

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

August 2024



Price Electric
Cooperative

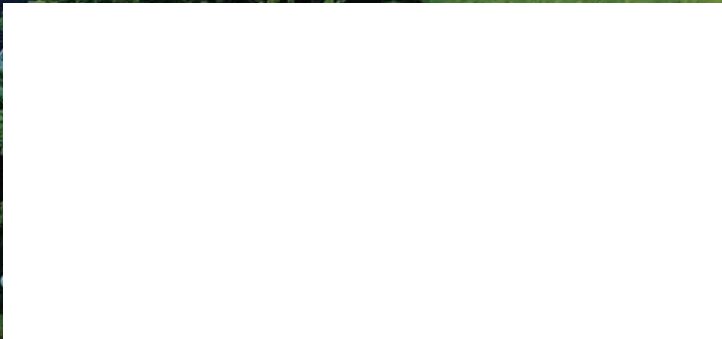
Your Touchstone Energy Partner

**2024 FARM TECHNOLOGY DAYS
IS GROWING TO THE TUNE OF SUCCESS**

**QUANTUM LEAP:
THE NEXT INTERNET REVOLUTION**

BASELOAD VS. INTERMITTENT POWER

MUST HAVE MUSTARD



Cooperative Principle #7: CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY



**Price Electric
Cooperative**

Your Toucanstone Energy® Partner



Above: Lineman Chad Schnautz and his family participated in the Phillips 4th of July Parade. The Phillips Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year were pulled behind a PEC bucket truck.

Right: PEC, with funds from the Federated Youth Foundation, donated to the Westboro Fire Department to aid in the purchase of a new fire engine. Pictured is Westboro Firefighter Bryan Strobach and PEC Administrative Services Manager Jennifer Janak.

Below: PEC is proud to support the Flambeau River YMCA. PEC's member service/IT manager Greg Bortz sat on the Steering Committee to assist in the planning of the YMCA. Pictured is the steering committee.



WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT POWER RESTORATION

In today's world, there is never a good time to be without electricity, but with recent summer storms, we would like to shed light on our restoration process to help our members understand what may be happening behind the scenes.

- 1. We need you.** When your power goes out, it might be just at your home or small section of a neighborhood. There is a chance we may not know about it, and no one has reported it. We rely on you to let us know if your power is out. Calling 800-884-0881 is the only way to report your outage. Please do not message us on Facebook or email, as neither are monitored 24/7.
- 2. Our employees might be affected too.** Because PEC is a local electric cooperative owned by the members we serve, our employees are local too. They are your neighbors, friends, and familiar community volunteers. When you're without power, our people might be too.
- 3. We assess the situation first.** Every outage is different, and we don't know how dangerous it is or what equipment might need to be replaced. When responding to outages, we first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need and a plan for how to fix the problem(s) without compromising electric flow for the rest of our members.
- 4. Restoration is normally prioritized.** Our crew's first focus is responding to immediate public safety issues. Then we complete work that impacts the largest of number of people first, typically working from the largest volume outage to the least.
- 5. Our employees face many dangers.** Besides working around high-voltage electricity, our crews are on alert for wild animals, weather elements, falling trees, and fast-moving cars. If you drive past one of our crew members while they are working along the roadside, please slow down.

- 6. Flickering lights are a good thing.** Sometimes members mistake flickering lights for outages, but these "blinks" are important because they indicate our equipment worked and prevented a possible outage likely caused by wayward animals or stray tree limbs on the lines.
- 7. You need a backup plan.** We do our best to help those who need it, but if you depend on electricity for life support purposes, you must have a back-up plan—remember, we don't always know how long restoration efforts will take.
- 8. Our employees have to eat.** If you ever see our trucks in a restaurant parking lot while your power is out, know that our crews work long hard hours during outages and need to take time for meals just like everyone else.
- 10. Sometimes it's a waiting game.** Our portion of the power grid is connected to other electric utilities. If our outage is due to an issue from their feed into our system, we must let them do their repairs and be mindful of what they're going through to fix it.

We do our best to avoid power disruptions by doing preventative maintenance, such as right-of-way clearing and pole testing, but outages are inevitable from time to time. If the lights go out, the PEC team will work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power.

COMMON CAUSES OF POWER OUTAGES

There is never a good time for the power to go out, but if it happens on a sunny day, you might be left wondering why. Here are the most common causes of a power outage.

- WEATHER**
High winds, snow and ice can cause tree limbs to fall on power lines. Other weather effects, like wildfires and lightning strikes, can cause major damage to equipment.
- CRITTERS**
Squirrels, birds, snakes and other animals can inadvertently contact power lines, causing short circuits and disruptions to electrical supply.
- ACCIDENTS**
Vehicles can crash into utility poles, bringing down power lines. Construction and excavation work can also result in disruptions to underground lines.
- Scheduled MAINTENANCE**
Occasionally, we plan outages to perform upgrades or repairs to parts of the local grid.

TRIMMING BRANCHES after a storm?

Put Safety First to Avoid Injuries

Each year, thousands of people are treated for injuries caused by chainsaws.

Always look up and look out for overhead power lines before starting any outdoor project, and do not trim trees within 10 feet of an overhead power line or pole.

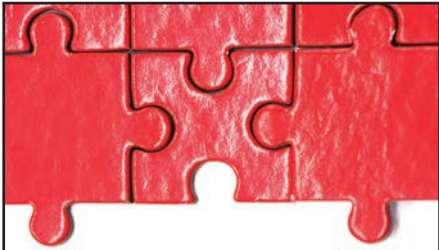
WHEN USING A CHAINSAW, follow these safety guidelines:

- Make sure all safety functions on the saw are in place and work properly.
- Keep the chain clean, sharp, and lubricated with the correct oil.
- Keep the cutting area clear.
- Work with a partner.
- Avoid overhead hazards, such as utility lines or dead, hanging limbs that may fall.
- Be careful of inclines and uneven ground.
- Stand to the side of what you are cutting.
- Keep the saw as close to you as possible for better control.
- Keep both hands on the saw handles.
- Cut at full throttle (i.e., bring the saw up to speed before cutting).
- Let the saw come to a complete stop before reaching for the chain or bar.
- Turn off the saw or activate the chain brake when carrying the saw.
- Wear close-fitting clothing.
- Let the saw cool before refueling.

Read and follow all directions provided by the manufacturer. Keep equipment well-maintained and in proper working order. Familiarize yourself with any new tool or machinery before starting a project. Safety first.

Learn more at:

 Safe
Electricity.org®



Price Electric Puzzler

How closely are you reading the *WEC News*? Find the answer to the question below for your chance to receive a \$25 bill credit. Drop off or mail your answer to Price Electric or email your answer to memberservices@PriceElectric.coop. A winner will be drawn from all correct entries the last day of the month.

Last month's
Puzzler winner was
Bonnie Szydel.



**When is the secure
pay phone number changing?**

Answer

Name

Account Number

Phone

Email

Please return to Price Electric Cooperative,
P.O. Box 110, Phillips, WI, 54555

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP INCREASE GRID RELIABILITY?

- 1 Register to vote, research where candidates stand on issues affecting reliability, and get out to vote.
- 2 Join Voices for Cooperative Power, a national network of co-op advocates, and help support policies that bolster reliability nationwide.



**JOIN TODAY
AND MAKE A
DIFFERENCE.**

<https://voicesforcooperativepower.com/>

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use, and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight, and drafts.

Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort, and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

Source: energy.gov



ATTENTION

PEC's secure bill
pay phone number is
changing.

As of September
24, 2024, the new
number will be
855-941-3607.

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Amy Jordahl, Editor



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