

The Force is With You

Electricity is a powerful form of energy we live with every day of our lives, and which we probably couldn't live without. And, we have learned how to control this energy so it can be delivered to your home or business safely. It comes in the form of substations, transformers, power lines and meters. Yet, two things make getting power to you possible – control and safety. We must be able to control the way the power is delivered to ensure your safety.

Unfortunately, we also have a force we cannot control and it impacts the safety of our members and our employees. It causes damage to the substations, transformers, power lines and meters. It's the power of a storm. Already this year, we have seen the damage a storm can do to providing power safely. Things that were supposed to be in the air were now on the ground – our power lines – and the control and safety seemed compromised.

Yet, we also have a force to combat storms so we can control and provide power safely; we have you our members. It is through your safe actions, as stated below, we can gain control and provide power to you again, safely. The force is with you!

- Report any power outages promptly to the cooperative.
- Never go into areas with debris or downed trees. Dangerous power lines may be buried in the wreckage.
- Stay indoors if it is dark outside. Power lines, transformers, etc. could be on the ground.



- Do not attempt to remove a tree limb or other objects from a power line. Electricity can travel through limbs, especially when they are wet.
- Never drive over downed power lines or through water that is in contact with them.
- When venturing outside, be very alert of your surroundings. If you encounter a fallen power line, stay at least 35 feet away. Avoid touching any objects the line may be laying on such as a fence, a car, or a light pole as the object could be energized.
- Exercise caution near chain link fences. Dangerous lines may touch the metal.
- Never touch a person or animal that is in direct or indirect contact with a downed power line.
- Do not touch a circuit breaker or replace a fuse with wet hands or while standing on a wet surface.
- Avoid stepping in puddles and standing water after a storm as they may be touching hidden, downed power lines and be electrified.
- Should a line fall on your vehicle, stay inside the vehicle until professional help arrives. If your vehicle catches fire, avoid making contact with the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Jump from the vehicle, landing with both feet together. Hop away until you are 100 feet from the vehicle. This is a safe distance from the downed power line.