Tim Stewart,
CEO/Manager

# GRID RESILIENCY AND POWER RESTORATION

Clark Electric Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

As we are in the midst of summer seasonal storms, I would like to talk about grid resiliency relative to storm events and how power restoration takes place. Resiliency of the grid is one of the most popular concepts being talked about in the electric industry today. 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.

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!

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. Consider Texas: lack of weatherization preparedness contributed to the events of February 2021.

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 and perform a host of maintenance programs like breaker maintenance and vegetation management. Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes one. For example, if we find a weak pole that has damage, we replace that pole. Doing so ensures that pole is as strong—or as resilient—as it can be.

Living in Wisconsin, we know that significant power outages can occur, especially as we enter spring and summer storm season. We know things can and do occur; however, we have confidence in the resiliency of our system to recover from the situation with as little disruption as possible.

I have been asked many times how power outages are restored. I would like to review how power restoration takes place. The following explains how power is restored in the event of an outage after a widespread storm.

## Outage Restoration Priority

This can also be found on our website at cecoop.com. Damage can occur to transmission lines, substations, distribution lines, and your secondary service lines despite our best efforts. When this happens, our priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time. Transmission lines are handled first. These lines transmit power to distribution substations. If the substation can come back on, power can be restored to thousands at one time. Next, crews inspect substations to determine if the problem starts there, or if there could be an issue down the line. If the source of the problem is at the substation, power can be restored to hundreds of members. Next, crews check the distribution feeder lines that deliver power to homes and businesses. There are three phase lines that deliver power to various line sections. Once these are repaired, power is then restored to even more people. If you continue to experience an outage, there may be damage to a line section or tap line. This is a line that comes off the three-phase feeder line that energizes your transformer. If you still don't have power, the service line between a transformer and your home or business may need to be repaired. Always call to report a power outage, which helps our line crews isolate these outages.

## TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

One of the best ways to protect yourself from online scams is by using strong passwords. While many people focus on complexity—adding symbols, numbers and capital letters—password length is equally important. A longer password or passphrase is generally harder for cybercriminals to crack than a short, complex one. Consider creating a memorable phrase made up of several unrelated words, and avoid using personal information like birthdays or pet names. Use a unique password for each account and enable multi-factor authentication when possible. Taking these simple steps can help keep your personal information and online accounts secure.

*Source: CISA*


# SAFETY FIRST ALWAYS

Safety First Always is the motto linemen live by. Linemen work in a very hazardous profession. They work around large equipment, high in the air, on and around high-voltage equipment, in all kinds of weather conditions, both day and night. In fact, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, utility linework is among the nation's top 10 most hazardous professions.

Clark Electric Cooperative participates in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Rural Electric Achievement Program (RESAP) to help stress the importance of electrical safety. One of the components of the program is monthly safety meetings. These safety meetings consist of classroom training as well as hands-on training and equipment testing. At least one meeting a year is dedicated to pole-top rescue procedures.

The meetings consist of inspections of the trucks, proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), proper traffic control, proper operating procedures, and an overall inspection of tools and equipment to ensure they are in good working condition. Safety First Always is a good motto to live by for everyone.

Pictured above is one of Clark Electric's linemen performing pole-top rescue using a weighted, life-sized training prop.

## *In Memory*

### REMEMBERING A DEDICATED LEADER

Clark Electric Cooperative remembers former Director Marvin Verkuilen, who passed away on June 12, 2026, following 14 years of dedicated service on the Board of Directors.

Throughout his years of service, Marvin demonstrated a dedicated commitment to the cooperative and its members. His contributions, friendship, and leadership will be greatly missed by fellow directors, employees, and members alike.

We extend our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones. We are grateful for his years of dedicated service and will remember him with great respect and appreciation.

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

August heat can put your air conditioner to the test, making it a great time to check your system's air filter. A dirty, clogged filter restricts airflow, forcing your cooling system to work harder than necessary to keep your home comfortable. That extra strain can reduce efficiency, increase energy use and contribute to unnecessary wear and tear on equipment. Inspect your filter monthly during periods of heavy air conditioner use and replace it if it appears dirty. A clean filter supports efficient operation and can even enhance indoor air quality—helping you stay cool and comfortable during the hottest days of summer.

# MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY
## & Kick-off to Cooperative Month

**A FREE Pancake, Egg & Sausage Breakfast**

**Saturday, September 26**

7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the

Clark Electric headquarters, just west of Greenwood on CTH G

- **"Take Back" Initiative 7–11 a.m.**
  Bring your unused, controlled, non-controlled, and over-the counter medications in their original containers to be dropped off—free, with no questions asked. *Questions? Clark County Sheriff's Department at 715-743-3157.*
- **Food Drive for Local Food Pantries**
- **Activities for Kids of All Ages**
  Pumpkins, Crafts for Kids, Giant Inflatables
- **Greenwood Fire & EMS**
  will provide free blood pressure testing.
- **Marshfield Medical Center & Clark County Health Department**
  will be here to provide community health information— free of charge.

**Clark Electric Cooperative**
1209 W. Dall-Berg Rd.
Greenwood, WI 54437
715-267-6188 • 800-272-6188

**River Country Co-op**
P.O.Box 260
Dorchester, WI 54425
1-800-521-2021

**While it may seem like a good idea to cover that "big green box" in your yard with pretty shrubs, like the one at left, this restricts access to the box and creates a safety hazard. Keep the boxes—known as transformers—clear of obstructions, like the one at right.**

# BEAUTIFY YOUR YARD, NOT UTILITY EQUIPMENT, THIS SUMMER

Green or gray utility boxes, known as transformers, are part of the supply chain that helps provide power to your neighborhood.

What are the boxes for? Their job is to step down high-voltage electricity to a lower voltage needed for the underground wires supplying power to the lights and appliances in homes.

Please do not paint, enhance, block, or otherwise obstruct these transformers. By respecting all utility equipment, including meters and transformers, you can help keep the power on and your local utility workers safe.

As you beautify your yard this summer, Clark Electric Cooperative and Safe Electricity remind you of these safety tips:

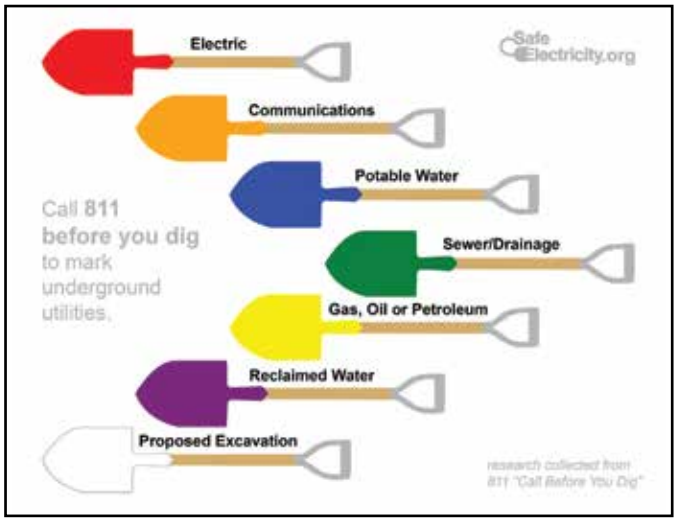
- Do not plant shrubs and trees close to transformers or other utility equipment. Limiting or restricting access to the transformer in your yard could delay restoration work during an outage and create a serious safety hazard. We need at least 10 feet of clearance in front of the transformer (the side that is padlocked), as well as four feet of clearance on the other three sides.

- Contact us if the transformer becomes unlocked or if it or any other type of utility equipment appears to be damaged.

- Call 8-1-1 prior to digging around a transformer and respect the clearance requirements noted earlier. If you dig near a transformer even beyond the clearance requirements, you could inadvertently hit a live underground wire. Always call 8-1-1 prior to any digging.

- Keep a clear path to the transformer. Although the transformer seems like it is in "your yard," it is technically on an easement, and our workers need clear access to it to maintain equipment and keep power running smoothly.

- Always teach children they should not sit on, open, or play around the big green boxes.





## Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

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**Clark Electric Cooperative**
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**Office Hours:**
7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.—May through October
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.—November through April