

Fun and Food
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



**31ST ANNUAL
 MEMBER APPRECIATION
 PICNIC**
SATURDAY, AUGUST 5 @ 10 AM - 2 PM

Registration cards for door prizes will be inserted in the July electric bills.

Brats, hot dogs, beans, chips, pickles, cheese curds, ice cream, cookies, soda, milk and coffee.

MY CO-OP



Capital credit checks will be distributed for money accrued in 1997.



2017 EMPLOYEE CHARITY RAFFLE

- First Prize - \$200 cash
- Second Prize - Handmade Quilt
- Third Prize - \$75 bill credit
- And numerous other prizes
- Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5

All proceeds will be donated to
 Old Glory Honor Flight
 and
 Patriot Guard Riders of Wisconsin





OUTAGE MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGIES IMPROVE RELIABILITY

“The only things certain in life are death and taxes,” as the old adage goes. Well, we can add another to the list: power outages. An outage can range from annoying to dangerous, depending upon its timing and length.

Oconto Electric Cooperative’s primary goal is to deliver the highest possible quality of electric service at the lowest possible price. Perhaps the key measure of quality in the eyes of members is the number of times their lights blink or go out. Let’s talk a bit about how the grid is designed as a backdrop to how technology is improving reliability by reducing blinks and outages. Along the power lines that bring electricity to your home, OEC installs protective devices in the form of fuses and reclosers (high-voltage circuit breakers). Fuses and reclosers serve the same purpose as the fuses and circuit breakers in your home.

A fuse is a one-shot device. When a fault occurs, the fuse blows and everyone downstream from it loses power. Reclosers are multi-shot devices, meaning they can operate a certain number of times before they stay open and an outage occurs. A common setting is what’s known as a triple-shot. Here’s how that works.

A tree limb contacts the power lines and creates a fault. The recloser senses it and opens, creating the first blink.

Here’s where a recloser differs from your home circuit breaker. It waits a certain amount of time (typically a few seconds), then recloses to try to complete the circuit. If the fault is still there, it opens again. This creates the second blink. Triple-shot settings allow the device to reclose a third time and if the fault is still there, it stays open and the members downstream experience a power outage.

Blinks are a nuisance, but they eliminate a lot of extended outages by protecting wires and equipment from serious damage.

So, what kind of technology is improving service reliability? The Smart Grid is spawning an amazing array of equipment

and software that’s already improving reliability. When combined with field construction practices, like building multiple ways to feed power loads and the deployment of advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), the future of reliability is bright—pun intended.

Electric co-ops are starting to use more of what are called Intelligent Electronic Devices. “Intelligent” basically means a co-op can program the device to behave a certain way when a specific event occurs. It also means the co-op can remotely command the device to take an action, either preprogrammed or ad hoc.

Eventually, there will be a power outage despite the best efforts of OEC. That is where AMI and outage management systems (OMS) earn their keep. The basic element of an AMI is a meter that can communicate with your electric co-op. The

OMS system configures data and meter locations into a piece of software that models the electric grid. When a member reports loss of power to OEC, the OMS runs calculations to determine the exact location of the fault and the number of members impacted.

Now, the whole suite of systems your co-op



uses comes into play. The co-op dispatcher can call out or redirect a crew to the exact location of the problem. A map of the outage and number of impacted members is generated, and member service reps are notified that an outage is in progress. (351300) The end result of all this technology is the minimization of outages and their length, plus more availability of up-to-date information for the consumer.

Mother Nature is a tough opponent, and it’s impossible to eliminate outages and blinks altogether. But with the way technology is advancing, we can expect to see some remarkable improvements.

It is always important to call OEC if you are experiencing a loss of power. Please call 800-472-8410.

Keep Food Safe

Before, During and After a Power Outage

Unfortunately, power outages do occur from time to time. It's important to know how to keep your food safe during an outage. Use these tips from USDA to help minimize food loss and reduce your risk of illness.

Before power outage



Keep refrigerator at **40° or below**. Freeze items like fresh meat and poultry that you won't use immediately.

Keep freezer set to **0° or below**. Group frozen foods to help items stay colder longer.



If you anticipate an extended power outage, buy dry or block ice to keep the fridge and/or freezer cold.

During power outage

Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed!

If the doors stay closed during the length of the outage:



A full freezer will hold its temperature for **48 hours**.



A refrigerator will keep food safe for **four hours**.

After power outage

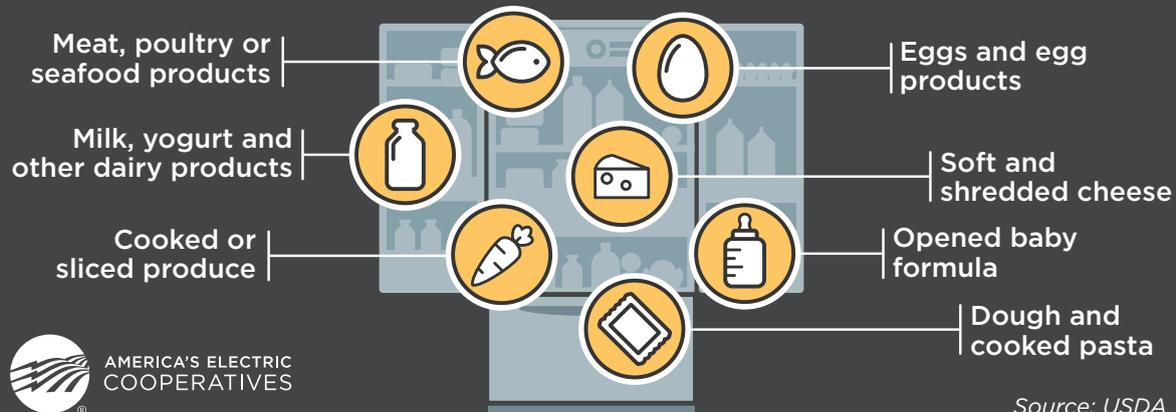


Check the temperature inside your refrigerator and/or freezer.



If the temperatures are safe, the food should be safe to eat.

Foods that should be thrown out after an extended power outage:



Source: USDA



CAPITAL CREDITS TO BE PAID

Capital credits are earned by every member based on how much power was consumed during the year. The money comes from margins that OEC generates from that year. Although the money is allocated to the members, the co-op's board of directors makes the decision when the money is to actually be paid out. Typically, OEC pays out capital credits for the oldest year, which is 20 years ago.

This year OEC will be paying out capital credits from 1997. If you have capital credits of less than \$25 you will receive a credit on your electric bill. If it is \$25 or more, you will receive a check in August. If you would like to pick up your check at the Member Appreciation Picnic on Saturday, August 5, you can do that. Any checks that are not picked up at the picnic will be mailed the following week.

SMARTHUB

An easy way to manage your energy bill

SmartHub means you have options when it comes to managing your energy bill at Oconto Electric Cooperative. Have you ever wondered when your highest electric usage takes place? Have you wondered why your energy bill is what it is? SmartHub helps you determine those answers. If you have not signed up, you're missing out on a lot of smart benefits including:

- Pay your energy bill online
- Set up your energy bill for automatic payments
- View your billing history
- View and manage your electric usage
- Identify ways to lower your energy bill
- And, even report an outage



Sign up for SmartHub online. It's OEC's FREE and mobile/online payment system that allows you to monitor your daily energy usage. Click on the sign-up link and follow the prompts to create your user name and password. Questions? Call 920-846-2816, or visit us at www.ocontoelectric.com.

HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBERS

Oconto Electric Cooperative hides two account numbers in the local pages of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* each month. If you spot your account number, call our office before you receive the next issue, and OEC will give you a \$15 credit on your electric bill or a \$25 credit if you have a load management receiver. The June account numbers belonged to Mary Framnes, Gillett, and Joel Gross, Pound.

Byron C. Nolde, CEO

7479 REA Road, P.O. Box 168, Oconto Falls, WI 54154
800-472-8410 • 920-846-2816
www.ocontoelectric.com

Katie Jagiello, Editor



OEC's office and OEC's RadioShack store located on Highland Drive in Oconto Falls will be closed on Tuesday, July 4.

Thank You



The Community "Change" board of directors would like to thank the OEC members who recently signed up to be a Community "Change" contributor from the May OEC bill insert.

If you are already a contributor to Community "Change", thank you. If not, won't you please consider signing up as a contributor? It is one of the most rewarding things you can do for literally pennies a month.

Civic groups, charitable organizations, and people who have experienced a catastrophe in their lives (such as illness or fire) can apply for Community "Change" grants. Quarterly, the Community "Change" board of directors meets to look at applications for Community "Change" funds. Grants are awarded based on how much money is available and whether or not the purpose of the request is consistent with Community "Change" guidelines.

For more information or to sign up for Community "Change", please call 920-846-2816.

