of Platteville, said she learned “not to talk to anyone you don’t know.”

“I learned don’t play any games without letting your mom see it,” said Catherine Kindrai, of Lancaster.

Many of the session leaders used a question-and-answer style instead of just lecturing the students.

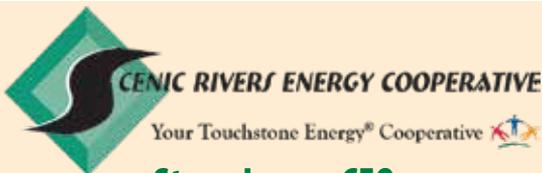
“What should you not tell anyone?” on the internet, Rick Place of the Grant County Sheriff’s Department asked.

Don’t share personal information—including name, address, age, and phone number—on the internet, he said, after students offered answers.

He also guided the students through what to do about inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and people who want to meet offline.

You know what I see on the internet all the time, especially on Facebook, is people saying ‘I’m on vacation’ or ‘I’m going on vacation,’” which tells people you won’t be at home, Place said.

Grant County Rural Safety Day was sponsored by the Grant County Health Department, University of Wisconsin Extension, Sheriff’s Department, and Rural Safety Committee.—*Mary Glindinning*



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