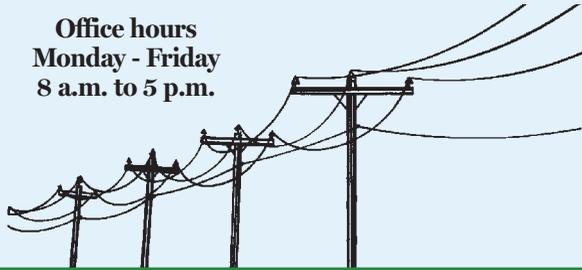


Office hours
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 100 Malinta, OH 43535
Office Calls: 419-256-7900
www.tricountyelectriccoop.coop



TRUSTEES

Steven Hoffman.....	President
Lawrence Weirich	Vice President
Bradley Haupricht Sr.....	Secretary/Treasurer
Kenneth Brubaker	Johne Ritz
Dustin Sonnenberg	Charles Weagley

EMPLOYEES

Brett Perkins, Manager	Craig Wilson
Doug Hall	Jason Warnimont
Sue Bockelman	Jeremy Warnimont
Chris Okuley	Tom Jones
Tyler Flory	Deb Stuller
Sandy Corey	

To report a power outage: 888-256-9858

Your call will be answered by the Cooperative Response Center. Give them the name on your account, service address and a telephone number where you can be reached.

They will dispatch a line crew to restore service.

Be sure to check your fuse or breaker system before reporting a power outage.

Jackpot news!

Hidden account numbers were omitted from the March issue. Therefore four numbers were put in the April issue. We'll let you know next month how many of those four numbers were reported found.

Your account number is on your bill statement. Disregard the zeros at the left in the number, but consider any zeros at the right in the number when converting your number to words.

The hidden account numbers always are in the local pages of the magazine. The jackpot now stands at \$60. So read *Country Living*, find your hidden account number, report it and win!

Special delivery after a storm

OUR LINEWORKERS EMBODY the unofficial creed of the U.S. Postal Service: "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

Mail carriers have regular routes — many of you personally know your local postmaster or rural carrier. Lineworkers at Tricounty know your area, too — they live and work in the community.

If a storm wipes out utility poles and wires, our lineworkers spring into action — and they have backup. Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives Inc. works with all the co-ops across Ohio to mount widespread restoration efforts for the hundreds of thousands of co-op members in our state.

After a severe storm, our support network doesn't end at state lines. Co-op lineworkers from four other states helped rebuild power lines across the hardest-hit parts of the state after last June's derecho.

We never know when the next storm will strike, or how widespread damage may be. Luckily, the men and women of our nation's electric cooperative network stand ready and waiting to keep you connected. Our purpose is simple: We exist to power communities and empower members to improve their quality of life. If a storm destroys power lines, we restore electricity as quickly and safely as possible. The power and determination of the nation's cooperative network speeds the process. ☻



Brett Perkins
General Manager

Don't be left in the *dark* on how power is restored after a *storm*

WAVES OF THUNDER RUMBLE, then roar toward your home as strong winds whip through the trees. Lights flicker and fade as errant tree limbs brush against power lines.

Some storms are silent. In the dead of winter, layer upon layer of ice collects on trees and spread slowly over power lines. One inch of ice on a single span of electric wire weighs as much as 1,250 pounds — a force capable of causing far more damage than wind as the weight drives branches and even whole trees and power lines to the ground.

Tornados, hurricanes, ice storms, blizzards — no matter the weather, the end result may be temporary power loss. Local electric cooperatives routinely trim vegetation near their power lines and remove trees hovering dangerously close to them to prevent outages, a process called right-of-way maintenance. But when nature prevails, lineworkers, engineers and other employees are standing by, ready to take action to get your lights back on.

First things first: Report your outage by calling Tricounty. Then it's a matter of waiting until repairs can be made.

Ever wonder how your co-op decides where to start restoring power? When Tricounty's staff begins assessing storm damage, they focus on fixing the biggest problems first, prioritizing repairs according to how quickly and safely they can get the most homes back into service.

Step One: Clearing the path

Think of the flow of electricity as a river in reverse. It originates at a single ocean of power (a generation plant) and diverges from there into a series of transmission lines, substations and smaller feeder lines until it reaches homes and businesses at a trickle of its original strength.

Transmission lines, which carry power at high voltages from power plants, and local substations, where the voltage is lowered for safe travel to neighborhoods, must both be inspected for damage and repaired before any other efforts take place. After all, if the substation linked to your area's power supply has been damaged, it doesn't matter if lineworkers repair every problem near your home — the lights will stay off.

Step Two: Bulk efforts

After the flow of power is restored to local substations, Tricounty focuses on getting power back to the greatest number of members. Distribution lines in highly populated communities and neighborhoods are checked for damage and generally repaired first, delivering electricity to most members.

What does this mean? You might live on a farm with neighbors a mile or two away, or you could live in a neighborhood surrounded by 10 or 20 homes. Folks in neighborhoods will likely see power return before members in more remote areas. Line repairs are prioritized by the number of members who benefit. Five Nine Nine Six Zero Zero Three

Step Three: One-on-one

After fixing damage blocking power from large pockets of members, co-ops focus on repairing tap lines (also called supply or service lines). These lines deliver power to transformers outside homes and businesses. This is the final stage of power restoration, requiring a bit more patience.

Individual households may receive special attention if loss of electricity affects life-support systems or poses another immediate danger. If you or a family member depends on special medical equipment, call your co-op before an emergency arises.

Still in the dark?

If you notice your neighbors have power while you remain out of service, there might be damage between your home and the transformer on a nearby pole. If you didn't report your outage earlier, be sure

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
*Tricounty Rural Electric
Cooperative extends our best
wishes to all moms
as they
enjoy their
special
day on
May 12.*



Don't be left in the *dark*

to call your co-op so a line crew can make repairs. Two One Five Two Zero Zero Three

There are limits to what the co-op can repair. You — not the co-op — are responsible for damage to the service installation at your home or business. Call a licensed electrician to handle repairs if this is the case.

Stay safe!

After a severe storm, broken power lines may land on the ground or in roadways. Stay away from all fallen power lines and report them to your co-op. Electricity could still be flowing through the line, making them dangerous.

While avoiding downed power lines may seem simple enough, there are other deadly safety concerns after a storm. If a power

outage lasts longer than two hours, consider perishable food. Throw away any food that's been exposed to temperatures above 40° Fahrenheit for two hours or more. An unopened refrigerator keeps food cold for about four hours, while food in a full freezer stays safe for about 48 hours.

If using a portable generator, connect equipment you want to power directly into outlets on the generator with a properly rated extension cord. Never operate a generator inside your home — because of carbon monoxide poisoning — or connect a generator directly to your home's wiring unless your home has been wired for generator use. Lineworkers' lives could be put in danger from power backfeeding onto electric lines.

Connecting the generator to your home's circuits or wiring must be done by a qualified, licensed electrician who will install a transfer switch to prevent backfeeding.

Be prepared

While utilities work hard to reduce the impact strong winds and ice have on power lines, it's good to be prepared for any disaster that might hit your community.

Store a few basic items in your home. You should have at least a three-day supply of water on hand, one gallon per person per day. It's also a good idea to have a three-day supply of nonperishable, high-energy food on hand — protein bars, breakfast bars and canned food are winners.

Remember to store handy tools like a radio, can opener, flashlights, extra batteries, hand sanitizer and first aid supplies. Include a seven-day supply of medications for you or other family members. Finally, retain copies of important documents — birth certificates, passports and insurance policies.

Those are the basics, but you can further customize your emergency kit. Think about including family photos, candy, nuts or other snack food, or a deck of cards to help pass the time. Rechargeable flashlights in key areas of the home provide instant light if the power goes out.

To learn more about how to prepare for storms and other emergencies, visit www.ready.gov.

Sources: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

May really brings out the garage sales. Lots of garage sales. And while you may be anxious to have everything ready for the big sale, we ask that you take a moment and read the following notice about not posting on power poles. We know they are convenient, but nailing signs on power poles can also be very dangerous for our linemen.

Please don't post signs on power poles

Working on power lines can be a dangerous job. Poles do get hit and broken and sometimes must be changed out at night so power can be restored in the area. Handling these poles and the others that must be changed out can be a hazard in the daytime when nails and staples are left behind from all types of signs people have nailed to the poles. It is even more hazardous at night when it is not so easy to see the nails and staples that can puncture safety gloves and tear the linemen's protective clothing and may result in injury. Linemen are on the job to assure you quality, efficient, dependable electric service.

Show them you care. Don't use power poles to post signs and posters. Occasionally we find garage sale, no hunting, property for sale and all types of signs nailed to the poles. Some are very nice signs. We will call and ask the owner of the signs to remove them, rather than our destroying them if we take them down. If the signs are not removed by the owner, we will remove them.



Unclaimed capital credits

ON DEC. 15, 2012, CAPITAL CREDITS refund checks were mailed to people who were patrons of the cooperative in the year 1998. Some of them were returned or have not been cashed. Please review this

list, and if you know the whereabouts of any of these people, have them or their heirs contact our office at 419-256-7900 so these unclaimed checks can be forwarded to the right person. ☺

Nicolas L. Acosta
Marc J. Alexander
Sheri M. Allen
Charles Allwood, Jr.
American Tower Corp.
Wayne Blanton
Joanne Bostelman
Brenden G. Brophy
Larry Busch
Lynn M. Busdiecker
Cablecom Time Warner
Norris Coulson
Brenda K. Cowell
Thomas E. Cox
Mary B. Crigger
Heath Crumley
Mary Ellen Davis
Lawrence J. Drewes, Jr.
Phyllis A. Duggan
Barbara Durain
James E. Eastmann
Terry N. Feasel
Richard C. Fuller
R. Wayne Gilleon
Marcia Gordos
John A. Graham
Lisa Marie Hart
Ronald T. Harper
Jacob Harvey

Darwin E. Heldman
Benjamin Hendricks
Katrina Hope
Bertia Hull
Howard S. Hutchinson
Michael R. Johnson
Kim Johnston
Bob M. Kelly
Deanna L. Kimball
Elizabeth Kimbler
Joseph C. Kirkman, Jr.
Douglas A. Koss, Sr.
Douglas C. Kreinbrink
Shawn M. Lance
Holly Lavoie
Jon A. Lee
Michael E. Mackey
Sondra J. Majerowski
John M. Martinez
Tony J. Mason
Harold Mayle
Michael McCloskey
MCI Worldcom
McQuillin Moses LTD
Roman K. Meyer
Valerie L. Meyers
Robert B. Meyers
Benjamin J. Moss
Cathy M. Myers

Richard R. Parsons
Raymond M. Perkins
Jack J. Pojancki
Kurt A. Reinhart
Patricia A. Romo
Tammy L. Rood
Charles T. Rooks
Beth L. Russell
Jeffrey J. Rutkowski
Danny E. Schetter
Shannon Scott
John Shearman
Robert Sims
Christopher L. Smith
Mark Stevens
Douglas J. Stumm
Chris J. Sutton
Guadalupe Torres
Jeff Tussing
Melda Villagomez
Steven J. Weakley
Scott L. Weaver
Robin L. Williams
James A. Wilmore
Herbert L. Winhoven Sr.
Tammy Wueller
Daniel W. Wyse

Tricounty
Rural Electric
will be closed
Monday,
May 27, in
observance of
Memorial Day.



EMERGENCY SERVICE IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE
24 HOURS A DAY BY CALLING 419-256-7900



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Sleek new flat-panel TVs can consume almost as much electricity as a refrigerator. In general, the bigger the screen, the more power it draws, and HD pulls more, too. Plasma screens use the most energy, while LCD TVs use much less. And remember to change your new TV's default settings to a power saver mode, and turn down the LCD backlight to save energy without sacrificing picture quality.

Source: Cooperative Research Network