

Outages occur following two wintery ice events



◀ Crews work to replace a span of five poles downed near Macon, Illinois.

A Shelby Electric Cooperative crew, with assistance from a Jackson Purchase Energy Corp. crew from Paducah, Kentucky, repairs a line brought down by ice and wind near the Findlay-Assumption blackout. ▶



The cooperative was hit twice with ice related outages. On Monday night, January 31, crews worked through the night to restore power to 450 members. Round two followed on Tuesday with the cooperative having approximately 3,500 members out of power at its peak. Shelby crews with the help of

five, two-man crews from Jackson Purchase; a four-man crew from Adams Electric Cooperative from Camp Point, Illinois and a contractor crew provided by Prairie Power, Inc. headquartered in Jacksonville, Illinois had restored power to all members by late in the evening on February 3. Members were able to

follow the restoration progress by visiting the cooperative's facebook page [facebook.com/YourCoop](https://www.facebook.com/YourCoop) as well as the traditional media outlets.

See page 9 of this issue of Illinois Country Living for more storm pictures.

<p>Shelby Energy 1-217-774-2311 24-hours-a-day</p>	<p>PWR-net & WildBlue Internet 1-877-994-2323 weekdays</p>	<p>Shelby Electric Cooperative 1-800-677-2612 1-217-774-3986 24-hours-a-day</p>
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The POWER of Green

What better way to dust off those winter blues than by doing a little spring-cleaning? Where to start? How about scouring your house for items to bring to Shelby Electric Cooperative's Power of Green collection site which is located on East Route 16 in Shelbyville. We accept aluminum, newspapers and magazines, plastics #1 and #2, tin and steel cans, corrugated cardboard and office paper. Our hours of collection are Tuesdays and Saturdays 8 a.m. to noon and Thursdays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Over 20 tons of recyclable waste has been collected and taken to MidState Salvage in Taylorville to be processed since our program began in July of 2010. Thank you to all who have contributed to that number. We look forward to seeing new faces in 2011.

Should my CFL do that?

A traditional incandescent light bulb burns out with a pop and flash. Once removed from the socket, a slight shake of the bulb will garner the rattle of the broken filament.

Compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) bulbs burn out a little differently. Usually, the light produced dims over the bulb's life. At burn out, it may produce a louder pop, emit an odor and possibly release some smoke. Some CFLs will blacken at the base. This is normal and UL safety standards require that special flame retardant plastics are used.

The National Electrical Manufacturers Association's recommendations for consumers are:

- Only purchase CFLs that have a UL mark on the lamp to be sure they meet the existing safety requirements.
- Follow all manufacturer instructions and cautions that are on the product or packaging, including where not to use the CFL.
- Save packaging and instructions for future reference.
- Understand some behavior and



failure modes will be different from traditional incandescent bulbs.

- Replace a CFL at the first sign of odor, smoke, flashing or audible noise.
- Return any CFL they feel did not fail in a safe manner to the manufacturer for possible further analysis.

Shelby Electric Cooperative does accept unbroken household CFLs for recycling.

SHELBY News

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Office Hours:
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



REMINDER:

The screenshot shows the website header for Shelby Electric Cooperative, Inc. with navigation tabs: Home, About Shelby Electric, Products and Services, Cooperative News, Our Community, Contact Us, and Search. The 'Our Community' dropdown menu is open, listing various programs like Co-op Connections Card, MariastPlace, Scholarship Programs, Youth Programs, Just For Kids, and Safe Electricity. An inset window titled 'Scholarship Programs' is visible, listing the Shelby Electric Scholarship Program, Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Scholarship Program, LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship, and the Accountability Innovation section.

Shelby Electric scholarship applications are due March 15, 2011. Applications may be found on our website www.shelbyelectric.coop. Go to the "Our Community" tab and select Scholarship Programs (see inset). Applications have also been sent to area high school guidance counselors.

REAL LIFE REAL POWER

Failure to clean

This month's article is not about teenagers' bedrooms. Instead, it is about efficiency and safety in the laundry room. According to the United States Fire Administration, "failure to clean" is the leading factor contributing to clothes dryer fires in residential buildings.

It is important to clean the dryer's lint filter after every use. However, not all of the lint is trapped by the dryer's filter. Some lint is carried into the dryer vent and can accumulate which reduces the air flow and can cause overheating. If you notice heavy laundry (such as jeans and towels)

taking a long time to dry or if laundry feels hotter than normal at the end of the drying cycle, chances are the dryer vent is clogged.

Optimally, the exhaust vent should vent directly to the outside in a short, straight path. Flexible vents can sag and kink, allowing lint to build up and create a fire hazard. Dryers should not be vented into the attic, crawl space, basement or other interior locations.

Check the dryer vent from the outside of the house, too. Lint can build up and plug the outlet or not allow the louvers to completely close when not in use. Occasionally, small

birds or animals may try to nest in the outside vent.

Regular dryer care will not only reduce the risk of fire it will also improve the efficiency of your unit. Filters and vents that are not clean make the dryer work harder and use more energy.

With spring around the corner, you may choose to install or resume using a clothes line. Every hour of dryer time costs approximately 55 cents in electricity. Get a breath of fresh air for you and your laundry!

Source: US Department of Homeland Security, www.usfa.dhs.gov/statistics/reports/



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

A significant amount of the average home energy bill pays for heating water. Take five-minute showers instead of baths and make sure your water heater is set no higher than 120° F.

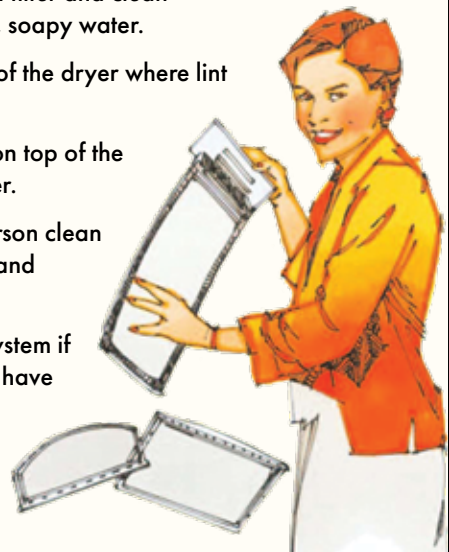
Source U.S. Department of Energy

Stay Safe, Energy Efficient and Lint Free

For energy efficient and safe dryer performance, lint must be removed from the dryer and vent to allow air to circulate freely. Here are ways to avoid lint buildup:

- Clean the lint filter after each load.
- Occasionally remove the lint filter and clean it with a nylon brush and hot, soapy water.
- Periodically clean the back of the dryer where lint can be trapped.
- Keep the area around and on top of the dryer clean and free of clutter.
- Have a qualified service person clean the interior of the appliance and venting system once a year.
- Thoroughly clean the vent system if you notice your drying times have increased.

Source: Underwriters Laboratories



Planning spring work outside? Steer clear of power lines.

By Megan McKay-Noe, CCC

Whether you're a contractor or a do-it-yourselfer, always use caution when working near power lines and never get closer than 10 feet to an overhead line.

"Electricity flows through metal, wood, water and many other conducting materials, including human beings — all in an effort to reach the ground," according to Marla Eversole, Shelby Electric Cooperative's Member Services Representative. "Small birds can sit on power lines unhurt because they don't create a path to ground. You and your ladder do."

A line doesn't have to be touched to spark danger — electricity can jump, or arc, from a power line to a person or equipment that gets too close. When equipment comes into contact with power lines, it becomes energized and dangerous.

"Overhead power lines are not insulated," warns Eversole. "Touching a power line or an object in contact with one can result in serious injury — even death. Please contact us if you're working near power lines so that we can help you stay safe."

Working too close to power lines is not only deadly — often it's against the law. Some states have a statute in place, commonly called the 10-Foot Rule, requiring land owners to notify the local utility if any work will be done within 10 feet of a power line.

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)



Ladders placed too close to power lines become dangerous conduits of electricity.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

advises the best protection is lots of space. Don't operate equipment around overhead power lines unless you are authorized and trained to do so. You should also let Shelby Electric Cooperative know when you're working within 10 feet of power lines.

OSHA provides these general guidelines:

When working near overhead power lines, the use of non-conductive fiberglass ladders is recommended.

If an object (scaffolds, cranes, etc.) must be moved near overhead power lines, appoint a worker whose sole responsibility is to observe the clearance between the power lines and the object. Warn others if the minimum distance is not maintained. Never touch an overhead line if it has been brought down by machinery or has fallen. Never assume lines are dead.

When a machine is in contact with an overhead line, DO NOT allow anyone to come near or touch the machine. Stay away from the machine and contact Shelby Electric Cooperative.

If you should be in a vehicle in contact with an overhead power line, DON'T LEAVE THE VEHICLE. As long as you stay inside and avoid touching outside metal, you should avoid an electrical hazard. If you need to exit to summon help or because of fire, jump out without touching any wires or the exterior, keep your feet together and hop to safety.

If you're planning to build a home or other structures near power lines, call Shelby Electric Cooperative at (800)677-2612.

Source: U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Electrical Safety Foundation Institute



Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 13 as daylight saving time begins.