



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

OUTAGE MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGIES

IMPROVE RELIABILITY

It's often said that the only things certain in life are death and taxes. Well, we can add another item to that list: power outages. An outage can range from annoying to dangerous, depending on its timing and length.

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative's primary goal is to deliver the highest quality electric service possible at the lowest possible price. Perhaps the key measure of quality in the eyes of members is the number of times their lights blink or go out.

Let's talk a bit about how the grid is designed to help you see how technology is improving reliability by reducing blinks and outages. Along the power lines that bring electricity to your home, Holmes-Wayne Electric installs protective devices in the form of fuses and reclosers (high-voltage circuit breakers). Fuses and reclosers serve the same purpose as the fuses and circuit breakers in your home.

A fuse is a one-shot device. When a fault occurs, the fuse blows and everyone downstream from it loses

power. Reclosers are multi-shot devices, meaning they can operate a certain number of times before they stay open and an outage occurs. A common setting is what's known as a triple-shot. Here's how that works: a tree

limb contacts the power lines and creates a fault; the recloser senses it and opens, creating the first blink.

Here's where a recloser differs from your home circuit breaker. It waits a certain amount of time (typically a few seconds), then recloses to try and complete the circuit. If the fault is still there, it opens again. This creates the second blink. Triple-shot settings allow the device to reclose a third time, and if the fault is still there, it stays open and the members downstream experience a power outage.

Blinks are a nuisance, but they eliminate a lot of extended outages by protecting wires and equipment from serious damage.

So, what kind of technology is improving service reliability? The Smart Grid is spawning an amazing array of equipment and software that are already improving reliability. When combined with field construction practices, like building multiple ways to feed power loads, the future of reliability is bright — pun intended.

Electric co-ops are starting to use more intelligent electronic devices. "Intelligent" devices allow the co-op to program the device to behave a certain way when a specific event occurs. It also means the co-op can remotely command the device to take an action, either preprogrammed or ad hoc.

Inevitably, there will be a power outage despite the best efforts of Holmes-Wayne Electric. That is where our outage management system (OMS) is so valuable. The OMS can communicate with your electric co-op. The OMS maps system communicates outage information from electronic devices located in our substations and based on calls from our members. When a device on the substation identifies loss of power, we know that the issue is either equipment at the substation or our transmission supplier. The OMS also predicts line sections and feeders outages based on when a minimum portion of the members on that line communicate an outage.

Now, the whole suite of systems your co-op uses comes into play. The co-op dispatcher can call out or redirect a crew to the nearest location of the problem. A map of the outage and number of impacted members is generated and member service reps are notified that an outage is in progress.



Glenn W. Miller
President/CEO

Intelligent electric devices allow the co-op to program the device to behave a certain way when a specific event occurs.

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PLEASE MAKE ROOM FOR ROADSIDE CREWS



 Holmes-Wayne
Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

When the power goes out, so do Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative's line crews. Lineworkers are the first to respond after an outage occurs, and they work tirelessly to restore power to the communities we serve.

If you're traveling and see one of our crews on the side of the road, we kindly ask that you move over, if possible, and give them a little extra space to work. We deeply care about the safety of everyone, and this extra precaution ensures just that.

If you approach a crew while traveling on a two-lane road, moving over to the next lane might not be an option. In this case, we simply ask that you slow down when approaching roadside crews.

Utility crews aren't the only ones who could use the extra space. Emergency responders, such as police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians, often find themselves responding to emergency situations near busy roadways. We ask that you follow the same procedures mentioned above to help keep these crews safe.

There's plenty of room for all. Let's work together to keep everyone safe on our local roadways.



Look for *hazards* during harvest

It can be an exciting and exhausting time — the culmination of a season of hard work. However, the rush to harvest can also yield tragic outcomes. Each year, dozens of farm workers are killed and hundreds are injured in accidents involving power lines and electrical equipment.

“Things people see every day can fade from view, and it’s easy for farm workers to forget about the power lines overhead,” says Richard McCracken of the Safe Electricity Advisory Board. “But failure to notice them can be a deadly oversight.”

Review with all workers the farm activities that take place around power lines. Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance. Keep equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines — above, below, and to the side — a 360-degree rule.

“Always lower grain augers before moving them, even if it’s only a few feet,” says Bob Aherin, PhD, CSP, and University of Illinois Professor and Agricultural Safety and Health Program Leader. “Variables like wind, uneven ground, shifting weight, or other conditions can combine to create an unexpected result.”

Workers should always take these safety steps:

- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines. Do not let the spotter touch the machinery while it is being moved anywhere near power lines.
- Be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles, or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, ropes, and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust, and dirt contamination.

- Never attempt to raise a power line to clear a path!
- Don’t use metal poles to break up bridged grain inside bins. Know where and how to shut off the power in an emergency.
- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

Operators of farm equipment must also know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line: Stay on the equipment, warn others to stay away, and call 911. *Do not get off the equipment until the utility crew says it is safe to do so.*

“If the power line is energized and you step outside, touching the vehicle and ground, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result,” Aherin said. “Even if a power line has landed on the ground, the potential for the area nearby to be energized still exists. Stay inside the vehicle unless there’s fire or imminent risk of fire.”

If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together, without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Some electrocutions have occurred after the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment.

It is very important that all farm workers and seasonal employees are informed of electrical hazards and trained in proper procedures to avoid injury. For more information on farm electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.



HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES



BILL PAY

Are you still mailing a check to pay your electric bill?

- *Save money (no stamp)*
- *Save time*
- *Pay the way you want with no service fees for any form of payment*



AUTOMATIC PAYMENT – Have your bill paid every month on the date it's due directly from your choice of checking or credit card.

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SMARTHUB-SCHEDULED PAYMENT – Plan your payment around your schedule, your next paycheck, your vacation plans, or when it is convenient for your monthly budget.

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The end result of all this technology is the minimization of outages and their length, plus more availability of up-to-date information for the consumer. Members can view the summary outage map at any time on our website at www.hwecoop.com.

Also, through our mobile app, SmartHub, members can now communicate their outage through their smartphone.

Weather, car accidents, and animals can be tough opponents, and it's impossible to eliminate outages and blinks altogether. But with the way technology is advancing and the dedication of our HWEC staff, you will continue to see strong service from your local electric cooperative.



**Holmes-Wayne
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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