

CEO CORNER



Ryan Bartlett,
President / CEO

10 Things You Might Not Know About Power Restoration

As THE CEO of Taylor Electric Cooperative, I'm accustomed to members' questions about power outages and why it can take time to get the lights back on. Given our reliance on electricity, there's simply never a good time to be without it.

This month I'd like to shed light on our restoration process to help our members understand what can happen behind the scenes. Here are 10 things you might not know about restoration.

1. We need you. When your power goes out, it might be just your home or a small section of a neighborhood that's affected. There's a chance we don't know about it and that no one has reported it. Let us know if your power is out.

2. Our employees might be affected. Because Taylor EC is a local business, our employees are local too. When you're without power, our people might be too.

3. It's a team effort. Every one of our employees are working to get your power restored as soon as possible. Our member services representatives take your calls, engineers and field staff survey damage, our tree trimming team clears hazards, dispatchers organize crews, and communicators keep everyone informed of progress or potential dangers. When your power goes out, we all work together as quickly and safely as possible.

4. We assess the situation first. Every outage is different, bringing different dangers and damaged equipment. We first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need and make a plan for how to fix the problems.

5. We have priorities for restoring power. Our crews focus first on public safety issues and critical services like hospitals. Then we complete work that impacts the largest of number of people.

6. Our employees face many hazards.

Besides working around high-voltage electricity, our crews are on alert for wild animals, active weather, falling trees and fast-moving cars.



7. Flickering lights are a good thing. "Blinks" are sometimes mistaken for outages, but they actually indicate our equipment worked and prevented a possible outage.

8. You need a backup plan. We always do our best to help those who need it, but if you depend on electricity for life support purposes, you must have a backup plan.

9. Our employees have to plan and eat. If you ever see our trucks in a restaurant parking lot while your power is out, know that sometimes our employees huddle in a safe common area to map out their plan for getting your power back on. Also, our crews work long, hard hours during outages and need to take time for meals.

10. Sometimes it's a waiting game. Our portion of the power grid is connected to other electric utilities. If our outage is due to an issue from their feed into our system, we must let them do their repairs to get the power flowing again.

If the lights go out, know that your co-op team is working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power.

CEO CORNER



Beware of Lightning Strikes

TEXAS TALLIED MORE lightning strikes than any state in 2023, with summer being the most active period for bolts, according to a report by USA Today. The summer season also recorded the most fatalities from lightning strikes, which killed 13 people in 2023.

Knowing and following proven safety guidelines can help reduce the risk of injury or death during a storm. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration describes what to do to stay safe from lightning.

Where to Go

The safest place to be during a thunderstorm is in a large building like a home, shopping center, school, church or office. If lightning strikes the building, the plumbing and wiring will conduct the electricity more efficiently than the human body. Many buildings are grounded to protect them from lightning. If a large building is not a viable option, stay in a vehicle.

Where Not to Go

Some buildings aren't safe during thunderstorms. Unsafe shelters include metal sheds, picnic pavilions, carports and baseball dugouts. Porches aren't safe either. Even though most vehicles are safe, remember that convertibles (even with the top up), golf carts and tractors do not protect from lightning.

What to Do

Once inside a secure building, stay away from electrical appliances and plumbing fixtures. For even more protection, seek an interior room. If in a vehicle, roll up the windows and don't touch anything that conducts electricity such as the radio or the ignition.

What Not to Do

Especially in rural areas, lightning can travel long distances—so don't assume the lightning storm is far enough away that you're safe. Stay off corded phones and don't use electrical appliances. Additionally, don't take showers or baths because water and metal are good conductors of electricity.

Taylor Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

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