



Your Storm Response

We have definitely had some wild weather this spring and summer. I actually felt relief when we got through winter and thought we could rest again. And, then came the storms. Not just one storm but back to back to back storms! In our cooperatives, we are prepared for storms and practice our response. We have systems in place to call in crews and other employees. We also have mutual aid plans so we can get help from our neighboring or state-wide cooperatives. We work together to get all of us back to operating conditions efficiently and, more importantly, safely.

And we know these storms impact you, too. You may be without power or you may even be without your home! If you have been fortunate to not have damage or to not have lost power, then count your blessings. But, what is your storm response? Don't wait for the unfortunate event to happen; make plans now and be ready to respond.

PREPARE

1. Have a sturdy shelter to go when the storms strike.
2. Place your emergency kit in this shelter. One thing we might not remember – keep a pair of shoes in this place in case you find yourself in there in the middle of the night.
3. Review with your insurance company the coverage you have for the variations of storms – wind damage, flood damage, tornado, etc.
4. Consider purchasing a generator and know how to use it safely. If your generator connects directly to your household wiring, install a transfer switch to prevent backfeed which could electrocute a lineworker repairing the line.



Lines still energized even with tree pulling them down (retrieved from Lake Region's Facebook)

RESPOND

5. Never walk outside after a storm unless you have a spotlight and can see where you are going. There might be downed lines still energized and you may step on it or run into a low-hanging line.
6. Never touch a line on the ground. YES, it can still be energized. In fact, stay far, far away.
7. Don't ever touch anything in contact with a power line, even if it is to remove a tree limb. The limb can be energized. Leave this action to the co-op.
8. Never drive over a downed line.
9. Do not walk into a flooded area. Submerged outlets and electrical cords may energize standing waters.



Lines still suspended even with pole broken and on ground (retrieved from Lake Region's Facebook)