



ENJOY THE FINAL DAYS OF SUMMER – SAFELY

While the first day of fall is right around the corner, there are still plenty of warm days left. Don't let complacency set in as you enjoy these remaining days of summer with cookouts, afternoons at the lake, splashing in the pool, or just lounging on the patio. Be ever vigilant to the potential dangers of outdoor summer activities, especially when it comes to electricity.

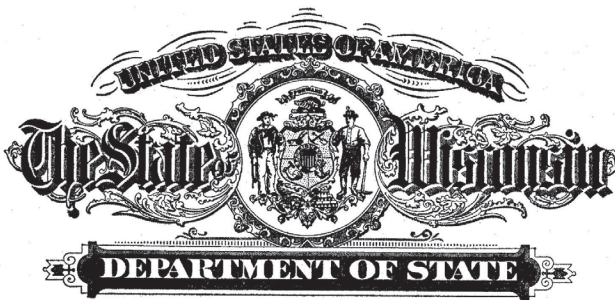
- If you're spending time near the pool—even a kiddie pool in the backyard—use appliances and equipment that are battery-operated whenever possible. This dramatically reduces the chances of an unexpected accident. If a battery-operated radio is accidentally knocked into a pool, only the radio will be damaged—people will still be okay.
- If you're using extension cords on your deck or patio, make sure they're wrapped up and stowed away, out of the line of traffic where someone could trip on them.
- If you're spending time at the lake, do not swim around docks with electrical equipment or boats plugged into shore power. Outdated wiring and lack of proper safety equipment on boats and docks can cause situations where electricity "leaks" into the water, and it's impossible to tell by sight if the water is energized. If you are in the water and feel electric current, shout to let others know, try to stay upright, tuck your legs up to make yourself smaller, and swim away from anything that could be energized. Do not head to boat or dock ladders to get out.
- Keep an eye on the weather. Do not swim before, during, and immediately after thunderstorms.
- If you're cleaning your pool for the season, be aware of the location of any overhead power lines before using a long-handled tool that could come into contact with an overhead line.

MY CO-OP



Happy anniversary, Bayfield Electric Cooperative!

Saturday, September 12, 2020, marks the 80th year since Bayfield Electric Cooperative was incorporated!



TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

I, Fred R. Zimmerman, Secretary of State of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that on the 12th day of September, A. D. 1940, Articles of Incorporation were filed in my office under the provisions of Chapter 180 of the Wisconsin Statutes, which Articles provide:

Name: Bayfield Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Location: Town of Iron River.

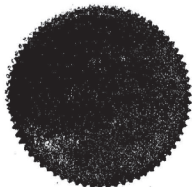
Capital Stock: Non-stock membership.

Business and Purpose: To generate, manufacture, purchase, acquire and accumulate electric energy for the members and to transmit and furnish such electric energy to its members only, etc.



I further certify that Five Dollars, the fee required by law, has been paid; and that a certificate has been filed in my office to the effect that said Articles were recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Bayfield County, Wisconsin, on the 14th day of September, A. D. 1940.

THEREFORE, The State of Wisconsin does hereby grant unto the said corporation the powers and privileges conferred by the Wisconsin Statutes for the purposes stated and in accordance with said Articles.

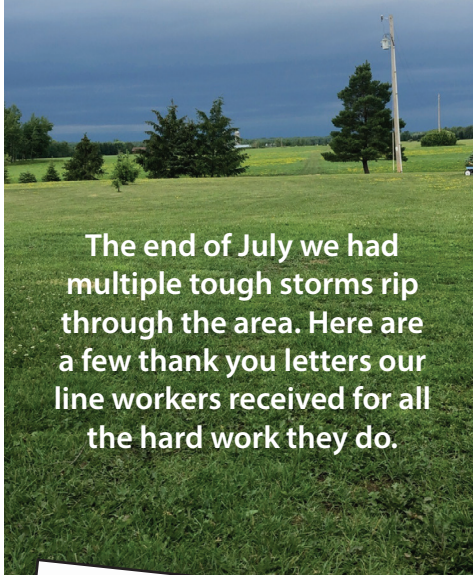


In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal, at the Capitol, in the City of Madison, this 20th day of September, A. D. 1940.

Fred R. Zimmerman
Secretary of State



When the lights go out... SO DO THEY!



The end of July we had multiple tough storms rip through the area. Here are a few thank you letters our line workers received for all the hard work they do.

Many thanks to the folks who worked through the night (July 8-9) especially the men who worked to restore power through the thunder, lightning, and torrential rain we had that night.

A member called to say "thank you for always getting the power back on as soon as possible!"

Said to tell the crews thank you for putting the power back on after 2 storms over the weekend

A member called to say how grateful she was for the fast, courteous service she received from BEC lineworkers when she came home after working a long day as a nurse. BEC, in turn, thanks this member for her dedicated service as a nurse during these stressful times!

I just wanted to extend a "thank you" to the most professional and helpful crew that helped us out after the big blow last week on Spirit Point in Cornucopia. Our utility pole was knocked down by a big white pine and the power was maintained and the area cleaned up in short order. We are grateful for the service provided by all of you. I know that keeping the power on with so many lines lined by big trees is a demanding job.

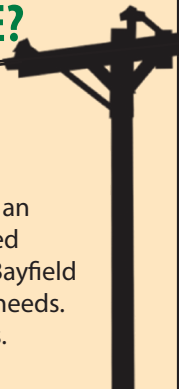
A member just called to say thank you! He called in a tree situation that was taken care of, and he was/is very appreciative!



NEED ELECTRIC SERVICE?

Get on the schedule for the remainder of 2020 now.

If you're still planning to build a house or an additional property this year that will need electric service installed, please contact Bayfield Electric to discuss your electrical service needs. We can also offer you Energy Star rebates.



UPDATE PERSONAL INFO

We ask you to please make sure your account information is up to date including phone numbers, mailing addresses, and email addresses. We will have texting notifications hopefully becoming available soon!

EXPERIENCING AN OUTAGE? THIS IS HOW WE RESTORE POWER:

A phone ringing in the middle of the night may catch you off guard, but it's a familiar sound to our linemen. Navigating major outages from emergency situations, like natural disasters, can often be challenging. There may be obstacles linemen don't typically encounter like flooded roadways or downed trees that put a halt to our restoration process. Overall, our goal is to get as many members back in power in the shortest amount of time.

STEP 1

First, our crews assess the damage on our system and check our substations. This is where the high-voltage transmission lines feed into our system and from there, we distribute power to our members. One substation may feed power to nearly 1,200 meters. If we repair the problem in the substation, we could potentially get 1,200 meters back in service.

STEP 2

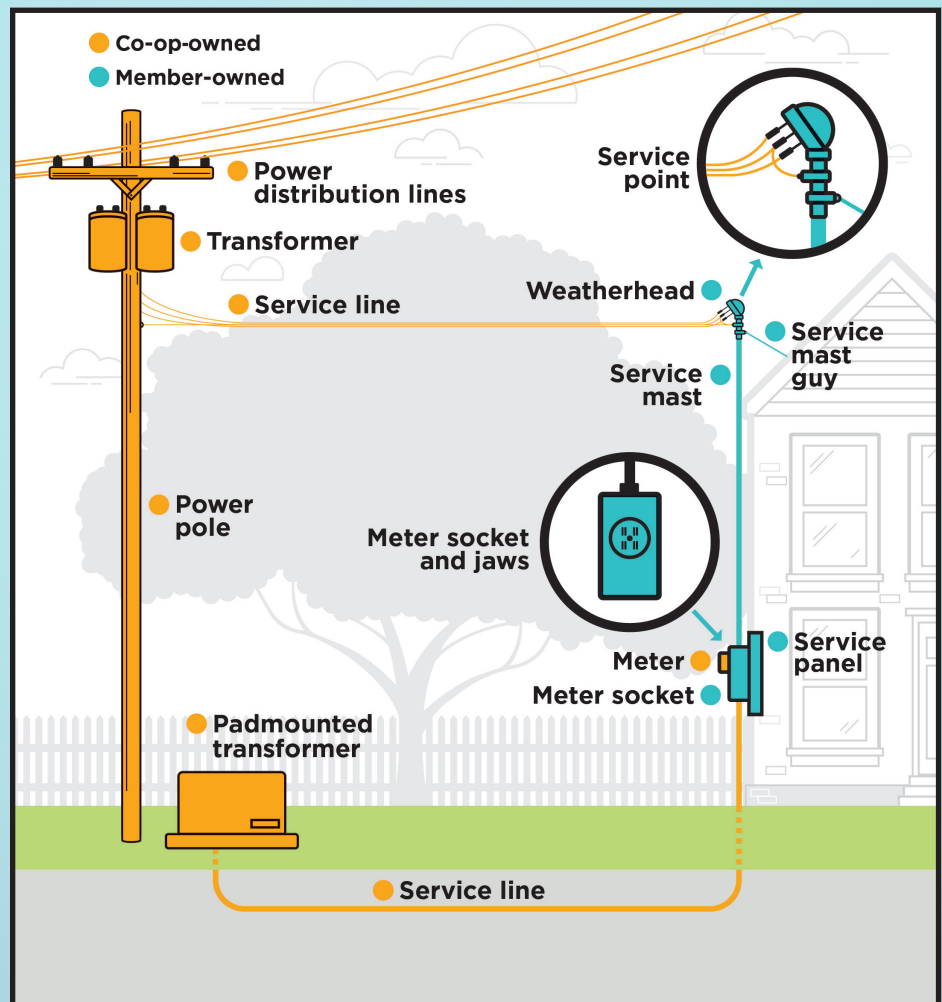
Next, crews follow our distribution lines as they carry power away from the substation to many members. Power lines are like spider webs that leave the substation. Instead of everyone having their own power line from the substation to their home or business, members share power lines. Power travels along the distribution lines to get to members living in the same area.

STEP 3

After distribution lines have been checked over, crews work towards individual services. The image below shows what the co-op owns and fixes (yellow) and what equipment is member-owned (blue). Should something that is member owned be damaged from a storm, it is the member's responsibility to get it repaired. We often find that when we try to restore individual services, damage on the member-owned equipment must be repaired first before we can turn their power on. We recommend hiring a licensed electrician for these repairs.

"I AM STILL WITHOUT POWER AND YOUR TRUCKS KEEP DRIVING BY MY HOUSE. WHY WON'T YOU STOP TO TURN MY POWER ON?"

Most of the time, crews learn that the problem is down the line from your home. They may need to repair equipment that is a few miles away from your home in order to restore your power. We realize everyone wants to be the next one to have power restored, but when we spend two hours restoring power for one member, we could have spent those two hours restoring power to 200 members. By following our restoration process, we can restore many members at once.





BOARD BRIEFS

The monthly meeting of the board of directors was held on Thursday, August 6, in the Iron River headquarters building garage to practice social distancing. All directors were present.

- The meeting was called to order by President Mark Santikko at 10 a.m.
- A safety message was provided on how to exit a vehicle if a power line is hit.
- The agenda, expenses, and the minutes of the June 2020 meeting were approved.
- Operations Department Report – 25 new services and 29 OCR changes last month
- The Iron River headquarters office will continue to be closed to the public but available by appointment only at this time.
- Meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 3, 2020.

SCAM ALERT!

Scammers have been hard at work seeing many employees now working from home, laid off, or still going to the job site, including some who are trying to take advantage of co-op members. The scammer will call threatening to disconnect service if an immediate payment made by debit/credit card isn't made. BEC will never threaten immediate disconnection and will never demand members' financial information over the phone.

HAPPY

Labor Day

Our office will be closed Monday, September 7

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Clothes dryers make up a large portion of your appliance energy consumption. Clean the lint filter after each cycle and scrub the filter with a toothbrush once a month to remove film and increase air circulation.

—Source: energy.gov

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Billing date: September 10, 2020
 August USAGE
 Bills due upon receipt
GROSS DUE AFTER September 30, 2020
 Disconnect: September 15, 2020

Diane Berweger, CEO

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Briana Green, Editor



Bayfield Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Monday–Friday
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