



TURNING THE LIGHTS BACK ON

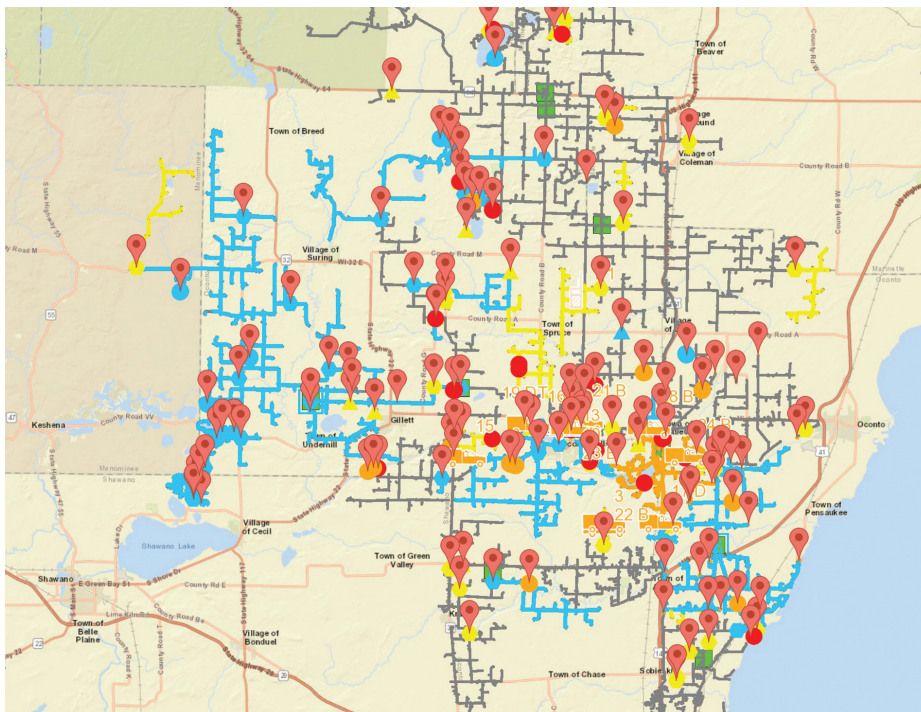
Summer Storms Impact Members & Activate ROPE Assistance

During the late hours of Monday, July 26 into the early morning hours of Tuesday, July 27, a series of strong storms moved through our service territory, which consists of 1,400 miles of power lines that provide electricity to more than 9,600 members. At 5:44 a.m. we had 56 separate outages causing half our membership to be without power.

OEC responded immediately by sending out our linemen and line clearance crew to start restoring power to our members. Due to the extreme damage, Line Superintendent Jack Pardy issued a request for assistance through the Wisconsin electric cooperative mutual aid program called ROPE (Restoration of Power in an Emergency). Three electric cooperatives responded to our request for aid, sending four crews equipped with bucket trucks to help with restoration.

The process of restoring power was long and strenuous. When an outage comes in, it is impossible to know exactly what the crews will be dealing with until they get to the site. Linemen dealt with many downed lines, a few broken poles, and issues with two of our substations. Some roads were impassible due to downed trees and branches that needed to be removed before crews could start making repairs.

We thank Adams-Columbia Electric



The map above shows all of the outages as of the morning of July 28. The blue shows what was already restored, the yellow and orange are what remained. (53511) We hope this helps you understand how widespread it was, and why we couldn't provide restoration times.

Cooperative, Clark Electric, and Alger-Delta Cooperative Electric Association for sending us crews. We thank our employees for all their hard work. And we thank you, our members, for your patience. Your acts of kindness and generosity towards our line crews were greatly appreciated.



MY CO-OP



Cody and Bailey Conrady and their dog, Dixie

ELECTRICAL ACCIDENT IMPACTS COUPLE'S LIVES: 'NORMAL BEFORE WILL NOT BE NORMAL AFTER'

Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States.

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous—even deadly—when farming near electrical equipment.

Every year, we see accidents where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery.

The following story is a great reminder of just how quickly accidents can happen.

Bailey Edenburn was packing for an unknown destination. She also had to pack for her fiancé, Cody Conrady. Many times, throwing necessities in a suitcase is for something fun. Unfortunately, packing on this day in May was for anything but.

She didn't know how long she would be gone or even where she was going. All she knew is she had to pack. And she

had to get to Cody.

After finding out where he was and driving faster than she cares to admit, she reached her destination: the Level 1 trauma center. She did not know how bad it was. She only knew he was alive.

At that point in time, Cody only knew the same—that he was alive. After nearly dying in an electrical accident, the day was a blur, most of it unetched in his mind.

Earlier that day, Cody had started his next-to-last day as assistant manager for an ag fertilizer company. He said they were shorthanded that day, so it was all hands on deck. To get ahead of the sprayer, he hopped in his truck and got going.

"I had to take loads because we needed an extra truck to take fertilizer," Cody recalled. A sprayer had been broken down for 3½ hours, and when it finally showed up, he was ready.

What happened next

After the sprayer pulled in, Cody pulled up in his truck to unload fertilizer. "I hooked on like I normally would, and the sprayer was unfolding, which is pretty much standard procedure," he said.

What transpired next changed everything. Those who were

there think that when the operator unfolded the sprayer boom, he extended the sprayer tips at the same time, and one of them grazed the power line.

Cody said they believe the sprayer tip was electrified for only a moment, but that the stray electricity moved through the tip, boom, tractor, and down to the ground where Cody was standing. When Cody touched the camlock, which connects the hoses together, 7,400 volts of electricity flowed through his body.

The force of the stray voltage threw him backwards and onto the ground. The person in the cab jumped out and started CPR (luckily the ground was no longer electrified) and called 9-1-1.

One journey. Two experiences.

As with any journey, two people experience it differently. Cody is matter of fact. He says he doesn't mind talking about it, but that Bailey does. As an outward expression of his love for her, you can tell he worries about her reliving that day.

He says he doesn't remember a lot about the accident, but he does have a few vivid memories that have to do with the stretcher—one was the sound of the collective click as it was being loaded into the ambulance. The other was him being rolled on it to the medevac.

"My first memory after that was probably a week and a half later," Cody said, adding that there were many conversations with Bailey to help him piece the details together, including the progression of his care. He said the medical staff made several attempts to save his hand, but that the damage progressed too far to do so. He also questioned why they had to take his leg.

"What we learned is that tissue is actively still dying over the course of two weeks, so it (the internal damage) just kept moving up (the affected limbs)," he said.

Bailey's recollections

When Bailey recalls what happened, her words come a bit faster than Cody's.

"Emotionally, I've probably been more of a mess (than Cody). He struggled very early on with just the circumstances (of it all) and just how badly hurt he was. But he's accepted the fact that this is his life now, and (that) he has to make this life as good as he can. I'm not quite there yet," she admitted.

As with most significant journeys in life, "there are days that are perfect, (when) the world is right." And there are the bad days, she acknowledged.

After watching Cody experience immense pain, lose two of his limbs, undergo numerous surgeries, and learn to walk again, "we knew life wasn't going to be the same," Bailey reflected. "We knew that the 'normal' before was not going to be the 'normal' after.

"In the beginning, it was just all about survival"

"In the beginning, it was just all about survival," Bailey recounted. Today, their lives include more grey areas.

"I don't know what the future holds," Bailey said. "There are some days when his leg just bothers him... (but) he's not the type to

want to sit still for anything. He's had to sit still and learn more patience in the last year than he has his entire life. And it (sitting still) just drives him bonkers."

The dangling carrot

Bailey recalled how at one of the initial meetings with the medical team, Cody mentioned September 7 of that same year: the day they were to be wed. "It was a giant dangling carrot, really," she said. "I mean, he was bound and determined we were not going to put the wedding off."

Not only did they get married, but on the Wednesday before their wedding, Bailey came home to a huge surprise. "I had gone to do chores, and when I came back, he was walking around the house, without a cane, and I bawled, absolutely bawled," she said.

Bailey recalled that Cody had gotten his leg prosthetic 10 days before the wedding. "I didn't think he'd walk down the aisle. I'm not sure in that moment in time he thought he'd walk down the aisle."

But he did, and you can hear in Bailey's voice just how special their wedding day was. "It was just the most perfect of days," she said, smiling.



The journey continues

Bailey said that the goal was and still is for "Cody to do whatever Cody wants to do."

Cody and Bailey are still packing for a destination, sometimes figuratively. They adapt to the twists and turns of their life together. Cody navigates the challenges he faces with a different dominant hand than before the accident. Some days he can't do everything he wants to because of his pain. Bailey still struggles at times with what happened that day in May.

But sometimes they pack in a literal way. Lately, they have been busy completing baby registries for a new addition in their lives. Although a bit apprehensive like most first-time parents, bring on the next chapter, they say. The journey continues.



MACHICKANEE FLOWAGE PARTIAL DRAWDOWN



The Machickanee Flowage partial drawdown started on July 6, 2021. The water level has been drawn down by approximately five feet and will be maintained at that level for approximately 70 days. The goal is to reduce the presence of aquatic invasive plants within the impoundment and improve fish habitat by consolidating sediments.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When shopping for new light bulbs, know the difference between lumens and watts. Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption.

Energy-saving LEDs come in a variety of colors and brightness levels and last 15-25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)
(900304)



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 July account numbers belonged to David Baeten, Abrams, and Roy Lawrenz, 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

