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# **ALWAYS**Report Your Power Outage

If your power goes out, you should never assume that someone else will call it in. While that might be true in some cases, there are other times where an isolated outage is the problem.

In the event that your service is interrupted, the first thing you should do is check your fuses or breakers to make sure the problem is not your own. Next, check to see if your neighbors have power. This gives the line crews an idea of the extent of the outage. (265003)

You can report an outage anytime, day or night, by calling 800-472-8410. This is our designated outage line. To report an outage, you will need to press option 1 so your call can be put into our automated system. If you have information about the cause of the outage (tree limb, broken pole, etc.) please tell the dispatcher as this can help speed the restoration of service.

If you are unable to get through on the phone, you can report your outage using the SmartHub app.

Please be patient! Your service will be restored as soon as possible. Line outages will be repaired first, then individual services will be next.

### How to prepare for severe weather, like the storms that covered the state on June 15

Living in Wisconsin, we know that significant power outages can occur, especially during the summer storm season. In my seven years working for OEC, I have worked through four major storms.

On June 15, 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 one point we had 4,000 members 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). Taylor Electric and Chippewa Valley responded to



Three poles were broke along Hwy 22 just west of County Rd J.

our request for aid, along with the City of Oconto Falls Municipality, sending four crews equipped with two bucket trucks and two diggers 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.

#### Outage Restoration Priority

Despite our best efforts at maintaining our lines, damage can occur to transmission lines, substations, distribution lines, and your secondary service lines.

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. The purpose of a substation is to "step down" high-voltage electricity from the transmission system to lower-voltage electricity so it can be easily supplied to homes and businesses in the area through lower-voltage distribution lines.

Next, crews check the distribution feeder lines that deliver power to your homes or business. 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



Tree debris flew from 75-80 yards away into the Morgan substation, causing significant damage and causing the whole substation to go down. It caused the low side of the buss support insulator, which is made out of steel and ceramic, to melt.

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 individuals.

Please remember, that in general terms, the lines that will get the most services energized will be repaired first.

#### Before the Storm

- Talk to your family about what to do in the event of a severe storm or tornado. Point out the safest location to shelter, like a small interior. windowless room on the lowest level of your home. Remember: When you hear thunder roar, head indoors. (217906)
- Have a storm kit ready that includes flashlights, bottled water, non-perishable food, battery-operated radio, batteries, portable cell phone chargers that are fully charged, hand sanitizer and first-aid supplies.

#### During the Storm

• Pay attention to local weather alerts—either on the TV, your smartphone, or weather radio and understand the types of alerts.

- A thunderstorm or tornado watch means these events are possible and you should be prepared; a warning means a thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted in your area and it's time to take action.
- If you find yourself in the path of a tornado, head to a safe place to shelter, and protect yourself by covering your head with your arms or materials like blankets and pillows.

#### After the Storm

- If the power is out, conserve your phone battery as much as possible, limiting calls and text messages to let others know you are safe, or for emergencies only.
- Stay off the roads if trees, power lines, or utility poles are down. Lines and equipment could still be energized, posing life-threatening risks to anyone who gets too close.
- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed to preserve food.
- Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.







#### Does your health rely on electricity?

any medical devices use electricity or are battery dependent, including: breathing machines, power wheelchairs, oxygen and home dialysis equipment. Some equipment is vital to

keeping you alive! Read the equipment instructions and talk to the equipment suppliers about your backup power options. Have a plan.

#### Cellphone

Keep your cellphone charged so that you are able to call

#### Batteries

- If your devices are battery-operated, make sure you have extras on hand.
- Do you periodically check your backup batteries? Unused rechargeable batteries may need charging.
- Portable battery packs will supply hours of back-up energy.

#### Use the Car

Can your devices be plugged into or recharged through the power outlet in your vehicle? If you plan on using this for your backup power make sure that you keep your vehicle's fuel tank at least half full.

#### Generator

Maybe you need to invest in a generator and know how to use it safely. There are two types of generators for homeowners to choose from: portable and standby.

#### **Medications**

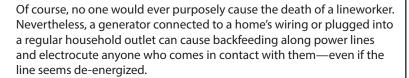
Do you have medications that need to stay in a cool, dry place?

- If the power goes out, a refrigerator should generally hold its temperature for two to four hours, if you are not opening and closing it.
- After four hours, empty the ice from the freezer into a cooler and keep your medication in that cooler. It should be safe in there for a day or two.

OEC deeply cares about the health and safety of our members. We encourage you to do the same and have an emergency plan in place.

### THINK SAFETY

WHEN USING A GENERATOR



Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment.



An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a Master Electrician.



- Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows, and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is deadly.
- Start the generator first before connecting appliances.
- Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.
- If you use an extension cord be sure it's appropriately rated for the load/device connected to the generator.



## PAVING THE WAY FOR YOUNG LEADERS

OEC SPONSORS THREE STUDENTS TO YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS

have been attending Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) for many years as a chaperone and with that comes a lot of responsibility, but lots of fun too! It was so great to be back in person this year.

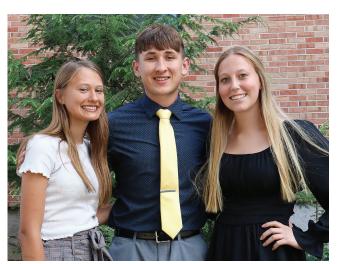
YLC had been held each summer since 1963 at UW-River Falls until 2020 when Covid-19 hit. In 2020 no conference was held and in 2021 it was held virtually. This year YLC was back, but at a new location—UW-Stout in Menominee, WI and it did not disappoint.

When we arrive at YLC I tell my students, "I am here if you need me, but I want you to go out and meet new people, participate, and get a feel for campus college life."

Through a mix of seminar sessions, hands-on activities, and team-building experiences, students were exposed to a variety of real-life issues designed to develop the next generation of community leaders. Upon arrival, students were divided into districts in which they learned about how a cooperative functions.

They participated in district meetings where they were exposed to an actual cooperative scenario, hiring a new CEO. I played the role of one of two CEO interviewees. After the interviews the group had to come to a mutual decision of who to hire.

Motivational speaker and author Craig Hillier motivates through sound logic and enthusiasm, giving students strategies and techniques to take charge of



L to R: Megan Wagner, Mason Sobeck, and Breanna Koslowsky.

Bottom photo: Breanna on right works with another student on an exercise. The activity taught that sometimes you need to work together and be balanced in teamwork, and you need to define your role and be clear with directions.

their lives and shape their destiny.

As day three of the conference ends each year, I love to see how these young adults have emerged into young leaders or those who just don't know yet that they will be leaders in the future.



# Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back.

Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

Source: Dept. of Energy





#### Do you have capital credits to claim?

Once a year, Oconto Electric publishes the names of members, past and present, who have outstanding capital credit checks. Maybe these checks were misplaced or lost in the mail, but for whatever reason they were not cashed. Now these checks are outdated and cannot be cashed. Names shown are from checks originally issued in 2018 and 2021. We have included the outstanding 2018 capital credit checks because any of these checks that are not reissued this year will be transferred into our educational fund and used for youth scholarships. This is the last opportunity for people to claim this money.

If you find your name listed here please contact OEC at 1-800-472-8410. If you know someone on this list, please have them contact us.

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A & J ENTERPRIZES INC
BRION ABBS
ACME TELEVISION
ACTION SPORTS
AGRA BANK
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HAROLD ALBRIGHT
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STEPHANIE ALLENDER
AHMED A ALSHEHRY
DEAN ALSTEEN
JODI ALSTEEN
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GAYLE ANDERSON
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STEVEN ANDERSON
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SHELLI ARCAND
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SABINO ARREDONDO
PAULINE ARTHUR
TERRY ASIALA
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WAYNE AULIK
TIMOTHY AUMANN
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CRAFTERS
GARY BABCOCK
GREG BABINO
ANGELINE BADER
JOHN BAENEN
CINDY BAETEN
ROBERT BAETEN
KENNETH J BAGINSKI
STEVEN BAILEY

RICHARD BAINS CHRIS BAKER SHIRLEY BAKKE DONALD BALCOM **GREGORY P BALDWIN** DANNY BALLOS RICHARD BANIA **BESSIE BANKS** PAUL BARGMAN CYNTHIA BARNDT **DORIS BARRY** LYNETTE BASTIEN **GORDON BATES** BETTY BAUER JEFFREY M BAUER JOHN BAUMAN KAREN BAUMBACH ANGELINE BAUMGART ALLEN BAUMGARTNER TODD BAYE ANDY BEAUDIN YVONNE BEAUDIN JAMES BEAUDOIN TERRI BEAUDOIN JAMES BECKER STEVEN F BEFAY DONALD BEHLING **GLORIA BEHLING** JIM BEHLING JUNIOR BEHLING ROSEMARY BEHRENDT **BRUCE A BELONGIA STEPHANIE** BELSCHNER LARRY S BEMBENEK ROBERT BENDER TARA BENDER KENNETH BENNETT MARIANNE BERBEN DALE BERG DAVID BERGSTROM JOHN BERNS JACK BERRY **DEANNA BERTH GERALD BESAW** RICHARD J BIEDA **GARY BINS** 

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MICHAEL BRUNETTE

MICHELE BRUNETTE DAVID BRUNNER ALBERT BUBLITZ DONNA BUBOLZ LISA BUETTNER ADAM BUNN ALAN BUNT **KEVIN BUNTIN** ROBERT BURK GERMAINE BURKART JAMES BURKEL JR LOREN BURRACK WARREN BURTON PAUL J BURZLAFF MILO BURZYNSKI **ALVIN BUSHY** CHARLES BUSICK RUTH BUSICK RAYMOND BUSS **GORDON CALKINS** ROBERT CAMPBELL SHERRY CANNIZZO **IRENE CAPELLE** JAMES CAPPELLE DELWIN CARLSON SHIRLEY CARLSON DANNY CARLTON LOUIE CARRASQUILL **RUTH CARRIERE** CHAD A CARRIVEAU LYNDA CARSTENS JOHN CARTER **ELAINE CARTWRIGHT** THOMAS CASPER JESSE CEGELSKI SUSAN CHAPMAN JOHN CHARAPATA GERALD CHRISTENSEN MARK CHRISTENSEN MILTON CHRISTENSEN RHONDA CHRISTIANSEN CINDY CLEARY JIM CLEARY DANIEL G CLIFFORD MICHAEL CLIFFORD THOMAS CLIFFORD SR RONALD COEL

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**ORVILLE HUBERT** 

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PAUL KOTCHON

AGNES KOWALSKI

STEVEN KOZELEK DONALD KOZINSKI TIMOTHY KOZLOSKI LEMERYL KOZLOWSKI ARNOLD KRAUSE BARBARA KRAUSE **BETTY KRAUSE GENE KRAUSE** RICHARD KRAUSE **ROSE KRAUSE DENNIS KRAUSKI** PETER KRISTOF KARMEN KROENING PAUL KRUEGER RANDY KRUEGER ROBERT KRUEGER **GERALD KRUPP** MAVIS KRYSTOF CLIFFORD KRZYZANOWSKI RICHARD KRZYZANOWSKI LEON L KUHN KEN KULOW CHARLES KUNITZ DARYL KUNZ **GREG J KURTZ** MARY KUTNER DAN J LAABS RON LACOMBE TOM LACOUNT **EVELYN M LADUKE** ROBERT LAEDTKE RAYNE J LAFAVE JR MERLE LAFORTUNE JOHN LAHAYE LAURIE LAHO **BRIAN LAINE** JOHN M LAMBERT WALTER LAMBERT SHELLY LAMOUNTAIN LEONARD F LANDRY JERALD LANE GERALDINE LANTER DAVE LARDINOIS ANTHONY LAROCK PAUL LAROCK JESSICA LARSEN PETER LARSEN SAM LARSEN LAURA A LARSON RON LARSON ROBERT L LASATER JERRY LASEE JEFF LASLEY WENDELL LASSITER **GERALDINE LATHROP** LATHROP'S HOME-TOWN STATION RON LAUNDRIE RICHARD LAURENCE CAROL LAURENT

CYNTHIA LAWE

MIKE HAIGHT

**GORDON HALL** 



RAYMOND LAWE **RUBY LAWLER EUGENE LEACH** RUEBEN LEAR JEANNE LEAVITT YER LEE CHARLES LEEMON PATRICK LEIGH HAZEL LEMKE JEFF LEMKE DOLORES LEMMEN MICHAEL LENTZ OSCAR LENTZ ANDREW LENZ ALLAN LEONHARDT WINIFRED LEPAK THOMAS B LEROUX DONNA R LEURQUIN HOLLY LEURQUIN **DENNIS LEWANDOWSKI** DON LEWANDOWSKI **IRVIN LEWINS** JAMES W LIEBERGEN JEAN LIEGEOIS **WAYNE LIEN WILLIAM LIERMAN** LILAC PLANTATION LTD MICHELLE L LINDAL JOHN LINDBERG **DELORIS LINDOW** RICHARD LINSSEN JOSEPH LISKA LITTLE SUAMICO PRODUCTS **EDWARD LONG SR** LEROY J LONG **DEREK LOSEBY** THOMAS LOTHAMER KATRIN A LOUCKS WILLIAM C LOVE ROBERT LOVREK DARYL LUEBKE DAVID LUEDTKE LOUISE LUISIER **BRADLEY LUNDMARK** MARCIA LUNZMANN KENNETH LYNCH MATTHEW LYNCH **LUCILLE MACHIPNESS WILLIAM MACKENZIE** JEFF MADDEN **GINA MADIGAN** ROBERT MAGIARY MICHAEL MAHER DANIEL MALONEY **KEVIN MALONEY** CHARLES MALUEG JR DANIEL MANDICH JOHN A MANGIONE PETE MANN MANN BROS INC NATHAN MANNING

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#### HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBERS

LISA WALCZYK

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 Josefina Chua, Little Suamico, and Randy & Judy Tank, Gillett.

Byron C. Nolde, CEO

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Katie Jagiello, Editor



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