

# The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## President's Comments



**Dustin Tripp**  
President/CEO

The National Weather Service has classified the storm that occurred on the evening of June 29, 2018 as a derecho, which is defined as a widespread, long-lived wind storm (with wind speeds of at least 58 mph) associated with a band of rapidly moving thunderstorms often referred to as a squall line, straight-line winds or bow echo. This storm also included a tornado near Johnston City. This severe storm ripped through southern Illinois causing significant damage in all 10 counties served by your cooperative. Damages caused by this storm included structure damage, downed trees, snapped tree limbs, broken power poles, broken power lines and scattered debris.

Once the storm moved through our service territory, the cooperative had approximately 8,000 members without service throughout the entire service area. At that time, all of the cooperative employees were working on the restoration process and additional Illinois cooperative crews and contract crews were called in to assist in the restoration process.

On Thursday, June 29, your cooperative employees that had already worked their normal 8-hour day responded to the outage calls as the storm hit and worked through Thursday night and continued working all day and late into the night Friday restoring services to members. Additional line and forestry personnel from five other Illinois cooperatives and local contractors arrived and assisted in the restoration process. By Friday night, the cooperative had restored service to over 6,500 members.

As you know, the cooperative must

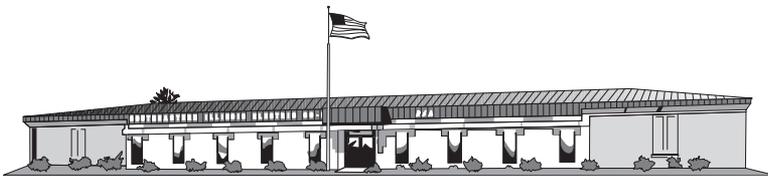
initially focus on re-energizing primary sections of power lines that restore power to as many members as possible. As the restoration continues, secondary sections of power lines are restored. All employees, other Illinois cooperatives and local contractors worked approximately 17-18 hours on Saturday restoring service to over 1,300 more members. The remaining few hundred meters, many of them being individual services, were restored on Sunday.

Numerous downed trees and limbs across the roads made the process of traveling to damaged areas difficult and time consuming. Once the crews arrived, they had to clear trees, limbs and other debris from the power lines and begin the process of repairing wire and replacing poles. The extreme heat made working conditions even more difficult.

At the conclusion of this storm, I would like to express a great deal of gratitude to all of the hard working and dedicated employees, other Illinois cooperative employees and contractors who made this restoration possible. These crews worked in extreme conditions while restoring service as the heat index exceeded 105 degrees during the restoration period. I would also like to thank all of you as cooperative members and owners for your understanding of the magnitude of this storm, your patience and your assistance.

As many of you already know, all my articles normally end with the slogan, "We'll keep the lights on for you." However, given the magnitude of this severe storm, my slogan this month will be, "We turned the lights back on for you."

READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:  
Jordan Ude, Marion, IL



# 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



## 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

## 2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

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## 3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



## 4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



## 5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



Source: call811.com



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

# Power line safety after the storm

Severe weather happens year-round. Tornadoes, hurricanes and other storms can seriously damage power lines and other electrical equipment. Storm damage causes dangers that lurk after a storm has passed. Safe Electricity encourages you to be aware of and prepared for those dangers.

When you see power lines on the ground following a storm, stay away, warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines sagging or down, could be in contact with an energized power line making them dangerous, so stay away from all of them.

Be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. A downed power line can energize things around it, such as chain link fences and metal culverts.

Keep in mind that a line that's indeed "dead" could become energized during power restoration efforts or improper use of generators.

If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or the electric utility. Never drive over a downed line. It could cause poles or other equipment to come crashing down.

If you are in a car that has come in contact with a downed power line, stay in your vehicle. Wait until the utility has arrived and de-energized the line. Warn others not to approach the car. If you must leave your car, only in the case of fire, jump free from the car and hop away from it with both feet together.

If you have a generator, know how to use it safely. If your generator is permanent, call a qualified electrician to install it.



## ***VACATION ELECTRIC SAFETY***

*As you take that last-minute vacation before school starts, be conscious of electric safety. If you come upon electric wires on the ground, or if wires fall on your car, assume they are live. Call 911, stay calm and don't leave your vehicle.*

*For more electric safety tips, contact SouthEastern Electric Cooperative.*



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



**The Cooperative will be closed on Monday, September 3rd in observance of Labor Day.**

# POWER OUTAGE

**If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions**

1. Check the fuses or circuit breakers in your service panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole, check the main breaker panel just below the meter socket. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all of your wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears to be okay, reset the breaker to the "ON" position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 1-877-399-8405. This phone number is monitored around the clock, 365 days per year to accept your outage and emergency calls.
5. Your phone call will be handled by SouthEastern's automated outage reporting system and will be identified automatically through ANI (Automatic Number Identification). An outage record will then be generated

for your location. Please note that the phone number from which you place the call will be the number used to generate the record. If the system fails to recognize your phone number, members having touch-tone phones may simply enter their seven-digit phone number (without area code) in order to report the outage. Members not having touch-tone phones will be asked to leave a message. It is important you leave your name, phone number and location of the outage. Retrieving messages and entering them into the system is time consuming; therefore, please leave only a message that will help in restoration of electric service. Do not remain on the line for an operator because a live operator is not there to respond. In order to keep a current listing of all numbers, it is important that you notify the Cooperative of any changes in your telephone number.

6. Handling outage calls electronically allows you to report power failures very quickly. Once your outage has been reported, it will be dispatched to repair personnel who will restore your outage as soon as possible. Calling back repeatedly will not shorten the length of the outage, but may hinder the efforts of other members who are trying to report outages.

**OUTAGE CALLS ONLY 1-877-399-8405**

**SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
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618-273-2611 or 800-833-2611 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F