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Restoring electric power during outages – priorities!

With summer quickly approaching and winter finally behind us, it is noteworthy to reflect on the methods utilities use to restore power to their members during electrical outages.

When a major storm causes widespread damage to our electrical infrastructure, the primary objective is to restore service to the greatest number of members in the shortest amount of time possible. That being said, there are times when we have to make a decision to move to another service area to restore power while leaving a small number of members remaining without power. The reason for making these types of decisions is due to the extent of damage and the amount of time that would be required to repair the problem.

While our goal is to get everyone back in power as quickly as possible, it becomes a matter of

strategically using the resources available to achieve the greatest good for the most members.

A badly damaged line that has pole and wires down can take the biggest part of a day to restore power, or longer. On the other hand, the replacement of a fuse at another location might restore power to a large segment of our membership in a very short period of time. Consequently, the decision lies within the “best practice theory,” that of getting the greatest number of people back on first with minimal effort or resources.

The cooperative has set priorities for making repairs. The following list provides some insight into how affected members will be returned to a normal status.

1. Transmission lines: These lines supply power to one or more substations. A problem with these lines could interrupt power to several hundred or thousands of members. Additionally, HREA has nine metering points on our system, where we receive power from another entity, and they are not controlled by HREA.

2. Substations: A problem with a substation can cause all of the consumers serviced by it to be out of power, in spite of the circumstances affecting the area near your home.

3. Main distribution feeders: These lines carry power from the

Manager's Corner

by
Gary Jackson,
CEO/General
Manager



substation. Each feeder serves a portion of members from the substation. While it may seem practical for us to repair a line in front of your house, it does little in the way of restoring power to you if the main feeder serving your home is not repaired first.

4. Tap lines: These branch lines serve a smaller group of members from the main feeder. The tap line will remain without power until the main feeder is repaired.

5. Individual service: These are the service wires that serve a single residence, business or farm.

It's advisable to develop a backup plan to move a seriously ill person to a safe place in the event of an extended outage. HREA does not guarantee uninterrupted electric service to homes where serious medical conditions exist.

HREA crews work long hours to bring electric service back on line, frequently during inclement weather conditions. At times, they must stop to eat and rest for safety and health reasons. Your cooperative works diligently to restore service to all members as quickly and as safely as possible.

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LIVE WIRE

Metal theft threatens safety, lives

Would you risk being hit by lightning for \$100? Seems a bit ludicrous, but desperate times cause folks to do foolish things.

Thefts of copper, aluminum and bronze are on the rise at abandoned commercial buildings, empty homes and — most dangerously — power substations near neighborhoods. We need your help to keep our equipment safe, prevent outages and save lives.

At an electric co-op in Oklahoma last year, metal thieves took off with about \$100 worth of wire in a substation, but left behind a \$1 million repair bill after a fire destroyed regulators, switches and a \$600,000 transformer. More than 3,500 consumers were temporarily left in the dark after the incident, although the co-op moved quickly to reroute power to affected areas.

It's hard to understand why folks would put their life on the line for a few dollars. Many law enforcement officials believe that methamphetamine users are responsible for much of the problem. And the damage done to our system packs a big punch, since equipment can be ruined without the protection copper wires provide. There's also the potential for loss of life. In 2010, metal theft-related deaths occurred in North Carolina, West Virginia, Illinois and Ohio.

The cost for scrap copper goes up and down, but recently it's been on the rise — and so have robbery attempts. In January 2011 scrap copper sold for five times the amount it went for in 2001.

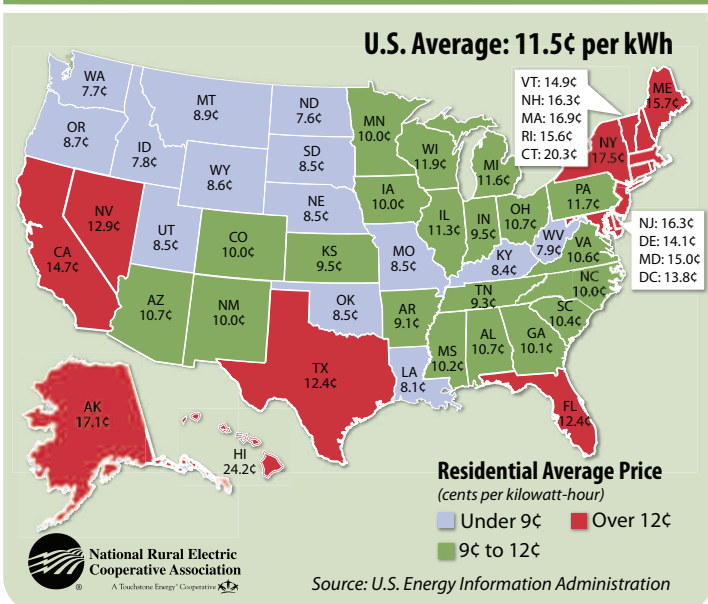
We use copper to ground our equipment, protecting it from electrical surges and lightning by giving electricity a safe path to ground. We use a lot of copper wire in our substations, where we step-down high-voltage electricity arriving from distant power plants before it travels to your neighborhood. Then another transformer near your home — either mounted on a utility pole or in a green box on the ground — lowers the voltage again so you can use the power at home. Copper is an essential component every step of the way.

Our linemen are highly trained professionals who understand the dangers of working with electricity and take proper safety precautions. To protect the public, we surround our substations with secure fencing and post warning signs. But some thieves will not be deterred.

Please help us prevent these thefts. If you notice anything unusual, such as an open substation gate, open equipment or hanging wire, call HREA immediately at 304-624-6365. If you see anyone other than our utility personnel or contractors around substations or other electric facilities, call the police.

Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2009 figures, in cents per kWh



HARRISON RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION WILL BE CLOSED ON MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 30, AS WE HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE SACRIFICED FOR OUR COUNTRY.



Summer grilling tips

Grilling offers convenient and heart-healthy ways to prepare food, if done right. This time of year offers an abundance of seasonal produce loaded with nutrients that tastes wonderful grilled, such as bell peppers, eggplant, sweet corn, summer squash, tomatoes, zucchini, peaches, plums, nectarines, apples, pears and pineapples.

Grilling fruits brings out their natural sweetness as well as softens outside skin. Harder fruits, such as apples and pineapples, are easiest to prepare, but don't be afraid to try softer fruits such as peaches and nectarines. When grilling fruit:

- Pick a fresh firm fruit that's just short of being perfectly ripe.
- Slice the fruit in half (you can keep the peel on) and soak it in water to maximize the amount of liquid inside so it stays moist on the grill.
- If desired, add a little lemon juice to the soaking water to preserve the fruit's color. Feel free to also experiment with different spices, like cinnamon or nutmeg. Adding sugar is not necessary!
- Grill fruit over medium heat on a very clean cooking grate, although a higher temperature works best for some items such as cantaloupe.

Like fruits, most vegetables cook better and are less likely to stick if marinated first or brushed lightly with cooking oil. It may help to thread fruit or vegetables on skewers. Given the delicate nature of produce, grilling time may vary, but usually a few minutes will suffice.

Of course, what summertime grilling experience would be complete without some type of meat. When grilling meat, take precautions, such as:

- **FISH FRENZY:** Select smaller, leaner cuts and limit your portion size. You might want to try fish as an alternative to hamburgers. Salmon, trout and herring are high in heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids and hold up well on the grill.

- **MARINATE MEAT:** Some research suggests that even briefly marinating meat reduces the formation of cancer-causing chemicals. To make your own marinade, choose an acid-based liquid (e.g., vinegar, citrus juice and tomatoes), a little bit of healthy fat (like olive oil) and some seasonings. Toss in freshly chopped oregano, parsley, thyme and rosemary in place of salt to keep the sodium count low. Chopped onion and garlic will also add flavor.

- **AVOID FLAMES:** Grill your food on glowing embers, not high flames. If you have a gas grill, keep it on medium instead of high. When fats and juices drip down onto an open flame, it can cause a flare-



When your kids ask, "Is it done yet?" use a meat thermometer to make sure meat is fully cooked. Steaks are done at 145°F, burgers (veal, lamb, beef) at 160°F, chicken at 165°F and fish at 145°F. Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

up that may deposit unhealthy carcinogens onto your meat. Use a meat thermometer. Don't let your beef, pork or lamb burgers cook above 160°F; chicken breasts and hot dogs should stay around 165°F, while steaks are done at 145°F. Finally, flip meat frequently.

Sources: American Heart Association, American Institute for Cancer Research, Center for Disease Control, LifeWork Strategies (www.youradvocate.com) and Washington and Shady Grove Adventist Hospitals. For additional information, consult your physician.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Electronics account for 8.1 percent of your home's energy use. Cut costs by plugging items into a power strip, and turning the strip off when not in use. "Smart" power strips are another good option — when one master device like a TV is turned off, it cuts power to other selected items (DVD players, gaming consoles, stereos, etc.).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Surviving auto accidents involving power lines

Instincts tell us to flee danger. Unfortunately, in vehicle accidents that bring down power lines, these natural inclinations can lead to tragic results.

Safe Electricity wants everyone to know: If your car hits a power pole, or otherwise brings a power line down, stay in your vehicle and wait until the local electric utility arrives on the scene and ensures that lines have been de-energized. If you come upon or witness an accident involving toppled power poles and lines, don't leave your vehicle to approach the scene.

Indiana teenagers Lee Whittaker and Ashley Taylor saw a power line safety demonstration at their high school and never dreamed their new knowledge would be put to the test. Five days later, they and two classmates were in a car that crashed into a utility pole, bringing live power lines to the ground.

Fortunately, they heeded the safety advice they'd received, and survived because they knew the right actions to take. And they helped others who approached the scene by warning them to stay away. A video of their story can be seen on www.SafeElectricity.org.

According to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, tens of thousands of accidents each year occur where power poles are struck by cars or large equipment. Each one of these accidents has the potential to bring down power lines. Surviving the accident itself might not be enough to stay alive without awareness of the right moves to make.

In the vast majority of those incidents, the safest place to remain is inside the car. Only in the rare instance of fire should people exit a vehicle. Then, they must know how to do so safely, jumping free and



The teens in this car crash knew to stay in the car until the power lines that had fallen were de-energized, thanks to a demonstration by their local electric cooperative. *Source: Safe Electricity*

clear, landing with feet together, and hopping away. It's difficult to get out without creating a path for current to flow, which is why one should get out only if forced to.

"When people are involved in a car accident, electricity is usually the last thing on anyone's mind," Safe Electricity Executive Director Molly Hall notes. "We're often more concerned about whether anyone was injured, or how badly the vehicle is damaged. We forget that by exiting the vehicle, we're risking bodily exposure to thousands of volts of electricity from downed power lines."

Lee and Ashley are grateful to White County Rural Electric Membership Corporation, the Safe Electricity partner electric cooperative that sponsored a Live Line Demo program at their school. The students are encouraging everyone to learn from their experience.

To learn more, watch the video on www.SafeElectricity.org. Visitors can also check out a live power line demonstration, just like the one the Indiana teens saw at their school.

Safe Electricity is the safety outreach program of the Energy Education Council, a nonprofit organization with more than 400 electric cooperative members and many others who share the mission of educating the public about electrical safety and energy efficiency.



**Harrison REA
celebrates all moms on
their special day,
Sunday, May 8.**