Summer is here, school is out, and families are gearing up for a few months of fun and relaxation. While summer brings much fun in the sun, it can also bring the occasional severe storm. In the event of a power outage, you can trust that Oakdale Electric Cooperative is ready to respond.

The major cause of most power outages comes from damage to power lines due to falling trees and branches. We work year round—through right-of-way clearing—to ensure power lines in our service territory stand little risk of being damaged by trees, branches, or other types of vegetation. Despite our best efforts, during major storms, damage can occur to transmission stations, substations, and power lines. When this happens, our first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

We start by mobilizing our line crews and other critical staff. Every phone line available is utilized to take your outage report calls. The big problems are handled first—like damage to transmission lines, which serve tens of thousands of people. These problems must be corrected before we can focus on other areas where more localized damage may have occurred.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative’s line crews inspect substations to determine if the problem starts there, or if there could be an issue down the line. If the root of the problem is at the substation, power can be restored to thousands of members.

Next, line crews check the service lines that deliver power into neighborhoods and communities. Line crews repair the damaged lines, restoring power to hundreds of people. If you continue to experience an outage, there may be damage to a tap line outside of your home or business. Make sure you notify Oakdale Electric Cooperative so crews can inspect these lines.

We will do our best to avoid power outages, but sometimes Mother Nature has other plans. Be sure to check our website, www.oakdalerec.com, on your smartphone for the latest updates during a power outage.

Meghaan Evans 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.
Each of these students received a $1,000 scholarship from Oakdale Electric Cooperative. Winners were selected based on their essays on the topic of “Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World” following their attendance at the Youth Leadership Congress in UW–River Falls in 2015. Scholarships are funded directly through the Federated Youth Foundation by unclaimed capital credits.

Congratulations TO OUR 2016 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

- **Peter Cauley**
  - Mauston High School
  - Jim and Carol Cauley
  - UW–Platteville
  - Ag Business

- **Craig Dallman**
  - Mauston High School
  - Bob and Linda Dallman
  - UW–Stout
  - Mechanical Engineering

- **Kyle Voss**
  - Mauston High School
  - Alan and Lisa Voss
  - UW–Stevens Point
  - Sports Science / Exercise Science

- **Jennifer Moore**
  - Necedah High School
  - Patrick and Violet Moore
  - UW–La Crosse
  - Education

- **Stephanie Rattunde**
  - Necedah High School
  - Daryl and Annette Rattunde
  - Winona State University
  - Exercise Science/Nutrition

- **Cheyenne Sterbenz**
  - Necedah High School
  - Joe and Raquel Sterbenz
  - UW–Stevens Point
  - Early Childhood Education

- **Gabrielle Smith**
  - Nekoosa High School
  - Les and Lisa Smith
  - UW–Stevens Point
  - Education
**MY CO-OP**

**Stephan Burbach**  
New Lisbon  
Roger Burbach and Donna Davidson  
UW–Madison  
Mechanical Engineering

**Savanna Morris**  
New Lisbon  
Gene and Mary Morris  
Fox Valley Technical College  
Therapeutic Massage

**Kassie Woggon**  
New Lisbon  
Donald and June Woggon  
UW–River Falls  
Agricultural Engineering

**Jack Zdun**  
Pittsville  
Thomas and JoAnn Zdun  
UW–Milwaukee  
Letters and Science

**Mariah Burdick**  
Reedsburg Area High School  
Jason and Tammy Burdick  
St. Cloud State or UW–Oshkosh  
Anthropology and Forensic Science

**Amber Grundahl**  
Reedsburg Area High School  
Jeff and Rebecca Grundahl  
UW–Baraboo/Sauk County  
Nursing

**Austin Nauman**  
Reedsburg Area High School  
Danielle Nauman  
UW–Madison Farm & Industry  
Short Course  
Dairy Herd Management

**Emma Granger**  
Tomah  
Gary and Deb Granger  
UW–Whitewater  
Accounting

**Ben Venner**  
Tomah  
John and Annette Venner  
UW–Eau Claire  
Chemistry

**Katelyn Pearson**  
Tomah  
Keith and Debra Pearson  
UW–River Falls  
Biology/ Pre-Physical Therapy

**Lane Wohlrab**  
Tomah  
Cory and Kim Wohlrab  
UW–Oshkosh  
Nursing
Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

Source: energy.gov

2016 MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

“Life in Rural Wisconsin”

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is holding its annual photo contest for members’ photos to be featured in our 2017 calendar. Winning photos may be used in future newsletters or cooperative publications.

- Photos must be taken within the Oakdale Electric Cooperative service area.
- Photos should capture life in rural Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape, people, etc.).
- Photos must have a horizontal (landscape) orientation.
- Photos can be in color or black and white.
- Only high resolution photos can be used. Photos must be at least 300 dpi.

Contest will run from February 1, 2016, until August 26, 2016; however, submitted photos can be taken outside of this date range.

Photo Contest Entry Options:
Email: Deana Protz – dprotz@oakdalerec.com.
Mail: P.O. Box 128, Oakdale, WI, 54649. (photo(s) must be 8”x10” in size)
Drop Off: Oakdale Electric Cooperative Office - 489 N. Oakwood St., Oakdale. (photo(s) must be 8”x10” in size)

For a complete set of rules as well as entry forms and photo release forms, visit our website, www.oakdalerec.com.

Electricity Remains a Good Value

The cost of powering your home rises at a slower pace than many of your typical expenses. Compare the average price increase of these expenses each year over the last five years, and the value of electricity shines.

Average Annual Price Increase 2010-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Price Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meat</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bread</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>