

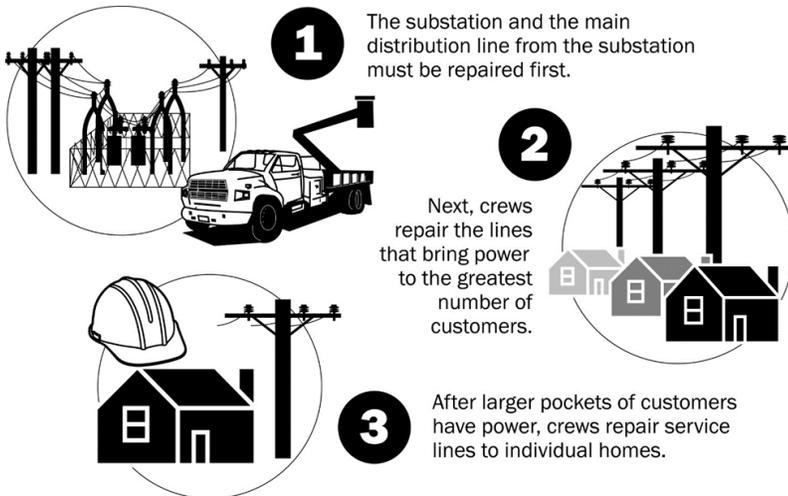
# DEC Current

The end of April was very busy for us. On April 19<sup>th</sup> we had a very wet and heavy snowstorm that caused a significant number of outages. This was the most widespread and damaging outage in the history of Otsego Electric Cooperative.

During an outage, the first thing we do is deal with any hazard calls for wires down or other safety issues and we try to make those safe. Second, we assess damage. This is a group effort between our line workers in the field and the office staff taking calls on reported damage. The assessment stage is important so we can prioritize the restoration process. Safety is always our main concern!

We had many trees that brought down powerlines and we immediately had 4 of our 7 substations lose power; NYSEG’s transmission lines to the substation were down.

This negatively impacted how efficiently we could restore lines. Usually when transmission goes down, we will “back feed” downed substations with power from another live substation. This is possible and somewhat common when one or two substations go out. We eventually lost a 5<sup>th</sup> substation and as much as 90% of our system was down. Dead substations are a critical issue in a major storm because restorations start at the substations and we work out along major feeders to get the most people on as fast as we can. Once the mainlines or feeders are on, we then can work on the single-wire lines. We always prioritize work that energizes the lines with the most people. With the help of some outside crews and tremendous effort by our crews, we had everyone’s power back on by the end of the day on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup>.



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We learn many things from every outage and this time is no different. We have some improvements we will make but this was an unprecedented storm and outage which was partly caused by widespread damage to NYSEG's transmission system. We will study and implement the best ways we find to improve the system's resiliency. We are proud of the team effort that was displayed throughout this challenging outage. We had several external mutual aid crews who came in to help with storm restoration and we thank them for their invaluable support:

Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, Bath, NY.  
Oneida Madison Electric Co-operative, Bouckville, NY.  
Holyoke Gas & Electric, Massachusetts.  
Chicopee Electric Light, Massachusetts.  
Sherburne Municipal Electric, NY.  
Hamilton Municipal Electric, NY.

We thank our cooperative members for their informative phone calls, patience, courtesies, and understanding while we restored their power. Many of you have also sent us kind thank you messages and gifts. They are very much appreciated. In addition, we extend a sincere thank you to all of our families and community members who pulled together and helped out in so many valuable support roles.

### **Portable Generator Safety**

There are many hazards to avoid when using a portable generator at home. Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution, and fire are just a few.

- To avoid electrocution, keep the generator dry and do not use in rain or wet conditions. Operate it on a dry surface under an open canopy-like structure, such as under a tarp held up on poles. Do not touch the generator with wet hands.
- Be sure to turn the generator off and let it cool down before refueling. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.
- Store fuel for the generator in an approved safety can. Use the type of fuel recommended in the instructions or on the label on the generator.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator, or use a heavy duty, outdoor-rated extension cord that is rated (in watts or amps) at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance loads.
- Always check that the entire cord is free of cuts or tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.
- Never try to power the house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet. Known as "back-feeding," this practice puts utility workers, your neighbors and your household at risk of electrocution.
- Remember, even a properly connected portable generator can become overloaded, resulting in overheating or generator failure. Be sure to read the instructions.
- If necessary, stagger the operating times for various equipment to prevent overloads.

**Remember to always follow the directions supplied with the generator.**