

Beware of damaged power equipment: Energy can spread like ripples on a pond

So far this summer, we have had our fair share of summer storms. The transmission and distribution of power is safe and reliable much of the time. However, storms, critters and car accidents can damage energized utility equipment such as power lines, poles and padmount transformers (green boxes). Not only can this cause minor inconveniences, like service interruptions and road closures, it can also create life-threatening situations when energy invisibly spreads like ripples on a pond.

Here is what can occur when utility equipment is damaged:

Step potential happens when a person walks from one voltage “ripple” to another and their feet experience a difference in voltage.

Touch potential happens when someone touches something at one voltage and steps on or contacts something else at a different voltage.

Both types of potential can cause serious internal and external injuries and death, since electric current enters the body at one point and exits at another.

How to stay safe

Take precautions near downed power lines, poles or other damaged power equipment. Always assume damaged power equipment is energized; it can look lifeless and harmless and still be live.

Besides accidents, storms and animal interferences, another hazardous situation may occur when equipment or extensions get too close to or contact power equipment. To stay safe around damaged utility equipment:

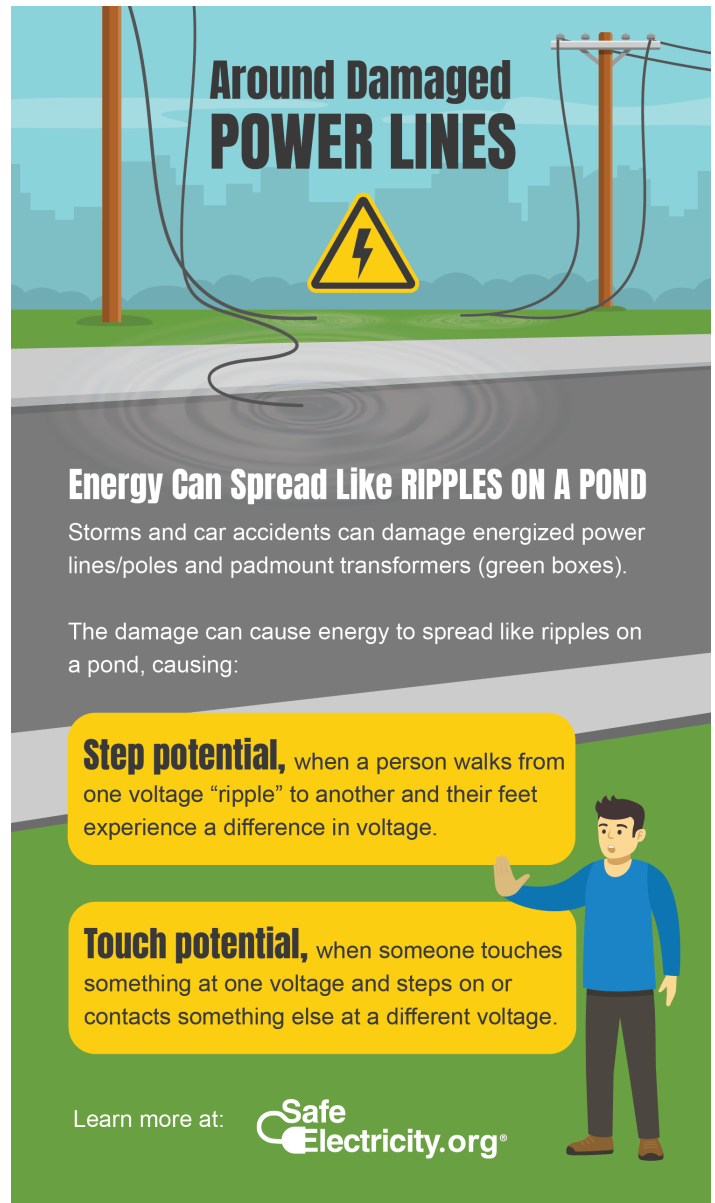
- Stay inside your vehicle or cab.
- Call 9-1-1.
- Report damaged power equipment to a dispatcher.
- Only exit if you see smoke or there is a fire.

If you must exit due to a fire, carefully do the following:

- Cross your arms and make a clean jump out.
- Do not touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.
- Make solid hops with your feet together as far away as you can.
- If you are unable to hop, shuffle away without lifting your feet.
- Do not return to the vehicle.

If you are near the scene:

- Do not approach the scene to help.



- Stay at least 50 feet away.
- Do not lean on or touch anything.

Never approach a downed power line or pole or a damaged padmount transformer.

For more electrical safety tips, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Taylor Electric celebrates 88th Annual Meeting

Taylor Electric held its 88th annual meeting on Tuesday, June 25th at the Centennial Community Center in Stetsonville with 148 members in attendance. In director elections, no candidates ran against incumbent Directors Brian Hallgren and Cheri Klussendorf. A unanimous ballot was cast for their re-election. Bylaw changes saw an approved ballot vote of 137-yes to 1-no for the improved readability of director tenure and qualifications.

CEO Kenny Ceaglske reviewed 2023 finances as well as completed construction projects. He stated that so far in 2024 sales are down by 4% due to the mild weather. Updates to the cooperative's facilities included repair to the front sidewalk as well as the installation of a fence around the back of the cooperative for security. He thanked the employees and board of directors for their dedicated service. Ceaglske also gave a slide presentation to explain demand billing, net metering and bill round up, all tentatively scheduled for this fall.

Chairman Brian Hallgren also reviewed the cooperative's finances from 2023 and thanked the employees and fellow directors of the cooperative as well as the membership for their continued support.

Everyone in attendance received a \$10 electric bill credit as well as 1 lb. packages of cheese and butter at the end of the meeting. Ed Faber was the winner of a \$100 bill credit, and Tom Hrdina won the electric grill. Ten \$25 gift certificates purchased from local businesses were also given away.

Thank you to everyone that came to learn about their cooperative.



Left Photo-Employees Sadie Kapusta (right) and Sophie Petrie (left) register Chairman Brian Hallgren. Below: Sheena Fuchs (Front left) and Patti Nelson (Back left) register former employee Ron Mayer and his wife, Lynn as CEO Kenny Ceaglske looks on in the background.



John Clausnitzer, WKEB Radio was at the meeting for a live remote along with Carey Hartwig who provided sound for the meeting.



Vice-Chairman Chuck Zenner and member, Betty Bach enjoy a conversation before the start of the meeting.



She slowed down long enough to get a photo but it wasn't easy! Jenessa Leader is the daughter of Jesse and Gail Leader, Curtiss and joined us for the meeting!



Board Report – May 2024

- Approved April disbursements totaling \$499,587. 8 new member applications, and April 2024 construction in the amount of \$55,288.
- Reviewed financial results for April with \$199,918 Operating Margins and \$213,478 Total Margins year to date.
- There were 18 outages in April, with an average YTD outage time per meter of .0943 hours.
- Three applications for discounted early retirement of capital credits to estates were approved with total capital credits of \$3,963 to be paid out at the net present value of \$1,289.
- 22 delinquent accounts were processed for collection following the May 20th due date. The total amount owing on these accounts is \$8,542.
- Other topics covered included the net billing policy updates, annual meeting prep, demand rate estimates, outage updates, past meeting reports, and upcoming meetings.