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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

## Card puts value in your wallet

**NEWBERRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S COMMITMENT TO YOU** goes beyond providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity.



We're always looking for ways to provide value to our members and the communities we serve, especially during tough economic times. Newberry Electric Cooperative's Co-op Connections member wallet cards and key fobs provide you with a real money-saving tool. The program connects you with discounts on everything from hotel stays to prescription drugs.

Need a picture framed? What about a discount for your next family meal? A Frame of Mind on Main Street, Newberry, is offering 15% off framed and unframed art and custom framing orders. Ronnie's Restaurant, located at 2067 Wilson Road in Newberry, is offering a free iced tea with a dine-in buffet meal. Merchants throughout our community accept Co-op Connections cards, including Diane's Stable Steak House, Hamm's Hardware and Building Supplies, Newberry Ace Hardware and others. Be sure to present the card at the register to receive your discount!

We hope local businesses participating in our Co-op Connections program benefit from increased traffic from Newberry Electric Co-op members. Businesses can sign up for the program at no cost. For a complete list of all participating businesses in our area, simply log on to our website, [www.nec.coop](http://www.nec.coop).

The card also gives you access to online savings at more than 90 national retailers such as Barnes&Noble.com, Hertz Rental Cars, Best Western hotels, and ProFlowers.com. You can check out these great national

discounts at [connections.coop](http://connections.coop).

One of the most valuable features of the Co-op Connections card is the pharmacy discount. While not insurance, the discount can deliver savings of 10 percent to 60 percent on prescription drugs. The logo and information on the back of your card is recognized at more than 60,000 national, regional and local pharmacies.

The pharmacy discount has been widely used by co-ops that are members of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, resulting in combined savings of more than \$20 million on prescriptions nationwide. As of June 30, members of South Carolina co-ops have saved \$2,898,310.91 since the Co-op Connections card was introduced in 2007. That includes more than \$13,000 saved by members of Newberry Electric Cooperative.

Want to find out more? Log on to [locateproviders.com](http://locateproviders.com) to search for pharmacies in our area honoring the card. Use code 22203 as the group number under the "Groups" login section. Next, enter your ZIP code.

As a Touchstone Energy Cooperatives member, Newberry Electric Cooperative strives to serve you according to four core values: integrity, accountability, innovation, and commitment to community. Our Co-op Connections card program is one of the ways we live up to those values.



**Daniel P. Murphy**  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

## Major restoration is (not as) easy as 1, 2, 3

NEC's goal is to get power restored as safely and quickly as possible to all members affected by the outage

BY JASON MERCHANT

WITH HURRICANE AND STORM season upon us, this is a prime time to remind Newberry Electric Cooperative members of how the co-op restores service when widespread outages occur.

Restoring power after a major outage is an enormous undertaking that involves much more than simply throwing a switch or removing a tree from the line.



Jason Merchant

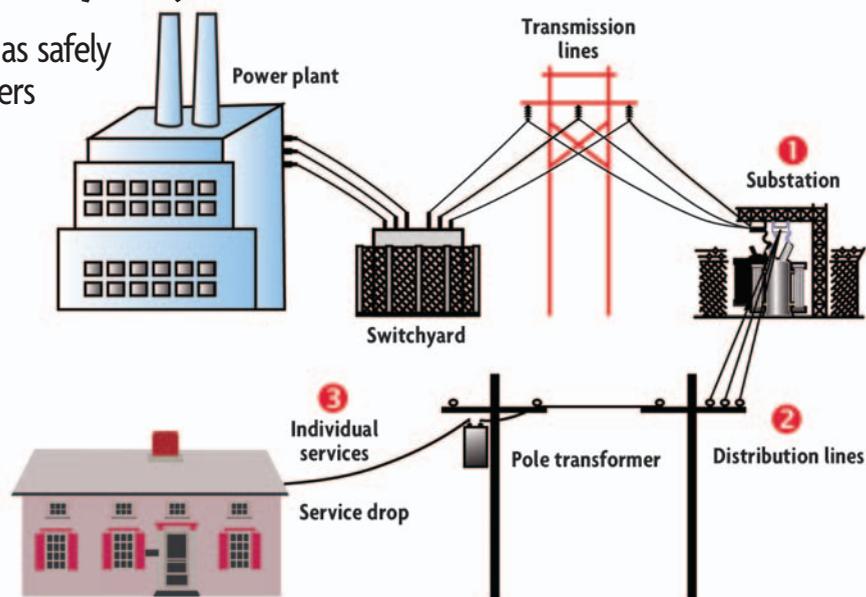
The main goal is to safely restore power to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible. If there is damage to power plants, substations or transmission lines,

those facilities must be repaired by our power supplier before we can restore your service. Transmission lines seldom fail, but they can be damaged by ice storms, tornadoes, thunderstorms and hurricanes. Tens of thousands of people could be served by a single high-voltage transmission line.

When those facilities are operational, problems in your local co-op's electric distribution system can be corrected. Three primary areas of the co-op's electric distribution system must be addressed.

### 1—Substations repaired first

If a storm has damaged the main power substation, repairs will need to be made here first before power can flow down the power lines. A co-op may have several local distribution substations, each serving thousands of members. When a major outage



occurs, the local distribution substations are inspected first. If the problem can be corrected at the substation level, power may be restored to a large number of consumers.

### 2—Distribution lines repaired

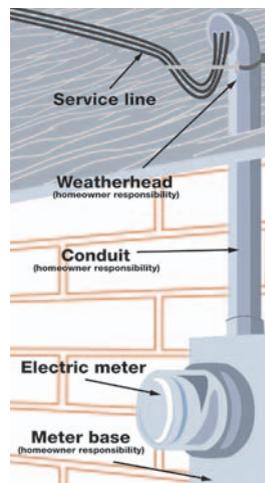
During a power outage, the main distribution supply lines are patrolled and inspected for damage, from the substation outward. As the lines are being patrolled, repairs are being made and certain sections of lines may have power restored during this process. Once the entire line has been inspected, all power can be restored to that particular substation circuit. This same process will then be carried out on circuits at other substation locations, affected by an outage.

### 3—Individual services restored

The focus then shifts to service

lines to individual members' homes. Service lines carry power from the transformer to members' homes, outbuildings, pumps, etc. If a

member's service line to the home has been damaged, they might be without power while their neighbor has power. Any damage observed to a service line should be reported to the co-op. If a service to a home has damage to the weatherhead, meter base or the conduit above the meter base, it's the member's responsibility to have those repaired by a licensed electrician and then notify the co-op for power restoration. As a reminder, always check your home's main circuit breaker to ensure it has



**If there is damage to the equipment where the service drop enters your home, you may need to get an electrician to repair it before the co-op can safely restore your service.**

not tripped and caused the power outage.

**JASON MERCHANT** is the manager of engineering and operations for Newberry Electric Cooperative.