



Cass County Electric Cooperative

JUNE 2011

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

DALE COOK WOODTURNER



Community is an integral part of what it is to be a cooperative. The communities served by Cass County Electric Cooperative are made up of many inspirational people doing great things. This year, CCEC will feature a local artist in each issue of North Dakota LIVING.



DALE COOK

Woodturner turns out detailed pieces of art

“You can take a beautiful piece of wood and if the shape or form of the finished piece isn’t pleasing to look at, it doesn’t work. Or you can take a plain piece of wood with a beautiful form and it will enhance the piece.”



Thirty-some years ago, Dale Cook bought a lathe. He had always had a vision of building a spiral staircase in his home. He tinkered with the lathe a bit and then it gathered dust in the corner for about 25 years.

Although he never would have thought of himself as an artist, a few glances around his home suggest otherwise. Bowls made of exotic woods and rocks stand on display on glass shelves. Unique pieces hang on the walls, and the work of other local artists fills in other spaces.

And then there’s the room with the spiral staircase – yes, he did build it eventually. It is a room with skylights, art pieces and the twisting staircase that goes up to a loft, which houses an organ, a family heirloom, dating back to the 19th century.

Dale has worked in the construction business for over 40 years. He comes home at night and then devotes time to his art. He explained that he often gets lost in it, heading out to his garage in the early evening and looking up at the clock to see that it has suddenly become 9:30.

He is in his ninth year of woodturning, although he’s worked with wood since he was in his early 20s, when he found it as something to do, a hobby. In his earlier years he built cabinets, shelves, etc.

Woodturning is a form of woodworking using a lathe to create objects, sometimes intricate,

like the finials Dale places on top of some of his pieces.

Dale prefers to turn green wood, wood that has recently been taken from the tree and still contains moisture. He’s always looking for tree burrels and tells people often that he is searching for wood. He then receives calls when someone comes across available wood.

Often Dale’s pieces are smooth and shiny when finished. He creates the desired object with the lathe and then coats it with many layers of lacquer to achieve the smooth, glass-like surface.

“You can take a beautiful piece of wood and if the shape or form of the finished piece isn’t pleasing to look at, it doesn’t work. Or you can take a plain piece of wood with a beautiful form and it will enhance the piece. Knowing where to place the widest section of the piece and the size of the base and opening, all affect the end product,” Dale said of his experience and process with woodturning.

Dale figures he’s made “hundreds and hundreds” of pieces. His work can be found at Ecce Art + Yoga, in downtown Fargo, and also at the numerous shows he takes part in during the year. He’s been at the Fargo Street Fair the past two summers, The Studio Crawl in the fall, and others in the region.

Dale lives in Fargo with his wife and has two grown sons.

SAFETY BRIEF

LIGHTNING STRIKES. PERIOD.

Data from the National Weather Service shows that lightning strikes are fatal in approximately 10 percent of strike victims. Another 70 percent of survivors suffer serious, long-term effects.

Outdoors is the most dangerous place to be during a lightning storm. Because lightning can travel sideways for up to 10 miles, blue skies are not a sign of safety. If you hear thunder, take cover. For protection in homes and buildings, consider installing a lightning protection system to intercept lightning strikes and guide the current harmlessly to the ground.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International recommends following these guidelines to stay safe during electrical storms:

- If possible, go indoors. Once indoors, stay away from windows and doors. Do not use

corded telephones except for emergencies.

- Unplug electronic equipment before the storm arrives and avoid contact with electrical equipment or cords during storms.
- Avoid contact with plumbing, including sinks, baths and faucets.
- If outdoors, go to a low point. Lightning hits the tallest object. Get down if you are in an exposed area. Stay away from trees.
- Avoid metal. Don't hold metal items, including bats, golf clubs, fishing rods, tennis rackets or tools. Avoid metal sheds, clothes lines, poles and fences.

If you feel a tingling sensation or your hair stands on end, lightning may be about to strike. Crouch down and cover your ears. Stay away from water. This includes pools, lakes, puddles and anything damp, such as wet poles or grass.

Don't stand close to other people. Spread out. And don't forget pets during thunderstorms. Doghouses are not lightning-safe. Dogs that are chained can easily fall victim to a lightning strike.

Victims of lightning strikes should be given CPR if necessary and get medical attention.

For more information on lightning safety, go to these Web sites:

- Electrical Safety Foundation International
– www.electrical-safety.org
- Lightning Protection Institute
– www.lightning.org
- U.S. Department of Labor's
– www.dol.gov
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration
– www.osha.gov
- Consumer Product Safety Commission
– www.cpsc.gov



WHAT DOES

that yellow label mean?

by: Shannon Stumpf, Energy Management and Conservation Coordinator, Cass County Electric Cooperative

If you have purchased a refrigerator, dishwasher or washing machine, you have probably recognized the yellow Energy Guide label that accompanies that appliance. These helpful labels are published through the Federal Trade Commission and are put on certain appliances to simply help you see how much energy that particular model will use. The label will also highlight if that particular model is an ENERGY STAR rated appliance. This system is for the benefit of the consumer, making it easy to compare the estimated energy use of different models, just as you compare features or price differences for appliances.

One popular appliance that will be new to the yellow Energy Guide label is televisions. For televisions manufactured after May of 2011, they will now be required to display these labels, offering you another useful comparison tool as you are shopping for your new TV.

For consumers, this will be a positive change as there are so many different possibilities for TVs. The energy consumed from these different models also varies so much that it is certainly something that should be given proper attention to in the final decision process. The new labels will compare both the TV's estimated annual energy cost

and offer a comparison between similar screen size models.

From an energy standpoint, there are certainly some TVs that perform better than others. In the categories of plasmas, LCDs, and LEDs, the plasmas rank the highest in energy use and depending on the screen size.

If you are in the market for a new television, look for the Energy Guide label to help you in your final decision and comparing all the features. The energy cost associated with operating that TV may play an important role and now there will be an easy way to compare.



facts for consumers

How to Use the EnergyGuide Label

Lists key features of the appliance you're looking at and the similar models that make up the cost range below.

U.S. Government Federal law prohibits removal of this label before consumer purchase.

ENERGYGUIDE

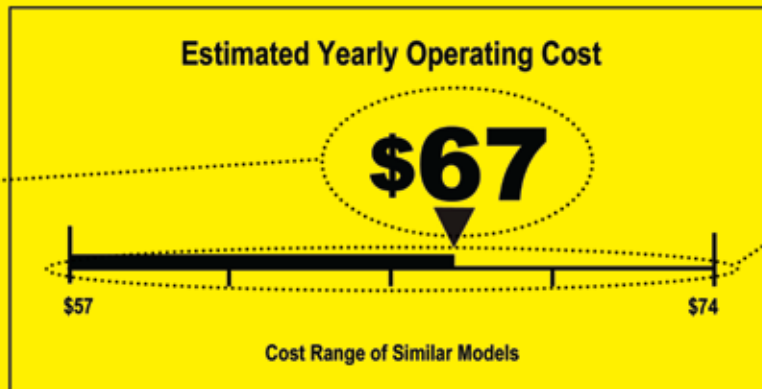
Refrigerator-Freezer

- Automatic Defrost
- Side-Mounted Freezer
- Through-the-Door Ice

XYZ Corporation
Model ABC-L
Capacity: 23 Cubic Feet

The maker, model, and size tell you exactly what product this label describes.

What you might pay to run the appliance for a year, based on its electricity use and the national average cost of energy. The cost appears on labels for all models and brands, so you can compare energy use just like you would price or other features.



The cost range helps you compare the energy use of different models by showing you the range of operating costs for models with similar features.

630 kWh
Estimated Yearly Electricity Use

Your cost will depend on your utility rates and use.

- Cost range based only on models of similar capacity with automatic defrost, side-mounted freezer, and through-the-door ice.
- Estimated operating cost based on a 2007 national average electricity cost of 10.65 cents per kWh.
- For more information, visit www.ftc.gov/appliances.



An estimate of how much electricity the appliance uses in a year based on typical use. Multiply this by your local electricity rate on your utility bill to better judge what your actual operating cost might be.

If you see the ENERGY STAR logo, it means the product is better for the environment because it uses less energy than standard models.

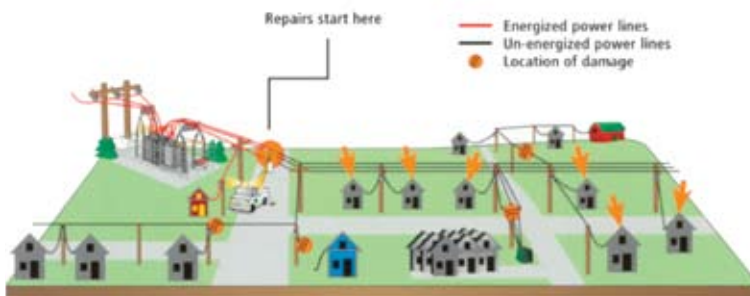
Getting Back On Line

At CCEC we strive to provide you with the most reliable electric service. However, outages do occur and they are an unavoidable aspect of providing electricity. Therefore, we would like to illustrate the process of how we restore your power during an outage. This article examines the repair process in one isolated area, but an important fact to remember is that with a typical outage, there are usually several areas affected at the same time. Consequently, this effort is occurring across our service area simultaneously.

CCEC'S BASIC OUTAGE RESTORATION PRINCIPLE: Priority goes to the lines that will get the most people back in service the quickest.

Cass County Electric typically 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 from the substations that can affect 200-600 members, and continues out to tap lines, which may affect 30-200 members, and then to individual service lines affecting just 1-5 members.

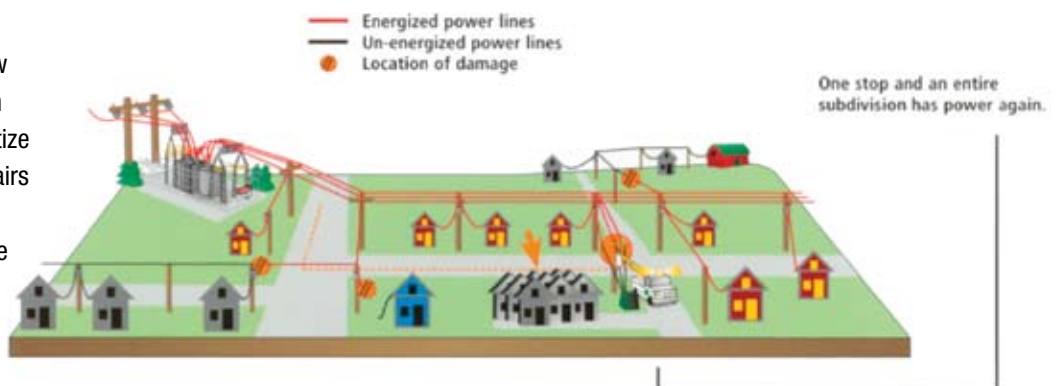
STEP 1. Repairs start with the main line.



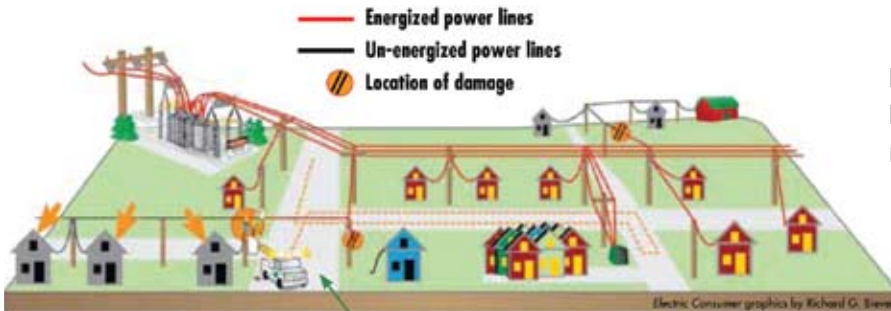
The substation is energized but a main distribution line is damaged near the substation, leaving most members without power. First, all damaged tap lines need to be isolated from the main line and then repairs can begin on the main line from the substation. A large number of members (shown with orange arrows) will have power returned once the main line is fixed. All other repairs would be pointless until this line is restored as it feeds all the other lines.

STEP 2. With the main line restored, the line crew can isolate other damage.

With the main line restored (now shown in red), the line crew can isolate other damage and prioritize repairs. Though a couple of repairs were closer, fixing the line that serves this subdivision down the road will get a larger number of consumers on more quickly.



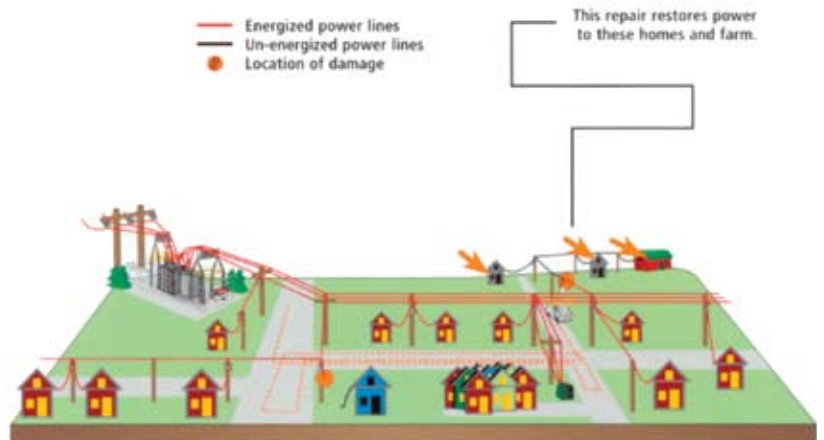
STEP 3. Tap lines serving the most members take precedence over those serving fewer members.



Moving back down the road to fix this tap line will restore electricity to the three homes marked with arrows.

Back down the road, the crew makes one repair and restores power to this stretch of line.

Next on the list for the line crew is a tap line serving two homes and a barn. The move probably doesn't make the folks in the blue house too happy. They've seen the crew driving by their home and working right across the road. They see lights in the homes of all their neighbors but they don't have power. That's because even though electricity is coming to their pole (that happened with the first repair in Step 1), the service line from their pole to their meter is damaged. Individual repairs come after all distribution and tap lines are restored.



STEP 4. Individual repairs are finished last.



Individual repairs begin once all other lines are repaired.

Only after the tap lines are repaired does the crew start work on individual service lines. The crew could have stopped to restore power anytime after the first main line was repaired and electricity was flowing to the pole nearby. But it is more efficient for the crews to move down the road and restore power to dozens of homes in the same amount of time.

OUTAGE NUMBER:

(701) 356-4499

NEWS COOPERATIVE

The following CCEC employees were recently recognized for 30 years of service: Brad Schmidt, Neil Stenshol, Dean Reimer, Bob Anderson.

Paul Matthys, manager of energy services, passed CEM test.

Phil Windjue has been promoted to line crew foreman at the Fargo Service Center.

CCEC's annual meeting was held on April 18 at the Holiday Inn in Fargo. There were 499 attendees. Steve Swiontek and Jeff Triebold were re-elected to the CCEC board.

Bob Huether was re-appointed to the Minnkota Power Cooperative board. He has been on CCEC's board since June 1971. Bob has served as CCEC's representative to the Minnkota Power Cooperative board since 1979.

Cooperative Connections Card: In 2011, 435 pharmacy claims have been paid totalling \$8,298. In addition to the pharmacy program there are over thirty local businesses offering discounts to CCEC members. Check kwh.com for a complete listing or call 701.356.4671.



Cass County Electric Cooperative urges members to apply for energy efficiency rebates while they are still available. There is \$788,112 remaining. To date, CCEC members have claimed \$408,977 in rebates through the program. CCEC encourages members to call with questions about equipment and rebates.

"Now is an ideal time for our members to purchase energy efficient equipment for their home or business. The North Dakota State Utility Rebate Program makes these purchases much more affordable, especially when combined with federal tax credits," said Jeremy Mahowald, manager of energy management and conservation at CCEC.

Rebates are available for insulation, heating and cooling and water heating equipment. Individuals can qualify for residential rebates up to \$5,000. Businesses can apply for rebates up to \$15,000. Qualifying equipment must have been purchased after June 1, 2010. Rebates are available on a first come, first served basis until the funding has run out or until December 31, 2011.

More information can be found on Cass County Electric's Web site, kwh.com or members can call 800.248.3292.

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