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NEWSLETTER



Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

June 2014

Power Outage Tips

If the power goes out in your home there are a few things that you should check. A few simple steps could save you money.

Check your meter

Take a look at your meter to help determine if the outage is CVEC's problem or a problem within your home. A meter with a digital display will have a blank screen which indicates that the problem is on the co-op's side. When you see something displayed on the screen, this means that power is getting to the meter and it is not a co-op outage; it is an outage within your home. If you have a meter that does not display a digital reading, then check for a red light on the lower left side of the meter. When you see a red light, this indicates that power is getting to the meter and the problem is with your own equipment; you should check your breakers or contact an

electrician. If there is no visible red light, contact CVEC to report an outage.

Check your breakers

Be sure to check your breakers inside your home at your electrical panel and also outside at your meter pedestal (if you have one). The photographs below indicate where to find the breaker within a meter pedestal. If a breaker has been tripped, push the handle to the "Off" position before flipping it to the "On" position. It is important to check the breakers at both locations to avoid a service charge if the outage is found to be your responsibility.

When you have determined that the power outage is not due to your own equipment, call Chippewa Valley Electric to report the outage at 715.239.6800 or 800.300.6800.



Breaker



Lift meter ped cover to find breaker

Bird Nest

On May 5, 2014 our crew responded to an outage call and found that a pair of osprey had decided to build their nest on one of our poles. Everything was fine as long as the nest was dry, but it rained that night and the addition of water caused the lines to short out.

The crew removed the nest and attached cross-arm braces to try to keep the birds away. Two days later we were back out with another outage. At this point, we contacted the DNR about working with them to set a pole for the birds to nest on. The DNR built the nest base, attached it to a pole CVEC donated, and then we set the pole across the road. By the end of the day the birds were happily nesting in their new home.

Ospreys are somewhat territorial and their new nesting spot is close to our distribution pole, which was the pole they were trying to nest on, and should keep any other ospreys from moving in.



Osprey perched on CVEC pole



New osprey nest near Island Lake

The donation of the pole and our setting it winds up being a win-win situation for your cooperative; no more outages and protection for the birds by avoiding potential electrocution.

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