



Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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Ever wonder what causes a power outage?

When the power goes out during or after a storm, the cause for the outage is evident. However, the cause for an outage on a clear sunny day can be a mystery.

There are many causes for an outage and all of them can happen on a clear, sunny day. During planting or harvest seasons, farmers are in the fields and sometimes their equipment can accidentally snap a line causing a temporary outage.

Another cause for outages, especially in rural areas, are animals. According to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, animals trigger 11 percent of power outages across the nation. Squirrels are the main culprit, but they are not alone. Opossums, raccoons, snakes, birds and other animals trigger outages too. Despite Clinton County Electric's best efforts to protect animals, they still get into places they shouldn't, easily resulting in a power outage.

Many times power failures are a result of a vehicle accident. When our crews arrive on the scene of an accident, their first priority is to make sure the scene is safe for all involved. After the scene is secure, they start assessing the damage and work quickly and safely to restore the electricity, which often includes replacing a pole.

Regardless of the cause, always

know Clinton County Electric crews are working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power. We cannot guarantee you will have power 100 percent of the time, but we will give 100 percent to restore your power if it does go out.

Don't rely on your neighbors to report an outage. The more calls we receive, the quicker we can determine the origin of an outage and restore electricity. Always call us at 800-526-7282 to report a power outage.



CCECI crews work diligently to replace a pole that had been broken after being struck by a vehicle.

CCECI sponsored Youth Day in Springfield

The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives sponsored the 2017 Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on March 29, 2017 in Springfield, Ill.

Jenna Koelmel, Collin Henderson, Taylor Gooch, Noah Marlar and Quinn Jasper, all children of Clinton County Electric Cooperative members, were selected based on their applications to attend Youth Day in Springfield. Ben Herndon attended the event as a “Willie” student, one who pays his own way. They joined more than 200 high school students from around the state for the day’s activities, which included touring the Capitol Building, Old State Capitol Building and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. While at the Capitol Building, the students were privileged to meet

with State Senator Kyle McCarter, along with State Representatives Charles Meier and John Cavaletto. Comptroller Susana Mendoza spoke to the students during the day as well.

Two of the students in attendance were chosen by a

panel of judges to participate in the upcoming “Youth to Washington” tour. This is an all expense paid, week-long trip to Washington D.C. taking place this month. The 2017 winners of the Washington D.C. trip from Clinton County Electric are Jenna Koelmel, daughter of



The students representing CCECI were able to visit Senator Kyle McCarter’s office while at the Capitol Building on Youth Day. Pictured from left to right are Quinn Jasper, Ben Herndon, Collin Henderson, Taylor Gooch, Noah Marlar and Jenna Koelmel.



Representatives Charlie Meier and John Cavaletto met with students representing Clinton County Electric Cooperative during their visit to Springfield on March 29, 2017. Pictured left to right are Collin Henderson, Quinn Jasper, Ben Herndon, Noah Marlar, Representative Meier, Representative Cavaletto, Jenna Koelmel, Taylor Gooch, CCECI Billing Coordinator Brenda Knolhoff and CCECI President Bob Kroeger.

Rodney and Shelley Koelmel of Shattuc and Collin Henderson, son of Henry and Laurie Henderson of Trenton. Ben Herndon, son of Chris and Angela Herndon of New Baden will be attending as a “Willie” student, paying his own way. Jenna, Collin and Ben will be outstanding representatives for Clinton County Electric as they are traveling to Washington D.C. this month with approximately 80 other students representing cooperatives throughout Illinois.

Children of cooperative members who are sophomores or juniors in high school are eligible to apply for the Youth Day in Springfield, giving them a chance to participate in the annual “Youth to Washington” trip. For more information, visit our website at www.cceci.com or watch for information in our December and January issues of this newsletter.



Students were able to spend some time at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum during their visit to Springfield. Pictured from left to right are Noah Marlar, Jenna Koelmel, Quinn Jasper, Taylor Gooch, Ben Herndon and Collin Henderson.



Representative Charlie Meier explained how things work on the House Floor to students visiting Springfield for Youth Day.

Please make room for roadside crews By Abby Berry



When the power goes out, so do Clinton County Electric's line crews. Lineworkers are the first to respond after an outage occurs, and they work tirelessly to restore power to the communities we serve.

If you're traveling and see one of our crews on the side of the road, we kindly ask that you move over if possible and give them a little extra space to work. We deeply care about the safety of all, and this extra precaution ensures just that.

If you approach a crew while traveling on a two-lane road, moving over to the next lane might not be an option. In this case, we simply ask that you slow down when approaching roadside crews. If you approach a crew while traveling on a four-lane road, and safety and

traffic conditions allow, we ask that you move over into the far lane.

Utility crews aren't the only ones who could use the extra space. Emergency responders, such as police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians, often find themselves responding to emergency situations near busy roadways. We ask that you follow the same procedures mentioned above to help keep these crews safe.

There's plenty of room for all. Let's work together to keep everyone safe on our local roadways.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

**The Cooperative Office
will be closed Tuesday,
July 4, 2017 in observance
of Independence Day and
Monday, September 4, 2017
in observance of Labor Day.**

