

Severe Weather Caused Severe Outage for CVEA's Copper Basin Members



Above, heavy, wet snow forced many trees from outside CVEA's right of way into this small section of power lines

Severe weather struck the Copper Basin District during the week of December 4, resulting in multiple power outages beginning in the early hours Wednesday morning, December 6, and lasting through roughly 7:30 a.m., Saturday, December 9. This outage is believed to be the longest recorded outage in the small Cooperative's history, and affected all 1,695 members in the Copper Basin for varying durations.

Wet, heavy snow, coming down in large quantities, was to blame for all but one related outage. Heavy snow settled on tree branches, weighted them down and forced them into CVEA power lines. In other cases, weight caused entire trees to bend or break and fall into the lines, breaking and leaving power lines on the ground, or causing damage to cross arms and other equipment.

Crews set to work restoring power before the sun came up Wednesday morning, but soon there were additional outages affecting almost every area of the vast district spanning from Pump Station 12, to Kenny Lake, up the Tok Cutoff, and to Caribou Creek on the way to Anchorage.

It soon became apparent that hundreds of trees were on the line that would need to be cleared before power could be

restored. Six extra line crew members were dispatched from Electric Power Constructors, in Anchorage, to assist CVEA's four-man Copper Basin crew with power restoration efforts.

As severe weather continued and additional trees fell on the line, another six linemen were dispatched from Hotwire Electric, also out of Anchorage, on Friday.

Once weather allowed, a team patrolled the line via helicopter to assess the situation and provide locations of obstructions or damage on the line. The bird's eye view allowed better visuals and saved the crews much needed time.

Crews worked around the clock throughout the duration to clear the lines and make necessary repairs so lines could be re-energized. In total, it is estimated crews cleared 1,000 trees off CVEA lines.

As lines were cleared, CVEA members were brought back online systematically in sections based on the population base and severity of the situation in the area. All members were restored as of 7:30 a.m. Saturday, the fourth morning of the outage.

Early Sunday morning, trees caused another outage affecting members from roughly Mile 148 of the Glenn Highway to the

end of the west line. Crews immediately responded and power was restored by approximately 9:30 a.m.

CVEA kept members informed throughout the outage with timely updates to CVEA's Facebook page, cvea.org, and the Cooperative's emergency voicemail system. In addition, CVEA also worked with KCAM, the local radio station, to ensure members were kept up to date throughout the event.

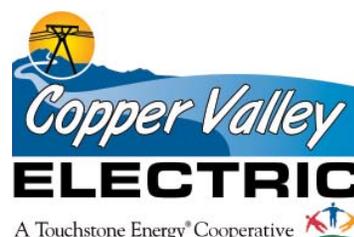
The Cooperative thanks all CVEA members for their patience and supportive comments. Appreciation is also extended to the CVEA Team who worked tirelessly throughout the storm to get the lights back on and keep members informed.

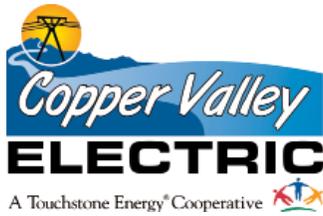
CVEA reminds members they can get real-time outage information as it becomes available by visiting CVEA's Facebook page, viewing the Facebook feed on the home page at cvea.org, or by calling CVEA dispatch at 1-866-835-2832. Up to date information is posted on the voicemail system. Additionally, monthly and annual outage summaries are available by visiting the Outage Communications page at cvea.org.

For additional information on outages, please contact Sharon Crisp, CVEA Director of Communications, at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email crisp@cvea.org. ■



Top left, CVEA Lineman Walt Lynch repairing a damaged crossarm
Top right, Copper Basin Line Foreman Ryan Cook making repairs to CVEA equipment
Middle, damaged power lines and trees coming into contact with power lines
Left, Ryan Cook repairing a power line near Copper Center





Get Involved in Your Electric Cooperative

Board of Directors Candidates Wanted

Join a dedicated group of community members who work on a volunteer basis for the benefit of all CVEA members.

Three director seats will be up for election in 2018. These seats are currently held by Paul Kildal in the Copper Basin and Lon Rake and Will Stark in Valdez.

As a CVEA director, you can help make decisions that impact your neighbors and friends, the folks up and down the t-line, and all cooperative members.

The Board meets once a month, normally on the third Thursday, for regular board meetings and often for special meetings or work sessions. Directors may also travel to participate in statewide and national meetings.

If you have been a member of CVEA for at least 12 continuous months, are a member in good standing, and are not an employee or close relative of an incumbent director or employee, you may be eligible to be a director. For a complete list of director qualifications, please refer to CVEA's Bylaws Section 4.02, Qualifications.

In order for a member to become a candidate, they must be nominated by petition. Candidates must complete a petition signed by at least 15 active CVEA members and submit the petition to the CVEA office in their district by 5 p.m., Friday, February 23, 2018.

For more information on the election, please stop by CVEA for an application packet and petition.



Help Wanted for Credentials and Election Committees

A very important part of the annual meeting election process is the Credentials and Election Committees.

The people who serve are responsible for validating the signatures on the back of the envelopes and counting the ballots for director elections and bylaws amendments.

In each district, the Committee is comprised of interested members who are not employees, directors, candidates or relatives of these persons.

The Board will appoint committee members for each district in February. Service on the Credentials and Election Committees takes place during March and April, with most of the work performed the week prior to the meeting.

In 2018, the annual meeting is scheduled for May 1 in the Valdez District and May 3 in the Copper Basin District.

The CVEA Community Foundation Scholarship Selection and Contributions Committees Need You

The CVEA Community Foundation is doing great things in our communities. The Foundation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes; providing scholarships for students and contributions to educational, scientific and charitable organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under the Internal Revenue Code.

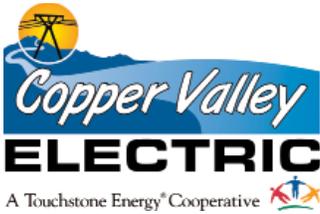
If you are interested in being a part of your local Cooperative, but don't have a lot of time to give throughout the year, the Foundation Committees are for you.

The Scholarship Selection Committees review scholarship application packets, determine which students to interview, conduct interviews, and select who will be awarded scholarships. These committees will meet during the months of March and April in 2018.

The Foundation Contributions Committee reviews contribution requests from all local non profit organizations, scores them, and makes funding recommendations to the Foundation Board of Directors. This work is fun and rewarding. If you are interested, plan on participation in September.

Each of these committees requires attendance at three or four meetings, and are estimated to take up to 15 hours.

If you have questions, would like more information on CVEA or the CVEA Community Foundation, or you would like to volunteer to serve on a committee, please contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005, or send an email to crisp@cvea.org. ■



CVEA Community Foundation 2018 Scholarship Opportunities



Above, Kathleen Hale with other Alaska representatives on the College of Idaho campus at the 2017 Idaho Youth Rally Photo courtesy ICUA
Right, CVEA Copper Basin scholarship winners, Kathleen Hale, and Amanda Friendshuh

The CVEA Community Foundation (Foundation) will award roughly \$8,000 in scholarships in 2018.

CVEA will offer two \$500 and one \$1,000 General Scholarships, and one Youth Rally Leadership Camp Scholarship in each district.

According to Sharon Crisp, CVEA Director of Communications, "CVEA has offered just one larger scholarship the last two years. This year the Board voted to offer three scholarships, and is excited to help a larger number of qualifying students in each district reach their educational goals."

The scholarships will be awarded to well rounded high school seniors who plan to pursue post-secondary education through a vocational or technical school, an apprenticeship training or a college degree program.

The General Scholarship continues to be merit based, but scores will be equally weighted among four categories: education, community involvement, future education/career goals, and need.

The Idaho Youth Rally Scholarship provides an opportunity for sophomores and juniors attending high schools in our

service area to attend a week-long electric industry leadership camp in Caldwell, Idaho in July, where students practice leadership, communication skills, and teamwork while learning about electric utility practices and issues. While at the camp, students have an opportunity to earn educational scholarships that will be available to use for their education when they graduate.

The Foundation scholarship programs are funded with unclaimed escheated capital credits, fundraisers, and voluntary donations from CVEA members, like you.

Scholarship recipients will be decided in April and announced at CVEA's annual meeting and at 2018 graduation ceremonies.

Scholarship information and applications are available at the high school counselors' offices, at either CVEA office, and on cvea.org under Community Support in the Scholarship section.

The deadline for submitting completed scholarship application packets is 5 p.m., Friday, February 23, 2018.

If you have questions about the Scholarship Program or need assistance, please contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email crisp@cvea.org. ■

Reliable Power and the Right of Way



Above, a tall tree from far outside CVEA's right of way in the Copper Basin fell into the power line
Opposite left, multiple trees from outside CVEA's right of way were forced into power lines by heavy, wet snow during a severe weather storm in the Copper Basin
Opposite right, a tree on the power line due to heavy wind caused a widespread outage

In a perfect world, the lights would turn on every time you flip the switch and would stay on until you flipped the switch to turn them off. While many of us living in the Copper Basin and Valdez believe this is the perfect place to live, the reality is there are many obstacles that keep the lights from staying on.

Believe it or not, the weather in our paradise is not conducive to reliable transmission and distribution of electricity. We have 30 plus feet of snow that falls annually in the Valdez area and at times weeks upon weeks of -40 degree and below cold snaps in the Copper Basin. We get hurricane force winds, blowing snow, rime ice build up, and snow and ice packed roads, not to mention an avalanche now and again.

In this very real world, there are 50 foot, 60 foot and even taller, trees that aren't content on standing tall forever. Trees and branches that come into contact with power lines can cause outages and system disturbances, especially due to snow, wet weather, or severe wind conditions.

One question we hear a lot is, "What are you doing to prevent outages?" The quick answer is simple, everything we can.

CVEA strives to improve electric reliability to members. In addition to system improvements, inspections, and replacing aging materials and equipment, vegetation management is

another way to enhance reliability.

Tree and brush clearing can help reduce the number and length of outages, so CVEA monitors growth that may create potential problems. It is an ongoing challenge; however, as CVEA owns and maintains over 500 miles of distribution and 105 miles of transmission lines which require ongoing vegetation clearing within the rights of way.

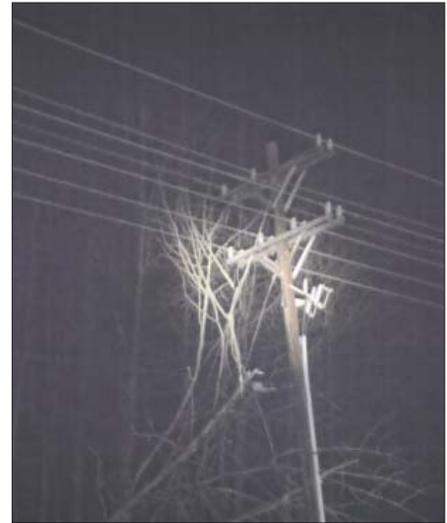
What is a right of way?

A right of way (ROW) is the use of private or government owned property covered by an agreement that allows utilities to construct and maintain their facilities in order to ensure reliability. Cooperative power lines are constructed within the ROWs. CVEA does not own the land used for a power line ROW; it is granted to CVEA by the co-op's member-owners or other property owners.

Use of the power line ROW is restricted to use by the utility for electrical thoroughfare only. In many cases the established ROW is CVEA's only access to the utilities in that area.

CVEA needs access on the ROW for the following reasons:

- Reclear brush and trees that could contact power lines
- Add or replace transformers and other equipment when a



- new customer connects
- Make emergency repairs
- Maintain existing lines and structures

Each year CVEA clears and maintains portions of our dedicated ROW. Typical ROWs for CVEA are maintained at 100 feet for transmission lines, 20-30 feet for overhead distribution lines, and 10 feet for underground.

Still, at the widest granted ROW, it would only take a 40 foot tree at the edge of the ROW to fall into the line and potentially cause an outage. There are many trees within CVEA's service territory that reach far higher than 40 feet. Even a 50 foot tree can easily come into contact with CVEA power lines from outside of the existing ROW. You may have seen the cottonwoods in Valdez that dwarf the lines or the spruce trees around ten-mile or in the Basin that are at least twice as tall as the poles.

Although these trees could cause a future problem, CVEA does not have the legal right to cut them down. Due to private, state, and federal property limitations, we can only maintain what is in the permitted route or what is dictated on an easement.

Over the next several years the ROW along the southern section of the transmission line, between Valdez and Pump Station 12, will be cleared to the original 100 foot wide clearance.

This 40-plus mile section of line is in some of the most rugged and hard to access areas on the CVEA system and requires the use of mechanical and hand clearing methods. Over 12 miles were cleared in 2017. Once the ROWs are re-established, ongoing maintenance will be much more efficient.

In addition to the ROW clearing on the transmission system, CVEA must also maintain the ROW on the distribution lines which serve residential and commercial members.

During the construction season in 2017, CVEA cleared a substantial amount of vegetation under the overhead distribution systems in the Copper Basin and underground in Valdez.

CVEA will continue this effort in the upcoming years. The focus will be the main lines that serve the largest number of

members first, those typically seen along the highways, followed in subsequent years on the lines that feed smaller areas, such as those in subdivisions and down side roads.

Even if it has been an number of years since the ROW was cleared in your area, CVEA will be clearing that area again soon.

Although it may not be as apparent, CVEA also must maintain the ROW where utilities are buried underground. This is often overlooked due to the lack of visible poles and wires. The maintenance of underground ROWs is equally as important and will be prioritized going forward.

As members of the Cooperative, you can do your part. Please remember that it is the responsibility of the property owner to keep equipment, fences, buildings, vehicles and debris off the ROW. This is important for allowing equipment used for clearing the vegetation on the ROW, but equally as important for allowing CVEA the access to utilities with vehicles and equipment when repairs, maintenance, and inspections need to be performed.

In addition, as mentioned above, a large percentage of outages are caused by tall trees that are outside of the CVEA ROW, that the co-op does not have the legal right to cut down unless they present a danger. **If you see a 'trouble tree', one that is in danger of falling into the power lines, please contact CVEA at 822-3211 in the Copper Basin or 835-4301 in Valdez. Do not attempt to remedy this on your own as any contact with an energized line could cause serious injury or death.**

When you see CVEA or its contractors on the ROW clearing the vegetation, remember this is just one of many ways your co-op is working to deliver safe, reliable, cost-effective electric service.

For additional information on ROW clearing or guidelines, please contact Sharon Crisp, CVEA Director of Communications, at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email crisp@cvea.org. ■



Board of Directors
Lon Rake, President
Mary Odden, Vice President
Dan Stowe, Secretary
Brad Honerlaw, Treasurer
Paul Kildal, Director
Jeff Saxe, Director
Will Stark, Director
Fred Williams, Director

P.O. Box 45
Glennallen, AK 99588
www.cvea.org

Copper Basin District
(907) 822-3211
(907) 822-5586 (fax)
Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

Valdez District
(907) 835-4301
(907) 835-4328 (fax)
367 Fairbanks Dr.

After hours outage line
(866) 835-2832

Important Dates

January

CVEA Offices Closed:

The CVEA offices will be closed Monday and Tuesday, January 1-2, 2018, for the New Year's Holiday

CVEA Bylaws Amendment Petition

Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday, January 12, 2018

CVEA Board Meeting: The January meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, January 18, 2018, in Valdez

February

CVEA Board Meeting: The February meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, February 15, 2018, in Glennallen

CVEA Offices Closed:

The CVEA offices will be closed Monday, February 19, 2018, for President's Day

Scholarship Application Deadline: Friday, February 23, 2018, prior to 5 p.m.

Director Nomination Deadline: Friday, February 23, 2018, prior to 5 p.m.

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**CVEA would like
to wish all of
our members a
happy, safe,
and prosperous
New Year!**



Deadline to Propose Bylaws Amendments

CVEA members may propose Bylaws amendments for placement on the 2018 ballot by filing a petition with the Board of Directors that has been signed by at least 10 percent of the membership at least 90 days before the annual meeting.

Bylaws amendments by petition must be received prior to 5 p.m. Friday, January 12, 2018. Petitions may be submitted to either the Glennallen or Valdez office.

A copy of CVEA Bylaws can be picked up at either office or referenced online at www.cvea.org. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Sharon Crisp at (907) 822-5506, (907) 835-7005, or email crisp@cvea.org.

Want Your Vote to Count? Update Your Signature Card!

When you vote on CVEA business, such as the Board of Director election coming up in May, you are required to sign the ballot envelope. If the signature does not match the signature on the membership card on file with CVEA, the vote cannot be counted.

For residential customers, if you have changed marital status, or names, please contact CVEA to ensure those changes are reflected on your signature card. If you receive a card in the mail, please complete and bring to your local CVEA office or mail it in.

Organizations, businesses, and associations usually have board members who are authorized to transact business. The person who signs the election envelope must be an authorized signer on the account. If your Board of Directors or executive officer has changed in the past year, then it is time to update your CVEA membership card.

If you have questions or are unsure what is on your residential or business signature card, please stop by the office in either district or call 822-3211 in Glennallen or 835-4301 in Valdez.