

NEWS



Contact: Andrea Gravenhorst, Director of Member Services | agravenhorst@firelandsec.com | 419-929-1571 | 1-800-533-8658
Firelands Electric Cooperative, Inc. | 103 Industrial Drive | P.O. Box 32 | New London, Ohio 44851 | www.FirelandsEC.com

For Immediate Release:

DAMAGE FROM LIGHTNING STRIKE RESULTS IN LOSS OF POWER

OUTAGE UPDATE: 8/22/22 at 9:00 a.m. — Strong thunderstorms making their way through Ashland and Richland counties Saturday evening resulted in lightning damage, which led to voltage issues and loss of power for several hours.

Firelands Electric Cooperative reports that around 6:30 p.m., lightning struck a voltage regulator in the cooperative's Ashland substation, which supplies power to 1,458 member-consumers located in Milton, Mohican, and Vermillion townships of Ashland County, and Mifflin, and Weller townships in Richland County. The direct lightning strike caused significant damage to the cooperative's substation equipment, which had just been upgraded a few weeks prior as a part of Firelands Electric's maintenance program.

As a result of the extensive damage, Firelands Electric's member-consumers receiving power from the Ashland substation experienced loss of power. As soon as the cooperative's line crew arrived, they began to de-energize the substation and perform a switching process, which allows Firelands' crews to backfeed from other substations located in the cooperative's service territory. Crews were able to restore power to those affected by 8:45 p.m.

Firelands Electric's crews will continue working today to replace damaged equipment at the cooperative's Ashland substation so that members can be switched back over to the Ashland substation. Unfortunately, when crews return a portion of the member-consumers located in Milton and Weller townships, they will experience a momentary loss of power, which should last less than a minute.

The cooperative appreciates its members' patience and understanding as repairs are made to its Ashland substation. Firelands Electric encourages its members to report any power outages by calling the cooperative's toll-free outage hotline at 1-800-533-8658 or using the SmartHub app. This helps Firelands' dispatchers relay the exact location of the outage to the cooperative's crews and expedite power restoration.

Firelands Electric Cooperative, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric utility serving more than 9,100 homes and businesses in rural areas of Ashland, Huron, Lorain, and Richland counties that ranks among the highest energy utilities in the country for customer satisfaction. Visit the cooperative's website, www.firelandsec.com, [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter feed](#), to learn more about reliable and affordable power.

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