

A power restoration refresher

Whenever the electricity goes out, we've come to expect service will be restored within a few hours at most. But when a major ice storm or tornadoes cause widespread damage, longer outages cannot be helped. Line crews work long, hard hours restoring service, but it's a task that needs to be done methodically to be done safely.

Here's a refresher course, reprinted from a few years ago, on how electric cooperatives go about the task of restoring service.

Every co-op follows a basic principle when it comes to restoring power: priority goes to the lines that will get the most people back in service the quickest. This usually begins with main lines and continues out to tap lines and then to individual service lines.

Exceptions are made for people on life-supporting medical equipment. Notify your co-op immediately if someone in your family uses such equipment, and always have a backup generator ready.

A major storm has just hit the countryside. Here's a simplified look at how your electric co-op typically goes about the task of restoring electric service.

