



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1511 14,000 Road, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330  
866-784-5500  
[www.twinvalleyelectric.coop](http://www.twinvalleyelectric.coop)

TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC CO-OP

# NEWS

## TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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**STAFF**  
**Angie Erickson**  
CEO

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### CONTACT US

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P.O. Box 368  
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## FROM THE CEO

# Powered by Purpose

Every October, electric cooperatives across the country take time to celebrate National Co-op Month and reflect on the unique advantages of being part of a cooperative. It's also the perfect time to thank you — the members who make it all possible. For us, it's not just a celebration. It's a chance to reaffirm the values that guide everything we do.

As the CEO of Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, I see purpose in action every single day. Unlike investor-owned utilities, our co-op doesn't exist to make profits for distant shareholders. We exist to serve you — our members, our neighbors and our communities. That purpose is what sets us apart. It's why we were founded, and it's what continues to drive every decision we make.

At its core, being a cooperative means we are member-owned and locally

controlled.

That's not just a tagline; it's the very heart of our business model. Members have a voice in how our co-op operates. You elect board members who live right here in our service area and understand the unique challenges and opportunities our communities face. Decisions aren't made in corporate boardrooms hundreds of miles away; they're made here at home, by people who care about the same things you do.

This local accountability means we can stay focused on what matters most: delivering reliable, affordable electricity and providing real value to the people we serve.



**Angie Erickson**

*Continued on page 12C ►*

## Electric cooperatives provide power with purpose.



# FEMA Act of 2025 Would Bring Disaster Aid to Co-ops Much Faster

BY ERIN KELLY, NRECA

Across the U.S., electric cooperatives are supporting a new bipartisan bill that would streamline the Federal Emergency Management Agency and speed up delivery of crucial disaster relief funds to electric co-ops hit hard by hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes and other natural disasters.

The Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act of 2025 would keep in place FEMA's essential Public Assistance program, which provides money to co-ops to restore power and rebuild their systems after natural disasters. Without those funds, rebuilding would take much longer and raise costs sharply for rural communities.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 co-ops, and its member co-ops have been strong advocates for improving FEMA while keeping the agency intact. The FEMA Act would greatly reduce the amount of time it takes for co-ops to receive reimbursements from the agency.

Specifically, it would direct the FEMA administrator to reimburse co-ops for emergency work no later than 120 days after it submits a request. The president would first need to determine that at least 90% of estimated costs are eligible for reimbursement, said Will Mitchell, a NRECA legislative affairs director who lobbies Congress on FEMA issues.

For longer-term projects to rebuild or replace infrastructure, the bill would require FEMA to review within 90 days a co-op's cost estimate of the work that needs to be done, Mitchell said. After that, the agency would have 30 days to disburse the funds for the project.

"That would be a huge change in the timeline," Mitchell said. "Right now, most co-ops are waiting years for reimbursement."

Another major improvement is that co-ops would be allowed to build stronger, more resilient systems in the aftermath of disasters rather than being forced by the agency to rebuild exactly as before.

FEMA is a crucial partner for electric co-ops in efforts to restore power after disaster strikes. The legislation would remove FEMA from the Department of Homeland Security and return it to its former status as an independent agency that reports directly to the president.

The bill would make FEMA a stronger, more responsive agency and help strengthen rural resilience, protect taxpayer dollars and ensure essential services are restored as quickly as possible after a natural disaster.

Sponsors from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee introduced the legislation on July 23 — the day the House adjourned for its summer recess. The committee is expected to have hearings on the bill after Congress returns to the nation's capital in September. The panel will then vote



ADAM MYERS, TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC

When disaster strikes and electric co-op employees jump into action, the Fixing Emergency Management for America Act of 2025 would help co-ops restore power and rebuild their systems with greatly reduced reimbursement times.

on whether to send it to the full House for consideration. If passed by the House, the legislation would still need to be approved by the Senate and signed into law by President Donald Trump.

Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Sam Graves, R-Mo., one of the lead sponsors of the bill, said "the American people need an emergency management system that works quickly and effectively, not one that makes disaster recovery more difficult."

"This bill does more than any recent reforms to cut through the bureaucracy, streamline programs, provide flexibility, and return FEMA to its core purpose of empowering the states to lead and coordinating the federal response when it's needed," Graves said.

Rep. Greg Stanton of Arizona, the senior Democrat on the panel's Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management Subcommittee, said the bill would strengthen FEMA's mission "to help Americans in their darkest hour."

"The agency isn't perfect, and its job is getting harder as disasters grow more frequent and more severe," said Stanton, who is co-sponsoring the bill. "But the solution is not to tear FEMA down — it's to work across the aisle to build FEMA up. This bipartisan bill takes commonsense steps to streamline the agency and make sure communities get disaster assistance quickly, efficiently and fairly."

As the FEMA Act of 2025 moves through the legislative process, NRECA and electric cooperative leaders will continue work to make it even better for co-ops and the local communities they serve.

**ERIN KELLY** writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing nearly 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.

# Protect Yourself and Your Medical Devices During a Power Outage

Use this guide to plan ahead and stay safe

If you or a loved one relies on an electric medical device, a power outage isn't just an inconvenience — it could be life-threatening. Severe weather or equipment failures can knock out electricity without warning, so it's essential to have a plan in place to stay safe.

Start by contacting us, your electric co-op. We work hard to restore power as quickly as possible, but co-op members may face delays during widespread outages. That's why it's so important to be prepared.

Follow these tips to prepare medical equipment for a power outage:

- ▶ **DOCUMENT YOUR DEVICES.** Keep a file that includes the device's manufacturer, model, serial number, instruction manuals and a photo. This information can be useful for repairs, replacement or communicating with your electric co-op or insurance provider.
- ▶ **KNOW YOUR BACKUP OPTIONS.** Find out if your device is compatible with backup power like batteries or a generator. Check how long it can operate during an outage. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations and keep device-specific supplies on hand.
- ▶ **KEEP DEVICES MAINTAINED.** Make sure equipment is clean, calibrated and working properly ahead of time. Routine maintenance helps prevent surprises during emergencies.
- ▶ **CHARGE UP.** Keep your cell phone, backup power sources and battery-powered medical devices fully charged. Keep extra batteries on hand, especially during storm season.
- ▶ **CREATE AN EVACUATION PLAN.** Have a plan in case you need to leave your home. Identify locations of emergency shelters and power stations in your area. Talk with family or friends about places you can go that have power and are accessible.
- ▶ **STOCK UP FOR TWO WEEKS.** Keep a two-week supply of medications, medical accessories and essentials like coolers and refrigeration packs for temperature-sensitive medicine.
- ▶ **CONSIDER MANUAL ALTERNATIVES.** Look for portable, dependable alternatives to electronic medical devices — for example, a manual wheelchair, walker or cane as a backup for an electric scooter.
- ▶ **REVIEW YOUR INSURANCE COVERAGE.** Before disaster strikes, talk with your insurance provider so you know what's covered if your medical device is damaged during a weather event or power outage.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Now is the time to inspect your home for air leaks around windows. Leaks reduce indoor comfort and lead to higher heating costs. If you can see daylight around the edges of a window frame or if a window rattles slightly when touched, air is likely leaking. Caulking and weatherstripping are simple, effective methods for sealing windows. These materials are available in a variety of compounds and forms, each designed for different types of surfaces. Choose the right product and apply it properly to reduce heat loss, improve comfort and lower energy bills. SOURCE: NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION



## POWERED BY PURPOSE

*Continued from page 12A ▶*

We do that by investing in essential infrastructure upgrades and technologies that strengthen our local grid and improve electric service. We work hard to manage costs and keep rates as low as possible — because we know how much rising prices affect families and small businesses in our area. And when storms hit or outages occur, Twin Valley crews are here and ready to respond quickly, because we live here too.

But our commitment doesn't end at the power lines.

Co-ops were built to meet community needs, and that purpose extends well beyond delivering electricity. Whether we're supporting local schools or sponsoring youth programs, we are always looking for ways to improve the quality of life in the places we serve. Community support isn't an afterthought — it's part of our mission.

We're also planning for the future. As electricity demand grows due to new technologies and economic development, electric co-ops are working to ensure we continue to meet those needs with a balanced, reliable energy mix. We know our members care about affordability and dependability, and we're committed to delivering both.

That's the power of the cooperative difference. That's what it means to be powered by purpose.

This National Co-op Month, I encourage you to take pride in your cooperative membership. You're not just a customer — you're an owner, a stakeholder, and a vital part of a larger effort to keep our community strong, connected and energized.

Thank you for the trust you place in us. We're proud to be your local electric cooperative.



# Mutual Aid in the Electric Utility Industry

## And why it matters to you

From trimming trees to maintaining equipment to updating the grid — utilities work hard to reduce the likelihood of a power outage. But when severe weather strikes, power outages can disrupt daily life in an instant. That's when a powerful network of cooperation known as mutual aid springs into action — helping communities recover faster.

It's not unusual to see utility trucks from a dozen different states lined up in a parking lot in the aftermath of a major storm. These lineworkers leave their families and travel long distances to help strangers, working in tough conditions to restore power, safety and a sense of normalcy.

For residents, knowing that help is coming — from near and far — can be a source of comfort during difficult moments.

### WHAT IS MUTUAL AID?

Mutual aid is a longstanding system of collaboration in which electric utilities help one another during major, multi-day outages to restore power quickly and safely.

Think of it like neighbors helping neighbors, but on a national scale. If a storm knocks out power in your area and your local crews can't reach everyone fast enough, utility companies from nearby states — or even across the country — may send lineworkers and other utility personnel, trucks and supplies to lend a hand. This support continues until everyone's power is restored.

### HOW IT WORKS

Even with year-round preparation, major weather events can still cause widespread outages. That's when mutual aid is activated.

Mutual aid agreements are not spontaneous offers of help.

They're part of a well-organized system that allows utilities to quickly request and receive help when disaster strikes, and most often used after:

- ▶ Hurricanes or tropical storms
- ▶ Ice storms or blizzards
- ▶ Tornado outbreaks
- ▶ Wildfires
- ▶ Earthquakes or other large-scale emergencies

When a utility anticipates a major weather event, it can prearrange support. Crews can be staged nearby and ready to respond as soon as conditions are safe. Once deployed, they help assess damage and replace poles and lines to get the lights back on as quickly and safely as possible.

### WHY MUTUAL AID MATTERS

Mutual aid dramatically shortens the time it takes to restore power after a disaster. But mutual aid isn't just about speed — it's a powerful example of compassion, resilience and unity. It ensures that no matter a utility's size or location, customers can count on timely service during critical times, and entire communities can recover more quickly.

### THANK YOU, LINEWORKERS

Mutual aid works because of the dedication, courage and selflessness of lineworkers nationwide.

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the crews who answer the call — not just in their own communities, but wherever they are needed.

So the next time the lights go out, remember: You're not alone. There's a powerful team ready to help. In the utility world, mutual aid means everyone is part of the same family.

## HELP KEEP ELECTRIC LINEWORKERS SAFE

**Be patient** when the power goes out. Workers need to work efficiently and **safely** to restore power.

### ZONE IN ON SAFETY

Respect roadside work crews.

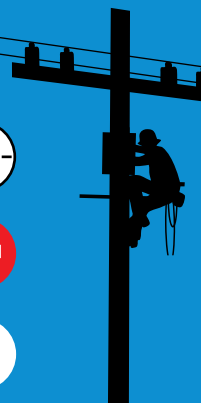
- ▶ Don't drive distracted.
- ▶ Reduce your speed.
- ▶ Change lanes when possible.



**1** work zone crash occurs every 5.4 minutes.

**70** work zone crashes result in injuries each day.

**12** work zone crashes result in at least 1 fatality each week.



**Never plug a generator into a wall outlet** in your home or garage. The power that backfeeds into the electric line could **electrocute a utility worker or neighbor.**



**Don't post signs on utility poles.** Foreign objects can tear utility workers' **protective clothing**, which is the first line of defense against electric shock.



Electric lineworkers rank **15** on the list of **25 most dangerous jobs** in America. Help keep them safe!

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG