



**CLARKE**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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# HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED



*Pictured: Chris Coffelt, Shannon Erb, Jason Gibbs, and Josh Hostetler*

## Operation Round-Up Does it Again!

The Operation Round-Up® Program recently gave \$5,000 to the South-Central Iowa Theatre (SCIT) located in Leon for some badly needed building and marquee improvements.

SCIT isn't just a place to watch movies, it's also a great place for live entertainment including community and school plays and is an excellent venue for community events and private groups.

SCIT Theatre volunteers recently embarked on raising approximately \$100,000 to give this downtown treasure a facelift. The improvements include new electrical, marquee, lighting and tuck pointing brick. Clarke Electric is proud to support the SCIT Theatre and this project!

In related news, two CEC members recently lost their homes to housefires. Both families received \$500 thanks to Operation Round-Up.

## THANK YOU!



### LINeworker APPRECIATION DAY APRIL 11

- |                |               |               |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Dylan Bragg    | Adam McCuddin | Doug Reasoner |
| Dominic Cresta | Rob McCoy     | Zach Stewart  |
| Cory Dommer    | Chad McIntosh | Jarad Taylor  |
| Hunter Koehn   | Eric Page     |               |

## The People Behind Your Power

If you were in the area after tornadoes swept through our service territory March 5, you probably saw Clarke Electric's crews working on power lines and storm damage repair. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that must be done, often in challenging

*continued on pg. 2*



**DAVE OPIE**  
General Manager

**Reading pays!** We have hidden two of our members' account numbers in this issue. If you find your member location number, call during April to have \$10 deducted from your monthly energy account.

# Opie: The People Behind Your Power...from pg. 1

conditions. I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

**The work can be heavy, in more ways than one.** The equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds! That's like carrying six gallons of water! And, lineworkers must climb poles ranging from 30 to 120 feet tall so there is no room for error.

**Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle.** The long hours and ever-present danger can take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs.

**Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions.** While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness.

**Despite challenges, our lineworkers commit to powering our local community.** During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families

unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later.

Our cooperative employs 10 lineworkers who are responsible for keeping the power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 1,900 miles of power lines across eight counties. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life. 53-12-01-00

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions.

After all, lineworkers are the people behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 11 by using #ThankALineworker on social media to show your appreciation.



## Show You Care with RECare

A one-time or monthly contribution to the RECare program can help offset high bills for those who need it. RECare funds can also be used to weatherize the recipient's home and help make electricity usage more efficient. Your donation is directed to local community action agencies for distribution to low-income families near you.

Consider contributing to RECare and help your neighbors and your community with high heating expenses. It's an easy way to show you care!

### Member Authorization Form

*Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members through the RECare program.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is a check with a one-time donation.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to make a monthly donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: RECare, c/o Clarke Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 161, Osceola, Iowa 50213

**Looking Out For You:  
February Outages**

**Power supply: 1  
Equipment/maintenance failure: 4  
Customer caused: 1  
Unknown: 1.**



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.



Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25% to 30% less energy than standard equipment.

Source: Department of Energy

# 5 Planting Season Safety Tips



It's no surprise that the agriculture industry is the most dangerous industry in the U.S.—that's why it's important to take every precaution during spring planting. This time of year, farmers feel rushed to get their fields planted, which forces them to work long hours. 18-25-02-53

**1 Transport safely.** Make sure your equipment is compliant with the state's specific agriculture road travel equipment safety requirements. There are specific requirements for different types of equipment.

**2 Encourage youth involvement on the farm, but make sure to match age and ability level with each chore.** Always know where children are on the farm and ensure safe practices.

**3 Stay Healthy.** Take breaks and allow yourself to re-energize. When fatigue sets in, that's when injuries and mistakes are most likely to happen. Remind workers to stay hydrated and rested outside of the farm.

**4 Inspect your space.** Look critically for hazards before you start planting, and before they become real hazards. Inspect your equipment if it hasn't been used since last year and make sure it is serviced before taking it out into the field.

**5 Be a safety role model.** Develop a safety plan for the farm. Teach proper safety skills to kids and teens and remember they will mimic what they see their parents and mentors do.



## Sign Up for Automatic Bill Payment!

Enjoy the easy, reliable, and secure way of using Clarke Electric's Automatic Payment Plan (ACH). Having your payment deducted automatically from your checking/savings account or a credit/debit card can save you time and money. This service is FREE to our members.

To sign-up visit us online at [www.cecnet.net](http://www.cecnet.net) and click on SmartHub or call us!



The Clarke Electric office will be closed Friday, April 15 for Good Friday. We wish all our members a safe and happy holiday!

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU? @ [cecnet.net](http://cecnet.net)



Statewide outage map



Leased Light Program



SmartHUB



Rebates & Online Forms



Operation Round-UP



Call Before You Dig



Email newsletters



RECare

# Operations Corner: Tornado Aftermath

A tornado in early March is rare, but that was the case on March 5 as severe weather impacted much of our service territory.

The power supply to the Humeston and Clio substations was disrupted at 5:11 p.m. due to a tornado that impacted the ITC transmission line near Leon. Crews were immediately dispatched to that area to begin restoring power.

Thankfully, Clarke Electric has worked hard to place “tie lines” throughout the system that give us the ability to back feed power from one substation to another in the event one substation is offline. Power was restored to both substations by 5:45 p.m. and the 750 members they serve.

The same tornado caused major damage to ITC transmission lines resulting in 15 broken poles south of Chariton along Highway 14. That transmission line is Clarke Electric’s power supply to the Derby substation. We have “underbuild” lines that are placed on the ITC lines as regulated by the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB).

As a result, Clarke Electric lost power to the Derby substation at 5:50 p.m. After clearing the line and getting opens established, we got transmission routed back to the Derby substation at 6:51

p.m. The Derby substation outage affected 589 of our members. Another tornado south of Allerton damaged lines that affected 30 members.

Our crews worked from 5:30 p.m. Saturday until 9:00 p.m. Sunday restoring power to all our members with the exception of four members that were delayed by the transmission repairs south of Chariton.

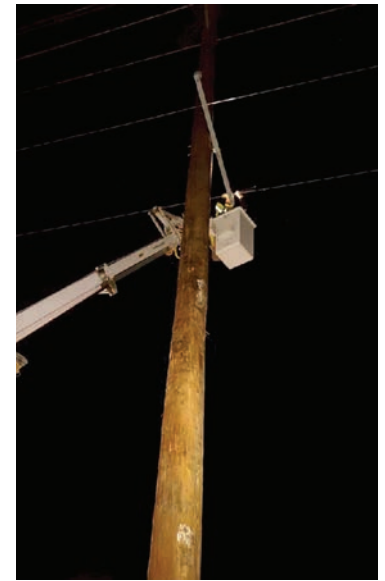
Once all power was restored, we reviewed the outage information, drove the lines and determined the severity of the damage and the path of the tornado through our system. We sustained 23 broken poles and significant conductor damage along the tornado path from Leon to Chariton.

Our crews will be working for the next several weeks cleaning up the destruction caused by the storms. We are thankful our members stayed safe and our hearts go out to the many lowans who lost so much.

We take pride in working for our members and we thank you for your patience as we worked to restore your power.



**CHAD MCINTOSH**  
Manager of Operations



## CEC Crews Repair Damage from March Tornadoes

*Top left and bottom: Crews work to replace eight broken three-phase poles in the Humeston substation area, southwest of Garden Grove. Top right: Crews replace crossarms on the underbuild ITC transmission lines south of Chariton along Highway 14.*



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### OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri.: 7:30 AM - 4 PM | Outside depository available 24/7

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David Opie

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