

## **Why we plan outages**

*By Meghaan Evans*

Have you ever received a notification from the folks here at Cherryland Electric Cooperative informing you of a “planned outage?” You may have wondered, “what is a planned outage?” and “why does my electric utility need to perform one?” Occasionally, the equipment we use to bring power to your home needs to be replaced, repaired or updated. When this happens, as a way to keep our crews and you safe, we plan an interruption to electric service.

We do our best to plan these outages during times when you will be least inconvenienced, so we often perform planned outages during school and business hours. We also try to avoid planning these outages during winter or summer months. We understand these are peak times of the year when you depend on running your heating and cooling units the most.

While they may sound slightly inconvenient, planned outages are actually beneficial to you, our members. Regular system upgrades are necessary for optimal performance, and they increase reliability. Repairing and upgrading our equipment is also critical to maintaining public safety. If older lines need to be replaced, we plan for it, repair or replace it, and that keeps everyone safe.

Planned outages also allow us to keep you informed of *when* and *how long* you will be without power. We try to notify you 10 to 14 days before an outage, so you can be prepared. We also keep you aware of when line crews will be working in your area.

Here at Cherryland, we want to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep you safe and to keep our system running smoothly. So, the next time you hear about

a planned outage, know that it is one of the best ways we can provide you with quality electric service.

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