



Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



www.harrisonrea.com

When storms happen, who gets their power back on first?

Storms do happen, and can be quite an inconvenience, (which is anytime “your” power goes off). Although we have some well-planned procedures to follow in these situations, each electrical outage usually comes with some unknown variables that cause our plans to change. President Dwight D. Eisenhower once stated, **“Plans are useless, but planning is indispensable.”**

The two snowstorms that hit our service area this past winter were probably the worst storms that most of us can remember. My personal recollection goes back to 1978 when I lived in Ohio. I thought the snow would never quit coming down that winter!

While some of our members suffered extended outages during

these two storms, I don’t believe any of our members were inconvenienced over the Christmas holidays. The Public Service Commission recently held a meeting in Harrison County regarding the length of the storm outages for customers of Allegheny Power, Appalachian Power, Harrison Rural Electric and the five other electric companies that operate in West Virginia. The Consumer Advocate Division of the Public Service Commission of West Virginia decided that since power was restored to most of HREA’s members within 36 hours during the holidays, there was no reason to include us in this public comment hearing.

Several issues were highlighted at this public meeting. First, most other utilities in the state record outages via an automated phone system. (HREA continues to provide a live operator.) Many consumers were upset that they could not speak to a live representative regardless of the emergency. The public also chastised their electric companies for not maintaining rights-of-way properly. Harrison Rural Electric commits more than \$600,000 a year for our right-of-way clearing program. Most of the tree problems we encountered were caused by larger trees situated outside of the defined right-of-way.

Manager’s Corner

by
Gary Jackson,
CEO/General
Manager



Also, since many of HREA’s members live in remote rural areas spread across seven counties, they may be up to two hours away from the office. Add snow-related conditions to that scenario, and you can begin to understand the problems we face in our restoration efforts.

To summarize how we restore power, first, transmission lines are repaired. Second, the substations served by those transmission lines go back on. Third, main distribution supply lines and three-phase circuits are put back in service. Fourth, taps off of the three-phase circuits are re-energized, and lastly, individual services and transformers are restored to power.

We strive to restore power to the largest number of people with the least amount of effort first. However, emergency situations like downed power lines and other potentially life-threatening situations are given high priority.

Although you may be the last one to have your power restored, be assured that although no plan is perfect, our genuine concern for our members is always foremost on our minds.

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Now, most folks faced with this situation would do what comes naturally: get out of the car. But Lee and Ashley knew better. Not a week earlier they had attended a safety demonstration at their school sponsored by their local electric co-op. One of the key messages relayed was “stay in your car if it ever hits a power pole, where you’ll be safe from any electrical current.”

The two did just that, and kept their friends in the car and family members at a safe distance once they arrived. As a result, the entire group walked away with just a few minor injuries. However, without a

The electricity Harrison Rural Electric Association provides day in and day out is a phenomenal resource, powering our modern lifestyles in a safe, reliable and affordable way. But electricity must be respected: if safety isn't made a priority, what changes our lives for the better could change them for the worse in an instant.

Lee and Ashley know this from experience, and we're striving to keep you informed of electrical safety so you don't have to learn a similar lesson the hard way.

Safety has been a part of the fundamental culture at Harrison Rural Electric Association since day one. Being an electric lineworker is ranked by the U.S. Department of Labor as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs, on the same list as fishermen, loggers and military servicemen. We demand that not only those out in the field but employees at all levels make safety a top priority.

We hope there won't be any stories about Harrison Rural Electric Association members getting into sticky situations like Lee and Ashley. But if there are, a few minutes spent studying safety today could ensure a happy ending.



Tip of the Month

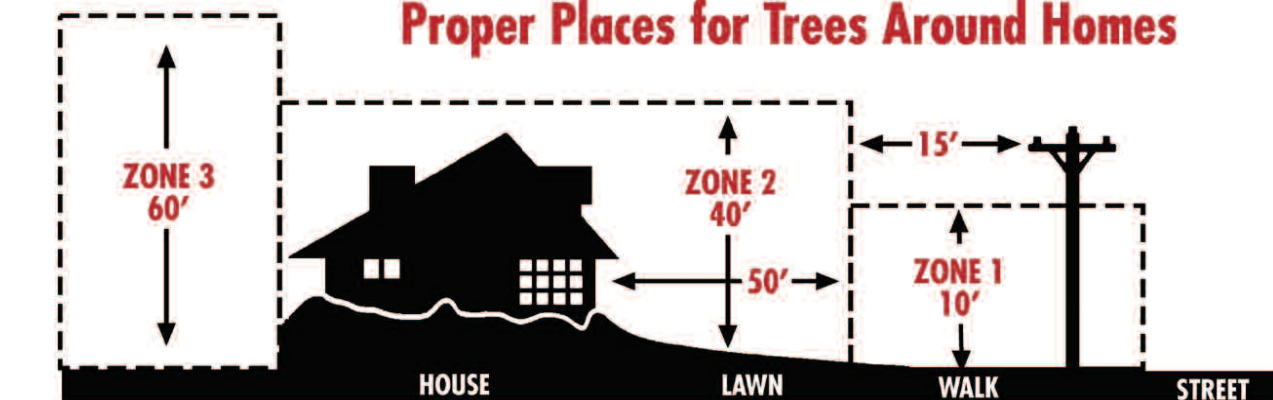
Properly hooking up your clothes dryer can help save on energy costs. The outdoor dryer exhaust door should close when the dryer is off. Check to make sure the dryer vent hose is tightly connected to the dryer and also to the inside wall fitting. The vent hose should not be kinked or clogged.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives



Happy
Mother's Day
May 9

Proper Places for Trees Around Homes



ZONE 2 TREES THAT GROW 60 FEET IN HEIGHT

Larger types of trees can be used here; however, they should be planted at least 35 feet away from the house for proper root development and to minimize tree damage to the house.

ZONE 2 TREES THAT GROW NO TALLER THAN 40 FEET

This zone, which takes in mostly lawn area, is used to decorate or frame your house. Trees should be selected first, then shrubs can be planted to complement the trees.

ZONE 1 TREES THAT GROW NO TALLER THAN 10 FEET

This zone ends 15 feet away from electric utility lines. If you see a tree that is growing too near one of our lines, please contact us right away so we can either trim or replace the tree.

Harrison Rural Electric will be closed Monday,
May 31, in observance of Memorial Day.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



How to Clean Up a Broken Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb (CFL)



1

Ventilate the room.



2

Scoop up powder and glass fragments using stiff paper or cardboard. Seal in a plastic bag.



3

Use duct tape to pick up any fragments or powder.

4

Immediately place all materials used to clean up and the plastic bag in an outdoor trash container. Remember to wash your hands.



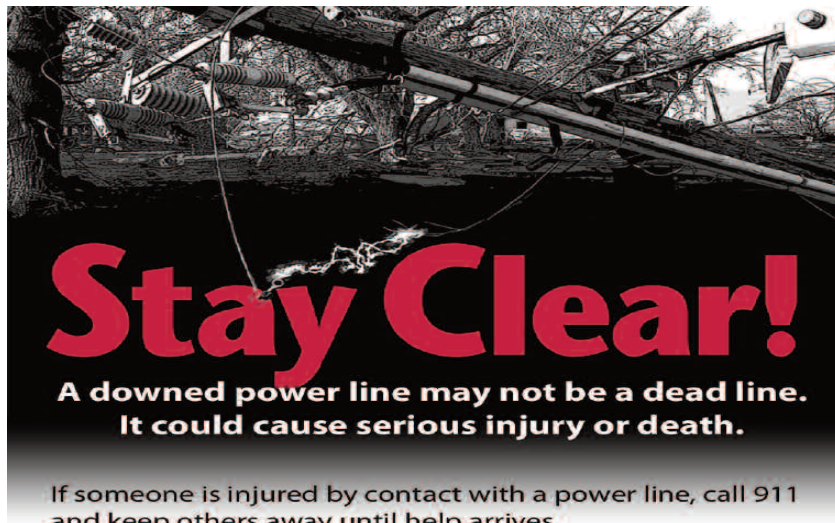
5

Discard any clothing or bedding that comes in direct contact with broken glass or powder from inside the bulb. Washing tainted items may cause mercury fragments in clothing to contaminate the machine and/or pollute sewage.

To learn more about CFLs and why you should be careful when cleaning up a broken bulb, visit www.epa.gov.



Source: Electrical Safety Foundation Institute, YASLY



Stay Clear!

A downed power line may not be a dead line. It could cause serious injury or death.

If someone is injured by contact with a power line, call 911 and keep others away until help arrives.

If a power line falls across or near your vehicle while you are in it, stay inside until help arrives. If you must exit, jump clear so that no part of your body is touching the car when you land. **KEEP BOTH FEET TOGETHER**, and shuffle or hop at least 30 feet away from the vehicle.



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How to test electrical outlets

Since the 1970s ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) have saved thousands of lives, helping cut the number of home electrocutions in half. The safety devices prevent deadly shock by quickly shutting off power to the circuit if the electricity flowing into the circuit differs from the amount returning. The safety devices should be used in any indoor or outdoor area where water may come into contact with electrical products.

GFCIs should be tested once a month to make sure they're working properly. To test a device, follow these four steps:



1

Push the "Reset" button of the GFCI receptacle to prepare the unit for testing.



2

Plug in an ordinary night light into the GFCI and turn it on. The light should now be **ON**.



3

Push the "Test" button of the GFCI. The nightlight should go **OFF**.



4

Push the "Reset" button again. The nightlight should go **ON** again.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

Lounging at poolside is a time to relax, not the time to worry about energy efficiency. For many pool owners, however, their pools are wasting electricity. The energy used to operate the cleaning and filtering equipment of a typical pool for one swimming season can equal the energy used to power an average home for the same period.

Energy Efficiency

Have a pool? It may need an energy audit. Pool pumps can be huge energy consumers. A typical pool can use as much energy as a house.

Residential swimming pool pumps circulate and filter pool water to maintain clarity and sanitation. The pump motors range from one-half to three horsepower (hp) in size and typically operate from four to 10 hours per day. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) estimates the average service life of a standard pool pump to be 10 years. Pool pumps burn through more than three times the electricity of a new refrigerator and can represent the largest single electrical end-use in homes that have a pool. National consumption of energy by pool pumps increased from 1.1 million kWh in 1976 to 6.4 million kWh in 1995, and is expected to reach 9.8 million kWh in 2010.

By replacing a standard pump and motor assembly with a multi-speed pump (variable-, two- and four-speed), pool owners can save up to 50 percent (or roughly \$900) on the annual cost of filtering their pools, compared to the typical single-speed pump. However, this savings can be gained only by installing a multi-speed pump and running it mostly at lower speeds. Similarly, replacing a standard pool pump with a high-efficiency unit—a model that has one-fourth to one-half the hp of the original—can result in savings of up to 12 percent on the operational costs.

Multi-speed pool pumps save energy because the motor speed can be reduced, thereby reducing the water speed. In other words, during a typical eight-

hour period, a two-speed filtration pool pump operates on high speed for two hours and low speed for six hours. The water moving through the piping reduces the overall system head pressure, which in turn requires less energy to move the water.

Energy Efficiency *quick tip*

Have a pool? It may need an energy efficiency upgrade!
Pool pumps can be huge energy hogs: during swimming season a typical pool can use as much electricity as an average home.



Multi-speed pool pumps like this one save energy by running at lower speeds for part of the day. Reducing the pump speed by half actually reduces the power requirement of the pump by three-quarters. Source: Pentair Water Pool and Spa, Inc.

A surprising benefit of reduced pump speed is the reduction in energy use. Reducing the pump speed by half actually reduces the power requirement of the pump by three-quarters. Although the pump needs to run twice as long at a lower speed to filter the same amount of water, the unit will still use only one-quarter of the energy required for full speed. In other words, running the pump for 16 hours at low speed still costs about half as much as running the pump for eight hours at high speed. Full-speed operation is still available for more intensive activities, however, such as backwashing or vacuuming.

Keep in mind that proper pipe design and appropriate filter sizing play a significant role in maximizing efficiency.

Another option soaks up the same rays that make poolside so appealing in the first place: replacing a standard pool-pump motor with a properly sized solar-powered version can also achieve savings. A solar-powered pump can run on DC power supplied directly from the solar panels, resulting in more efficiency than typical AC pool pumps. Solar is a logical choice for pool pumps because they are used more in summer months when there are more hours of sunlight. However, the effectiveness of solar-powered systems is very dependent on local climate conditions, whereas multi-speed pool pumps perform consistently regardless of location.

Swimming pools are great places for fun and relaxation. Swapping out a single-speed pump for a multi-speed pump and operating it on low speed, or using a solar pool pump, will also make the pool an energy-efficient oasis.