

No Poles Lost in April Storm

Although Mother Nature's last shot of winter in early April kept crews busy repairing outages, most of the outages were due to wrapped or slapping power lines. No poles were lost in the early spring storm, and callers reported only one downed power line.

Outage calls began coming in early in the evening of April 10th. As the wind picked up, the power lines began galloping, causing many reports of blinking lights. Blinking lights soon led to full-fledged service interruptions. Early reports were concentrated in the area south of Wagner, east to the "Dante Corner", and south of Dante. A small number of homes south of Ravinia, and some near Delmont, also lost power later in the evening.

Although crews worked late into the night, making progress was difficult, if not impossible. As soon as a breaker was reset, briefly restoring power to an area, the lines would touch again, and the power would go right back out. It became obvious that progress wouldn't be made until the winds subsided, and crews were called in around midnight.

Crews began working again at 7:00 a.m. the next morning, with some new outages being reported between Wagner and Armour. Most power was restored in time for lunch, with all repairs being completed by approximately 1:00 p.m. Friday afternoon. One consumer noted that his outage lasted "exactly 16 hours, to the minute!"

Neighboring co-op Douglas Electric reported problems similar to what CME experienced. Central Electric, headquartered in Mitchell, reported losing approximately 20 poles to the storm. Although we realize no one likes to spend all night in a cold, dark house, we were actually quite fortunate that damages were relatively minor.

Chuck&Doug,TakeMeAway!

Feeling the need to get away for awhile? Why not join the fun on the bi-annual "Chuck & Doug's Bus Tour" this August? Charles Mix Electric ("Chuck") and Douglas Electric ("Doug") are sponsoring a two-day trip to the Basin Electric generating facilities near Bismarck, ND. This year's trip is set for July 31st - August 1st.

Some of the Highlights:

- Antelope Valley Station electric generating plant tour
- Coteau Freedom coal mine tour
- Oahe Dam tour
- Hyde County wind farm tour
- Air-conditioned charter bus, we do the driving while you relax and visit with friends and neighbors
- Transportation, tours, lodging & meals included for \$50/person



Previous Guests Say:

- We thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of this trip.
- Meals were very good, tours were informative and educational.
- Tour guides did a superb job of organizing and coordinating.
- Good food, good trip, and good times. We enjoyed everything!
- Russell's jokes were pretty good. The "unexpected" entertainment was enjoyed also.
- We'd highly recommend this tour!

Reserve Now

To reserve your seats, call Charles Mix Electric at 487-7321 or 1-800-208-8587. Space is limited, call today. Enjoy a short mini-getaway which promises to be both interesting and educational.

| Thank You ... Thank You ... Thank You | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>"We would like to extend our thanks to all who helped out with the electrical problems we had at the farm. The guys put in the extra hours and were determined to find where the problem was. Your time and effort was greatly appreciated! What a great crew!"</p> <p>Thanks again, Travis & Jackie Beeson Wagner</p> | <p>"Please convey my "Thank You" to the Charles Mix Electric Board for the heat pump rebate that I received last week. I appreciate it very much!</p> <p>Also, would you thank the linemen for restoring our power during the storm April 10th. We are so fortunate to have such dedicated workers!"</p> <p>Polly Sternhagen Dante</p> | <p>"Thank you so much for your donation to the Andes Central after-prom party. We really appreciate your generosity in making a safe party for our students possible."</p> <p>AC Students & After-Prom Committee</p> |

Charles Mix Electric Cooperative Connections

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CME Board of Directors

President Wallace Johnson

Vice President Joseph D. Rysavy Jr.

Secretary/Treasurer Ron Samuelson
Directors

Douglas Koupal Kenneth Porter

Richard Dvorak Dale Link

Regular meetings of the board of directors of this cooperative are held on the third Thursday of each month.

Office Staff

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Office Manager | Wanda Weber |
| Staff Assistant | Greg Farke |
| Member Services Advisor | Russell Gall |
| Accounting/Work Orders | Carol Dvorak |
| Secretary/Cashier | Sally J. Florey |
| Line Superintendent | Rodrick Payer |

Line Crew

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Foreman (LA) | John Brooks | 487-7044 |
| Foreman (Platte) | Bob Struck | 337-9696 |
| Jrnymn | Jon Finney | 337-3728 |
| Jrnymn | Jared Vanderwerff | 337-3309 |
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Charles Mix Electric Cooperative Connections is published monthly by Charles Mix Electric Association, PO Box 10, 440 Lake St., Lake Andes, SD 57356 for its members. Families subscribe to Charles Mix Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Charles Mix Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better rural living.

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Web site: <http://www.cme.coop>

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Co-op News

Summer Hours Scheduled

Beginning Tuesday, May 27th, Charles Mix Electric will be open the following hours:

Shop: 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Office: 7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

CME is open over the noon hour for your convenience!



Touchstone Energy®

Office Closed

Charles Mix Electric will be closed Monday, May 26th, for Memorial Day.

Please call
1-800-208-8587 for
outages or emergencies.

(Internet tech support is not available at this number.)



Russell Gall and Mike Dangel capture the interest of their audience at the 2008 "Save Our Farm Youth" demonstration, put on by the Charles Mix County Extension Agency. Using the "Power Town" display, on loan from East River Electric, they demonstrated the need for extreme caution when working with farm equipment near high voltage power lines. A similar display involving high voltage was shown to the Lake Andes Fire Department, as well as Lakeview Colony and Clearfield Colony members.

Office Hours
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Open over noon hour
Closed Saturday, Sunday & Holidays

Read meter 1st of each month. Bills due by 6th of month. Add \$2 to any bill paid after the 6th of the month.