Buckeye Rural Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

After a storm, what can I do to help restore electricity more quickly to my home?

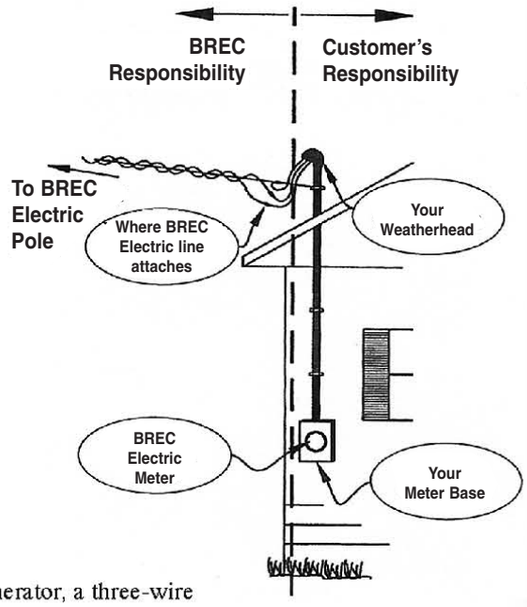
When trees fall onto power lines during a storm, the stress can pull electric equipment away from your home. To know what this equipment looks like and what repairs need to be made, look at the illustration to the right. Everything on the left side of the dotted line is BREC's responsibility to repair. Everything on the right side belongs to you. It is your responsibility to work with an electrician to make repairs.

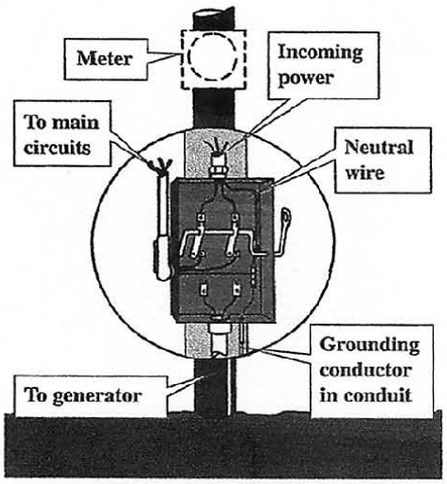
The equipment that belongs to you has to be repaired before BREC can restore electricity to your home. To save time and have your home ready for power when it is restored to your area, you can take two important steps.

1. Contact BREC to disconnect the lines to your weather head. If you or an electrician touch the wires before the lines are disconnected by BREC, the result could be deadly.

2. After BREC has disconnected your wires from the main electric lines, get an electrician to fix the weather head and your meter base. Then, when BREC has made repairs in your area, you'll be ready to be connected to receive power.

3. BREC hopes this information will help the next time trees or wind force power lines to the ground in your area. Contact your local office if you have any questions.





Typical double-pole, double-throw transfer switch installation for 120/240-volt, single-phase service

Use generators responsibly

EXTENSION CORDS

When using an appliance or tool at a considerable distance from the generator, a three-wire extension cord that has a three-blade grounding plug and a three-slot receptacle that accepts the tool's plug should be used. A cord of adequate size must be used.

WARNING:

If you connect a portable electric generator to the main electrical supply coming into the house, the electrical generator could feed back into your electric cooperative's system and electrocute workers who are repairing the electrical lines.

To avoid back feeding of electricity into utility systems, you must have a qualified, licensed electrician install a double-pole, double-throw transfer switch (per illustration) between the generator and utility power in compliance with all state and local electrical codes. ELECTRICAL INSPECTION REQUIRED.

Your generator might not be large enough to handle the load of all the lights, appliances, TV, etc., at one time. To prevent dangerous overloading, calculate wattage requirements correctly.

Priorities during power restoration

With the use of the diagram on this page, we would like to illustrate the process by which electric service is restored during major power outages.

During the restoration process, service priorities must be followed. Attention must first be given to restoration of service to the main power source - that is to the substation or main three-phase lines - if there are problems affecting them. It's comparable to electric service in your home or business - it would be futile to plug an appliance into a wall outlet if your main switch is thrown. During a major power outage, it would be of no benefit for the cooperative's crews to attempt to restore power to a tap line that serves your home if the problems back at the substation or main distribution line aren't connected first.

In the illustration, all the houses are without electricity and there is no damage at the substation. When the main three-phase feeder line is repaired, service to houses 2 and 3 should be restored automatically because there is nothing wrong with the line leading to them. The next step would be to repair tap lines leading off the main feeder line. In the diagram, the tree would be removed from the tap line and the line would be repaired. Service would be restored to house 4.

Now, repairs would be made at individual homes. As this work is completed, electric service is restored to houses 1 and 5. Of course, this is an extremely simplified version of the power restoration process, and the time involved would depend on the extent of damage to an electric utility's system.