

DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

www.skrecc.com • APRIL 2025

Ten things you might not know about power restoration

Getting power back on might seem as easy as flipping a switch, but in reality, it's more like putting together a complex puzzle where every piece has to fit perfectly. It takes careful planning, coordination and the right tools to restore service safely and efficiently.

This month, we'd like to shed light on our restoration process to help our members understand what may be happening behind the scenes. Here are 10 things you might not know about restoration:

- We need you. When your power goes out, it might be just at your home or small section of a neighborhood. There is a chance we may not know about it, and no one has reported it. We rely on you to let us know if your power is out.
- Our employees might be affected, too. Because South Kentucky RECC is a local electric cooperative owned by the members we serve, our employees are local, too. They are your neighbors, friends and familiar community volunteers. When you're without power, our people might be, too.
- It's a team effort. Every one of South Kentucky RECC's employees is working to get your power restored as soon as possible. Our member services representatives are taking your calls, engineers and field staff are surveying



SCOTT ALAN RITCHIE/SHUTTERSTOCK

damage, our right-of-way team is clearing hazards, dispatchers are organizing crews and communicators are keeping everyone informed of progress or potential dangers. When your power goes out, we all work together as quickly and safely as possible to get you back to normal.

- We assess the situation first. Every outage is different, and we don't know how dangerous it is or what equipment might need to be replaced. When responding to outages, we first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need and a plan for how to fix the problem(s) without compromising electric flow for the rest of our members.
- Restoration is normally prioritized by the largest number of members

we can get back on in the shortest amount of time. Our crews focus on responding first to public safety issues and critical services like hospitals. Then we complete work that impacts the largest number of people first.

- Our employees face many dangers. Besides working around high voltage electricity, our crews are on alert for wild animals, weather elements, falling trees and fast-moving cars. (If you ever drive past one of our vehicles, please do so slowly.)
- Flickering lights can be a good thing. Some folks mistake flickering lights for outages, but these "blinks" are important because they indicate our equipment worked and prevented a possible outage likely caused by

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Know what's below: Safe digging

Spring is here, and there's never been a better time to get outside and enjoy the fresh air. Perhaps you're making plans for a new garden or a lawn makeover. However you're planning to revamp your backyard oasis, remember to keep safety in mind for all projects—especially those that require digging near underground utility lines.

Most of us never think about the electric, gas, water and other utility lines buried below the ground, but hitting one of these lines while digging is not the reminder you'll want—trust us. South Kentucky RECC reminds all members who are planning a digging project to call 811 at least three business days before you start. Or you can submit a request online by visiting www.call811.com or www.kentucky811.org.

After you call 811 or submit your request online, all affected utilities will be notified of your intent to dig. It may take the utilities a few days to get to your request, so please be patient. The affected utilities will send someone out to mark the buried lines with paint or flags. Before you break ground, confirm that all the utilities have responded to your request. If you placed your request by phone, use the process explained by your 811 call center representative. If you submitted your



request online, refer to your 811 center ticket to confirm everything.

By taking this important step before you break ground on your project, you can help protect not only yourself but

also our community. Disrupting an underground utility line can interrupt service, cause injuries and cost money to repair, so remember to call 811 first and know what's below.

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- wayward animals or stray tree limbs on the lines.
- You need a backup plan. We do our best to help those who need it, but if you depend on electricity for life support purposes, you must have a backup plan—remember, we don't always know how long restoration efforts will take. Having a backup plan in place offers peace of mind and ensures uninterrupted care during power outages.
- Our employees have to plan—and eat. If you ever see our trucks in a restaurant parking lot while your power is out

during multiday outage events, know that sometimes our employees huddle in a safe, common area to map out their plan for getting your power back on. Also, our crews work long, hard hours during outages and need to take time for meals just like everyone else.

- Sometimes it's a waiting game. Our portion of the power grid is connected to other electric utilities, and we maintain positive relationships with power providers interconnected to our system. If our outage is due to an issue from their feed into our system,

we must let them do their repairs and be mindful of what they're going through to fix it.

While we strive to minimize power disruptions, occasional outages are unavoidable. If your lights go out, rest assured that our co-op team is working swiftly and safely to restore service. To report an outage, call us at (800) 264-5112 or use SmartHub. If you haven't signed up for SmartHub yet, it's quick and easy—just visit our website at www.skrecc.com and enroll today!

A bright opportunity: Harnessing sun power without the hassles

If you're curious about solar power for your home, there's an easy way to tap into solar without installing panels on your home. The Cooperative Solar program provides all the benefits of solar energy without the hassle, maintenance or upfront costs of owning private rooftop panels.

Cooperative Solar Farm One is a large-scale solar farm owned and operated by Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, including our co-op. Members pay a one-time fee of \$460 to license a single solar panel for 25 years. Each panel may produce between 19 and 50 kilowatt-hours of solar energy monthly, depending on the sun. Every month, the average value generated by a panel is calculated and credited to your bill.

Among the benefits of opting for Cooperative Solar are:

- **No rooftop installation.** No equipment is installed on your property, which eliminates costly installation as well as potential roof damage.
- **Reduced hassle and maintenance.** The solar farm is already built and maintained by your cooperative.
- **Accessibility.** Cooperative Solar is an ideal option for those

who rent, have shaded property or don't want to put solar panels on their roof.

- **Environmental impact.** Members contribute to clean energy generation and reduce their carbon footprint.

To license one or more panels or to learn more, visit cooperativesolar.com.



TIM WEBB

Balancing nature and power

Tree planting near electric cooperative rights-of-way requires careful planning to ensure both environmental benefits and reliable electric service. Trees provide shade, reduce energy costs and enhance local ecosystems, but if planted too close to power lines, they can pose serious hazards. Overgrown trees can cause outages, increase maintenance costs and create safety risks for lineworkers and the public.

South Kentucky RECC works proactively to manage vegetation by trimming and removing trees that threaten service reliability while also educating members on proper tree selection and placement. Choosing the right tree species and planting them at a safe distance from power lines helps prevent conflicts and reduces the need for frequent pruning. For more information about our vegetation management plan and how we maintain the 7,000 miles of power lines within our service area, visit www.skrecc.com.



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Visit www.skrecc.applicantpro.com/jobs/ to explore exciting career opportunities with the South Kentucky RECC Team.

South Kentucky RECC is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Visit www.skrecc.com to pay your bill online, to visit our outage center, or for more information about the Co-op Connections Program.

To report an outage 24/7/365, please call your local office, (800) 264-5112, or set up your account to be able to text outages. Please do not report outages via social media.

Plug into South Kentucky RECC. Follow us on social media:



South Kentucky RECC Annual Membership Days

June 10, 2025

Wayne and
Clinton county
offices

June 11, 2025

McCreary and
Russell county
offices

June 12, 2025

Somerset office

7:30 a.m.–6 p.m. All times are local.



WADE HARRIS



WADE HARRIS

PHOTOS: MORGHAN BLEVINS

WIRED FOR SERVICE.

We thank electrical
lineworkers for their
commitment to
powering our local
communities.

**LINEWORKER
APPRECIATION DAY**
APRIL 14, 2025

NRECA STRAIGHT TALK