

# Electric Line Newsletter

## Cooperation Between Cooperatives

The Midwest is no stranger to bad spring weather. In April, the Midwest was hit by a large winter storm causing extensive power outages. Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was lucky; we were able to restore power to our members quickly. Some cooperatives weren't. Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services in Albert Lea, MN sent out a request for additional linemen and equipment through the ROPE (Restoration of Power in an Emergency) program on Thursday, April 11th. The storm delivered high winds, snow, and ice to southern Minnesota.

In the wake of the storm, nearly 500 poles were downed and about half of Freeborn-Mower's distribution system was without power.

On Friday, April 12th, CWEC's linemen, John Bestul and Mackenzie Yarbrough, along with a digger truck and pole trailer, set out to help our neighbors to the west. John and Mack were tasked with replacing the downed three phase lines. The linemen worked grueling 16 hour days. CWEC linemen worked with Bayfield Electric, Taylor Electric, and Price Electric Cooperatives.

Over 120 linemen from 17 electric cooperatives, traveling from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois, came to help aid in power restoration to Freeborn-Mower members. Through hard work and long days all power was restored to Freeborn-Mower members by Wednesday, April 17th.



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Office Hours: Monday thru  
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### Important Dates:

Home Safety Month

June 16th-Father's Day

June 21- First Day of  
Summer



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## Home Electrical Safety

### June is Home Electrical Safety Month!

- ~Always unplug an appliance before cleaning or repairing it.
- ~ Remember that a turned-off appliance is still connected to electricity until it is unplugged.
- ~Always replace cracked or damaged cords.
- ~Never overload your circuits.
- ~Try to avoid extension cords as much as possible.
- ~Give your air appliances proper space for air circulation to avoid overheating.
- ~Ensure that all your exhaust fans are clean to prevent fires.
- ~The third prong of a plug exists for a reason. Do not break it off or bypass it.
- ~Never force plugs into outlets.
- ~Do not place electrical cords under carpets or rugs or high traffic areas.
- ~Do not use lightbulbs with wattage that is too high for the fixture. Make sure they are screwed in securely so that they do not overheat.








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## Safety is Key

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was awarded the 2018 Corporate Safety Award. This award honors businesses for an exemplary safety record and excellence in safety and health management. It is given to the best of the best safe businesses in the state. “I’m very proud of our employees at CWEC. It takes a team effort to produce a safety culture in an organization,” said CWEC’s VP of Operations, Kevin Kurtweil.



### 5 OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL HAZARDS



- 1. Power Lines** – Always look up and out for power lines. Keep you and your equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines.
- 2. Outdoor outlets** – These should be powered by a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), which turns itself off if it senses a current leak or a short circuit. 
- 3. Pools** – Use battery-powered electronics around the pool. Have an electrician inspect your pool, spa or hot tub before the beginning of each swim season to avoid electrical hazards.
- 4. Extension Cords** – Use extension cords that are rated for outdoor use. Using an indoor cord, which cannot withstand the weather conditions, could result in a shock or fire hazard. 
- 5. Electric Garden Tools** – Never use electric garden tools in wet or damp conditions. Check for cracked or frayed cords before use and replace if damaged. 

Learn more at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

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