

Martin Luther King Day—January 15th—Office Closed
President’s Day—February 19th—Office Closed

Welcoming in the New Year!

Ring in a new year sparks a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. For Otsego Electric, it’s a time to reflect on where we are and where we’re going. At the heart of this reflection, we think about ways we can better serve you, the members of the cooperative.

Our team at Otsego Electric is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We’re committed to powering and empowering our community at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

In addition to providing reliable and affordable electric service, we are using technology to enhance our local grid, limit service disruptions and improve outage response times.

Advanced metering technology, also known as AMI, enables two-way communication between the co-op and consumers. In the event of a power outage, AMI helps pinpoint the exact location of the outage and can even analyze damaged or tampered meters. AMI helps save money with real-time data, and ultimately improves power reliability for our entire community.

As we turn our focus to 2024, we will continue working to provide the reliable, affordable electricity you expect and deserve—for today and tomorrow.

Otsego Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 128,
Hartwick, NY 13348

Office Hours
7:30 – 4:00
Monday – Friday

Phone:
607-293-6622

Pay-by-Phone
1-844-843-6842
After Hours and Outages:
1-866-591-3192

Call **UDIG New York** before
you dig at **811** or
1-800-962-7962

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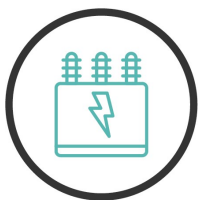
The Steps to Restoring Power

When a major outage occurs, our crews restore service to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible – until everyone has power.



1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines

These lines carry large amounts of electricity. They rarely fail but must be repaired first.



2. Distribution Substations

Crews inspect substations, which can serve hundreds or thousands of people.



3. Main Distribution Lines

Main lines serve essential facilities like hospitals and larger communities.



4. Individual Homes and Businesses

After main line repairs are complete, we repair lines that serve individual homes and businesses.



Medical Alerts

If you or someone in your home has a medical condition that requires specific medical equipment needing electricity, please contact our office during business hours so that we can have you fill out the proper paperwork and get setup in our “Medical Necessity” list.

Storm Safety and Preparation

Winter weather can be unpredictable and dangerous, but planning ahead can often be the difference between safety as well as comfortability. While we’re ready with crews for when storms hit, it can take longer than we’d like to restore outages when they are wide spread throughout our service area. While we are ready, we want you to be as well!

Heavy snow and ice can lead to downed power lines, leaving co-op members without power. During extremely low temperatures, this can be dangerous. During a power outage, our crews will continue to work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power, but there are a few things you can do to prepare yourself.

Stay warm – Plan to use a safe alternate heating source, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove during a power outage. These are great options to keep you and your loved ones warm, but exercise caution when using, and never leave the heating source unattended. If you are using gasoline-, propane- or natural gas-burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors. Remember that fuel- and wood-burning sources of heat should always be properly ventilated. Always read the manufacturer’s directions before using.

Stay fed – The CDC recommends having several days’ supply of food that does not need to be cooked handy. Crackers, cereal, canned goods and bread are good options. Five gallons of water per person should also be available in the event of an extended power outage.

Stay safe – When an outage occurs, it usually means power lines are down. It is best not to travel during winter storms, but if you must, bring a survival kit along, and do not travel alone. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live. Stay as far away from the downed lines as possible, and report the situation to our dispatchers by calling 607-293-6622 if possible.

Have a Generator— If you are in a position to, we highly suggest having a backup generator at your property. We live in an area that has a lot of variable weather, which can lead to multi-day power outages at times. Having a generator, that can at least power your heat source, water and potential medically needed items, can ensure you are safe during a large outage scenario.

Power Pole Clutter

Flyers, satellite dishes, posters, basketball hoops, decorative lights, even hunting stands. You name it, someone has tried to staple, nail or tie it to a power pole. Here's a quick look at the dangers and pitfalls associated with unauthorized pole attachments.

Illegal

Many state and local laws and the National Electrical Safety Code prohibit any unauthorized items on poles. Utilities can face fines if these attachments aren't removed.



Pole Damage

Even small holes can allow moisture and insects past the pole sealant, which can shorten the life of the pole or weaken it and cause it to fall in a storm.



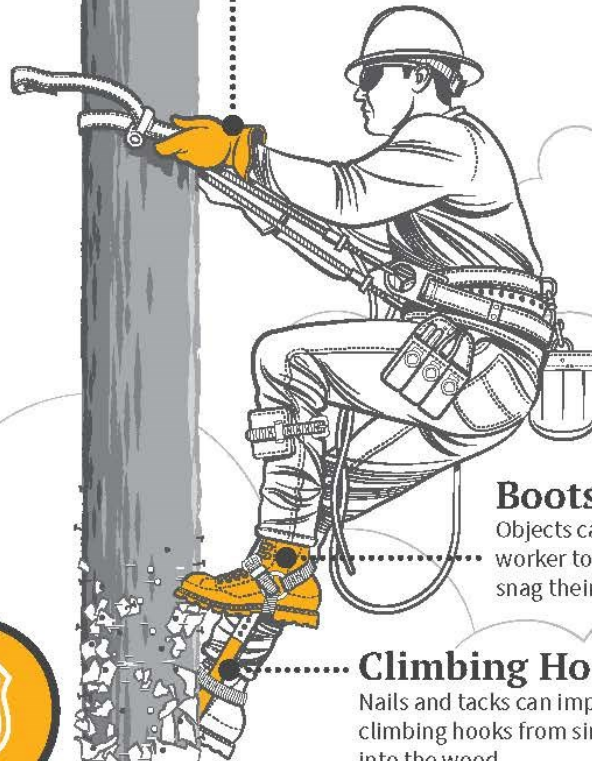
Hinders Repairs

Posters and flyers can hide identifying markers on poles and slow repair work.



Gloves

Staples, tacks and nails can puncture a lineworker's insulated rubber gloves and expose them to electric shock.



Boots

Objects can cause a worker to fall if they snag their boots.

Climbing Hooks

Nails and tacks can impede climbing hooks from sinking into the wood.



Dangerous

A person who gets too close to energized lines while attaching an object can be electrocuted.



Distraction

Some materials posted on poles, like mirrors or holiday decorations, can be a distraction to drivers.

Free Trip for Juniors! 2024 Legislative Youth Tour - Wash., D.C.

Otsego Electric Cooperative is pleased to offer an exciting opportunity for a high school junior! We will be sponsoring an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, DC to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Legislative Conference. This sponsorship covers the student and his or her chaperone and allows you the opportunity to tour DC and to meet with our elected representatives. The student's parents must be members of Otsego Electric Cooperative.

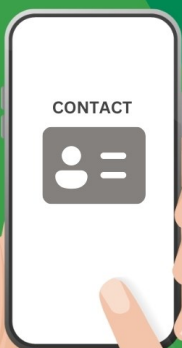
This is an excellent learning experience for students. You will gain first-hand experience in how our government works. You will also learn about energy, broadband, and the electric cooperative industry, which will be extremely important parts of our future. Join other electric cooperative leaders to talk to Members of Congress and administration officials and discuss timely and pressing legislative issues affecting electric co-ops and their member-owners.

Students interested in being considered for this opportunity must complete the application and have it submitted to us by March 1, 2024.



LET'S STAY CONNECTED.

Update your contact info to stay in the know about service updates and important alerts.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During winter months, ensure your home is well sealed to reduce the need for excessive heating. Seal air leaks around your home and add insulation where needed to save up to 10% on annual energy bills.

Install weather stripping on exterior doors and apply caulk around windows. Check attic insulation levels and hire a qualified contractor if additional insulation is required.

Source: energystar.gov

