

Storms are getting stronger, but so are we



Northeastern continues to increase reliability to face stronger storms.

In recent years, we've seen an increase in storms that are affecting communities across Northeast Indiana, including those served by Northeastern REMC. Who can forget last summer's derecho, which brought 90+ mph wind speeds to our community, causing the most prolonged power outages many of us have experienced in our lifetimes? We've also had heavy snow, ice storms, record-cold temperatures, and severe thunderstorms with flash flooding just in the past three years.

It's our job as your electric cooperative to be prepared for events that can potentially cause substantial damage to the electrical infrastructure. This means taking a proactive approach to upgrading and enhancing our electrical system.

We've been upgrading poles to a larger, more robust

design and also shortening the distance between poles to make them more resistant to high winds and tree limbs. In addition, overhead lines are moving to underground lines where feasible and are being relocated away from streams and ditches. All of these changes will better protect the electrical system and, in turn, will reduce the number of outages or the duration of outages due to weather events.

We understand the importance of electricity in everyone's daily lives and strive to keep your homes and businesses running during all types of weather.

So, the next time you experience a weather event in our community, remember that we've been working hard to keep your power on. If you have any questions, please reach out to us. We're here to serve you.

DID YOU KNOW?

Your electric co-op supports veterans through Honor Flight

For more than eight years, we've teamed up with other local REMCs to sponsor, photograph, and create memory books for multiple Honor Flights each year through Honor Flight Northeast Indiana.

Honor Flight Northeast Indiana is a recognized independent hub of the Honor Flight network and was created to raise funds and provide volunteers to take veterans from WWII and all wars directly from Fort Wayne to Washington, D.C. Upon arrival, motor coaches will be standing by to transport veterans to the WWII Memorial, as well as other memorial stops throughout the day, before flying them back home the same evening. All of these flights are 100% funded by individual and corporate contributions.

Learn more at hfnei.org.



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND **FREE TREES** TO CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 21 - 2:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22 - 8:00 A.M. - 10 A.M.*

Who is eligible:

NREMC members can receive two free trees.
If enrolled in paperless billing, members can receive up to three trees.

How to get your tree(s):

Park on the west side of our building and enter through the door under the eopy. We'll verify your membership and help you pick out your trees.

IMPORTANT

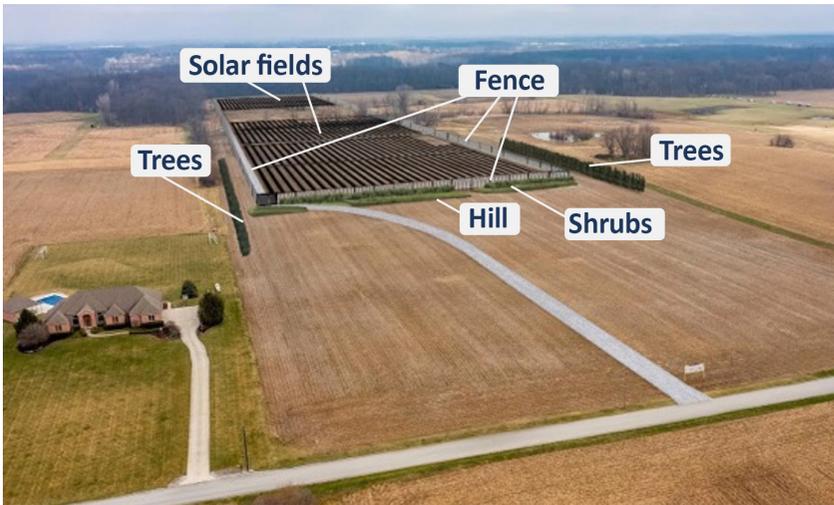
*Saturday hours are available only if we still have trees remaining. Check our Facebook page for live updates on inventory throughout the day Friday.

Trees will be available on a first-come, first-served basis until all 1,100 trees are gone. Unfortunately, we cannot hold trees for anyone.

Please note that trees measure from 12 inches to 6 feet tall.

Find full details at nremc.com/freetrees.

A 40-acre solar project is launching soon in Huntertown



 **4230 Hatch Road | Huntertown**

Northeastern REMC is adding the Hatch Road solar generation project to help reduce the need to purchase electricity from the grid at peak demand, which can be expensive and contribute to grid instability. The solar generation facility will work in conjunction with our utility-scale battery installations and Peak Thermostat Program to lower our overall peak usage to further stabilize rates. It is important to note that the proximity of a solar farm does not directly impact the flow of electricity to the member's home. Electricity is transmitted through the grid, and the grid is designed to distribute electricity to customers regardless of where it is generated.

So, even if a member's home is not located near the solar farm, they can still benefit from the electricity that the solar farm produces. The Hatch Road solar farm will be capable of producing a portion of the cooperative's summertime peak-electricity needs, which will help offset the cost of purchasing electricity from the grid when at the most expensive time. It will also generate clean, renewable energy during off-peak times to help lower our wholesale power bill year-round.

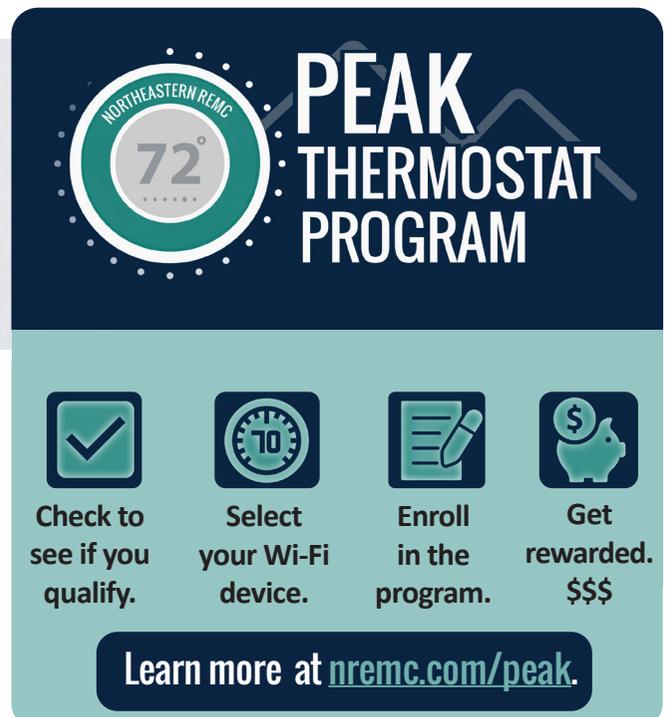
Don't worry. The facility is safe and will not produce air emissions or chemicals. After construction is complete, there will be very limited traffic to the new site. The solar cells do not make noise while capturing the sun's power, and the physical layout was designed to reduce any noise from electrical equipment.

Learn more at nremc.com/hatchroadsolar.



Ready to start saving on your electric bill?

The Peak Thermostat Program is back for another season of savings! **Members can save up to 15% on their energy bill each month by installing a smart thermostat and enrolling in our program.** Plus, you'll get a \$100 bill credit the first year and \$50 every additional year you stay in the program. For full details and to enroll, visit nremc.com/peak.



The graphic features a dark blue background with a white circular logo on the left containing the text 'NORTHEASTERN REMC' and '72°'. To the right, the text 'PEAK THERMOSTAT PROGRAM' is displayed in large white letters. Below this, four icons are arranged horizontally: a checkmark, a clock with '10' inside, a document with a pencil, and a piggy bank with a dollar sign. Each icon is accompanied by a step in the enrollment process. At the bottom, a dark blue button contains the text 'Learn more at nremc.com/peak'.

Check to see if you qualify.

Select your Wi-Fi device.

Enroll in the program.

Get rewarded. \$\$\$

Learn more at nremc.com/peak.

Two employees complete four-year apprenticeships to become journeymen line workers

Congratulations, Rural Electric Apprenticeship Program graduates!

We are proud to announce that two of our employees are recent graduates from Indiana Electric Cooperatives' apprenticeship program, Rural Electric Apprenticeship Program (REAP). Adam Hartman and Tyler Coffelt graduated last month. REAP is a program that professionally trains apprentice line workers from across Indiana. Graduates complete 612 hours of classroom-related study and 8,000 hours of on-the-job training at their electric cooperative.

In this program, students complete four additional classes through Ivy Tech Community College to earn an Associate of Applied Science and a journeyman line worker certificate. We are proud to have these gentlemen serving our members!



**620 HOURS
OF CLASSWORK**
**8,000 HOURS
OF ON-THE-JOB TRAINING**

Make a difference by serving on the Board of Directors



Northeastern's service area is divided into nine districts. Members are given the opportunity to select a representative from their area to serve on the Board of Directors. Every year, three board positions are up for grabs. This year, Districts 1, 8, and 9 have positions open. This includes Eel River, Lake, Washington, Perry, and Aboite townships in Allen County. For a complete list of requirements, potential duties, and more about the election process, visit nremc.com/election.



**ISO: TWO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS
FOR: TWO \$1,000
COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS**

APPLY AT: NREMC.COM/SCHOLARSHIPS

**Apply by
April 4**



Lobby closed on Good Friday

Our lobby will be closed on **Friday, April 7**.

You can still manage your account online at nremc.com, and call us if you need us.

Now hiring

Because Northeastern REMC is part of a state-wide and national cooperative, we can offer a unique combination of a small-company atmosphere with the resources and benefits of a large company, including tools, career planning, financial strength, and stability. View our current job openings at

nremc.com/jobs.

Contact Us

memberservices@nremc.com

888-413-6111

nremc.com

Call 811 before you dig!



ELECTRICAL OVERLOADS

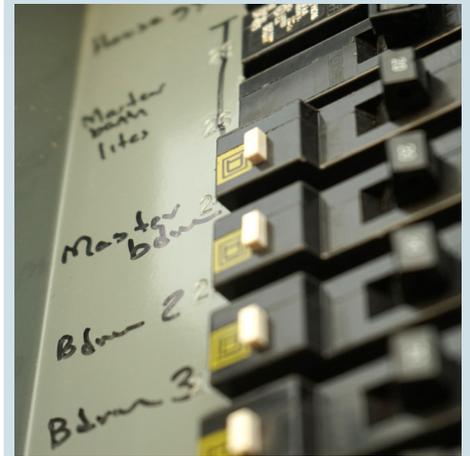
Don't rely on extension cords to solve the problem of inadequate electrical outlets

Electrical overloads can occur when your home draws more electricity than a circuit can safely handle. When a circuit receives too much electricity, it causes the circuit breaker to trip, shutting the entire circuit's power off.

Breakers are critical components to the circuit's safety. If there were no breakers in the circuit, an overload would occur, causing the wires to overheat. That overheating could lead to a fire. There are several signs that indicate an overloaded circuit. Among them:

- Flickering, blinking, or dimming lights.
- The outlet switch covers are warm to the touch.
- Burning odors from outlets or switches.
- Frequently tripped circuit breakers.
- Crackling, sizzling, or buzzing from receptacles.
- Mild shock or tingles after touching appliances, receptacles, or switches.
- Power tools, appliances, or electronics seem to lack adequate power.

If any of these things are occurring, head to your circuit panel. It's usually located in the basement or garage. Check to see if any of the switches in the panel have been tripped or partially tripped. Turn them off — then back on again. Refer to the box on the right for specific directions for resetting your tripped breaker.



How to reset a tripped breaker

Here's what to do if your breaker is tripped:

- Unplug or turn off appliances in the room.
- Find your main breaker panel and open the cover.
- Locate the tripped breaker or blown fuse. A tripped circuit breaker will be in the "off" position or in a middle position between "on" and "off."
- To reset the breaker, switch it to the "off" position and then back to "on."

If the problem persists, there may be more-serious issues. Contact an electrician to identify the problem.

"Remember, if problems persist or you don't feel comfortable with your breaker box, call a licensed electrician."



Jared Boggs
Safety Coordinator

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LIGHTPOST

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