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NEWSLETTER

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

August 2011

CALLING ON ROPE

One of our biggest worries is having an extreme storm rumble through our service area, causing extensive damage and leaving many of our members out of power. With our 11 man crew maintaining over 1200 miles of lines, restoration after such an event would be next to impossible.

Fortunately, many years ago, Wisconsin electric cooperatives saw a need for some type of joint assistance and in 1967 they formed ROPE, Restoration of Power in an Emergency.

ROPE allows any electric cooperative to have access to hundreds of line personnel and almost as many trucks and line equipment. So when the 'big one' hits, one phone call can bring in all the assistance needed to promptly get the lights back on.

Recently, such a storm hit our neighboring cooperative of Polk-Burnett. Polk-Burnett called for help through the ROPE program and we were able to send three different linemen and a digger truck to help them. Our crew was dispatched on July 2nd and was released by Polk-Burnett on July 8th.

The ROPE program sets up the procedure for calling in help. It lists the phone number of a coordinator that contacts other cooperatives rather than the cooperative that is swamped with outages trying to locate help. This allows the requesting cooperative to continue with restoration and to make preparations for the incoming assistance. The ROPE program also sets the charges for the equipment and crews. By having all this set up in advance, it allows the cooperatives to keep focused on restoring electricity.

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative has had to use ROPE in the past, and has been able to help out neighboring Cooperatives throughout the years. It is a very good program that shows how cooperatives can help each other by working together.





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