



2022 SUMMER STORMS

Many across the state and nation visit our community to see the rolling hills and serenity that Holmes and Wayne counties have to offer. And in the fall, the colors of the vibrant trees take your breath away. We don't take for granted that we live in one of the most beautiful places in the world. But at midnight the morning of June 14, the beauty of those trees was attacked.

Two fronts collided and formed a derecho that caused 90 mph wind shears. In a matter of minutes, war-like destruction was left behind. A line of storms nearly as strong as the first, with hail, followed a few hours later, adding to the damage. The National Weather Service reported wind gusts up to 94 mph.

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative annually has emergency restoration preparation day to prepare for catastrophic storms, so your cooperative team is ready if and when such events occur.

In every storm, there are different challenges. Our initial challenge was the ability to navigate through such devastation. Holmes County reported 90% of county roads and eight of 12 state routes were closed. The size of trees that fell were not easy, quick debris removal for road crews from a transportation aspect or for our tree-trimming crews in order for our line crews to reach damaged electrical infrastructure. Critical first steps were for safety. Within two hours of the first storm, Holmes County was declared a level 3 travel advisory, with only emergency personnel allowed on the road.

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HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES



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The second step was to assess the magnitude of damage. With 13,209 members without power (75% of our meters) and 10 of our 18 substations experiencing transmission outages as our transmission supplier, AEP, worked on damaged transmission lines, we knew this was going to be a long and involved restoration process that would require assistance and community support.

The hardest hit areas in our service territory were Jeromesville, Millbrook, Shreve, Holmesville and Moreland. In our territory, the majority of our rights-of-way are not along the road, but cut through woods and valleys. When a major storm hits our tree-filled community, the destruction is massive. HWEC averages seven members per mile versus investor-owned utilities like AEP and First Energy who serve villages and cities in our area that average 35 members per mile. So our restoration efforts look very different.

Over the next several days, we worked to remove massive trees, replace 252 broken poles, and restring over 25 miles of line as well as replace damaged transformers and variety of equipment. Our crews faced situations such as having to replace five broken poles just to restore power to one house, making restoration efforts labor and time intensive.

Even a week after full restoration, we are still working on the aftereffects of the storm damage. The following weeks will be spent reconnecting residences that had to complete repairs on damaged homes, clearing our rights-of-way to prevent future outages, additional maintenance to equipment damaged from the storm, and debris cleanup.

This storm highlighted the commitment and dedication of your Holmes-Wayne Electric staff. Many working without power at home themselves, some having home and property damage and others having to chainsaw trees and walk to roads just to get to work to begin restoration efforts. That is the power of the cooperative. We are your neighbors, and we are focused on serving our community.

We also had the blessing of mutual aide from other cooperatives in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky as well as contractor line crews and tree-trimming experts who shared the same passion of safe and efficient power restoration. But most importantly, we had a community that came together and shined its kindness to not only us, but the hundreds that were here to help.

With over 200 additional men and women working to bring the lights back on for HWEC, it took a behind-the-scenes support team. HWEC staff managed the vast amount of inventory supplies needed, coordinated hotel rooms and laundry for visiting crews, delivered 200 lunches per day to work sites throughout our service territory, provided on-site



dinner every evening, and much more. Also, our dispatch room organized coordination of crews in a safe and efficient manner. The management outage system, supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system, and GPS positioning of all trucks is critical to keeping all personnel safe and using resources to their fullest potential. Data management from this team allows our members to have access to our online outage map, which updates every 10 minutes, allowing our members to have the most up-to-date outage numbers by county and township.

We want to express our deep appreciation to you the members who offered a cool beverage, a snack, or words of encouragement to our staff and guest. A special thanks to LL Log Cabin Catering, Ltd., who donated an amazing lasagna meal for all employees and visiting crews, and Lerch's Donuts for their wonderful blueberry donuts. Also to Rodhe's IGA Marketplace and White Law Office, Co. for donations of water and Gatorade. Trail Side Deli and Kauffmans Country Market employees made a personal donation toward the food for working crews, and Beaver Meats and Walnut Creek Foods provided freezer trucks.

We never take for granted the privilege we have of serving this community!

Thank you to the visiting crews who helped our community!

Lorain-Medina Rural Electric Cooperative – Ohio
Midwest Energy & Communications – Michigan
South Central Power Company – Ohio
Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative – Ohio
Claverack REC & Revolution – Pennsylvania
Kenergy – Kentucky
Carroll Electric Cooperative – Ohio
Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. – Pennsylvania
Northwestern REC – Pennsylvania
Valley Rural Electric Cooperative – Pennsylvania
North Central Electric Cooperative – Ohio
Buckeye Rural Electric Cooperative – Ohio
Thompson Electric – contractor
New River Electrical – contractor
The Davey Tree Expert Company – contractor
Kidron Tree Service – contractor





Mann and Grassbaugh retire from HWEC board



Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative recognized Dave Mann and Bill Grassbaugh at the May 2022 board meeting. Both board members are retiring, after a combined 40 years of service to the cooperative. HWEC President/CEO Glenn Miller says, “I have enjoyed working with both Dave and Bill. They have been great board members. They were dedicated and committed to the success of the cooperative.”

Mann has served on the board since 2001. He was elected vice chairman in 2011. “I have really enjoyed the time serving on HWEC board,” he says. “It has been a privilege to serve, and I look forward to seeing the next generation taking the cooperative to new levels. After the devastating 2004 ice storm, a big transition was made. The cooperative invested in equipment, facilities, infrastructure, and staffing.”

Grassbaugh echoed many of the same thoughts. “It’s been an honor to serve this community for 19 years,” he says. “I have seen tremendous changes and growth at Holmes-Wayne. There has been focus on upgrading substations and building new substations, as well as critical tie lines to each substation to provide reliable service and reduced outage times for our members.” Grassbaugh represented the cooperative at the Farm Science Review for several years.

Both board members expressed the value of dedicated staff who go above and beyond to serve the members. That’s the cooperative difference. Your board is local, your employees are local. We care about the future of our community.



Holmes-Wayne
Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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