



OPPD mutual aid team returns after helping with hurricane

OPPD's mutual aid team returned home safely recently after a nine-day stretch of restoring power to rural residents in hurricane-battered northern Florida.

The 16-man team included four three-man line crews, along with two mechanics, a field supervisor and a safety representative.

Workers spent the trip rebuilding badly damaged distribution lines to help the Suwanee Valley Electric Cooperative, a utility based in Live Oak,

Florida. The utility called for assistance after Hurricane Idalia ravaged the area.

While line technicians and troubleshooters worked directly to restore power, many others at OPPD played critical roles. Transportation mechanics kept OPPD's trucks running well throughout the trip, despite intense heat and heavier-than-normal loads required for the restoration.

Back at home, operations clerks, managers and many others supported

the effort by handling paperwork, settling payments and working with the American Public Power Association to ensure OPPD is following the correct mutual aid protocols. OPPD has benefited from mutual aid assistance in the past as well when huge storms ripped through our service territory.

Idalia knocked out power to roughly 556,800 electricity customers in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas.

More customers partner with OPPD

The number of customers who want to generate their own power continues to grow, and OPPD is helping them do so.

OPPD issued its 2,000th customer-owned generation (COG) interconnection application on Aug. 9, an

important milestone for the utility and its customers.

Just two years ago, OPPD issued its 500th COG interconnection application. Interest in customer-owned generation has continued growing ever since.

OPPD works with a group of trade

allies that have met a list of qualifications and agreed to certain standards of conduct. The interconnection application is submitted by the trade ally on the customer's behalf. Once the system is installed, the customer receives a one-time rebate

(Continued on back)

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETINGS

All-committee meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 14 (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, Nov. 16, 5 p.m. (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). Hearing-impaired call 531-226-3208, 72 hours prior to request an interpreter. Agendas posted and meetings viewable on oppd.com/BoardMeeting.

Outlets

OUR MISSION

Provide affordable, reliable and environmentally sensitive energy services to our customers.

Your Energy Partner[®]
OPPD
Omaha Public Power District

More Customers (From front)

check from OPPD for \$2,000.

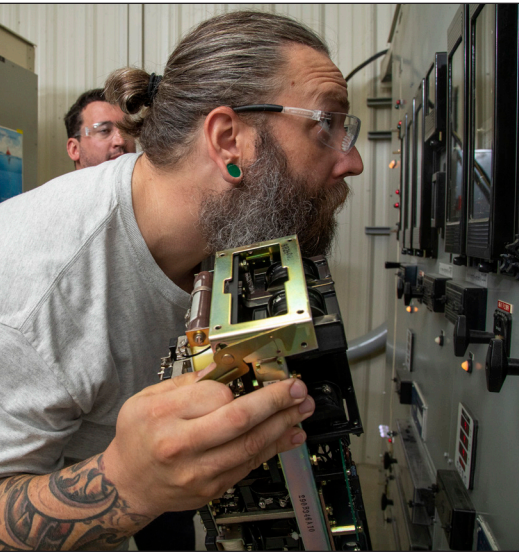
Software changes have made it easier for solar installers to use the online application for customers. Customers can use a quick-start

guide and pay-off calculator to see how long it will take the system to pay for itself.

The majority of the 2,000 applications are for residential solar

installations, but customers also install battery storage, wind turbines, grid-connected backup generators, and even a small hydroelectric generator.

Relay technicians help keep power reliable



Deep inside OPPD's power plant control rooms and substations is a group of specialists working behind the scenes to keep our most important systems safe.

Relay technicians are responsible for building, installing, programming and maintaining the relays, or switches, that protect OPPD's vital substation and power plant equipment. Relays help keep the electrical system healthy and reliable throughout our 13-county service territory.

A relay is a microprocessor-based device that monitors the flow of electricity through substation

equipment and power plant generators. Think of them as a circuit breaker in a house. When an electrical circuit is overloaded, the breaker trips and shuts down the circuit and everything that it feeds.

Relays "trip" whenever they sense a problem in the power system to isolate those problems and prevent damage to other assets. OPPD's system has about 7,000 relays.

Relay technicians are a small, specialized group whose work ensures that OPPD can deliver reliable, affordable and environmentally sensitive power to our customers.

Does unplugging devices make a difference?

It may be one of the most common energy efficiency tips you've heard or read: Unplug your unused electronics to save energy and money.

But does it make a big difference? The answer is both yes and no.

Unplugging unused electronic devices does reduce your energy usage by a very small amount. As an energy-saving and bill-reducing measure, it is not very effective. You're better off simply turning power off.

A few examples, based on eight hours of use per day: Unplugging a cell phone charger when not in use will save you roughly 2 cents per month. Unplugging a work computer setup with monitors and speakers will save about 45 cents per month.

Unplugging an entertainment center will save about 90 cents per month.

If you unplug everything between uses, you might save \$1 to \$3 per day. So why is this tip so popular?

The short answer is scale. One customer following these steps might reduce their energy load by 2.5 kilowatt-hours per day. But if 10,000 or 50,000 customers do this for a day, the energy savings is much greater – 25,000 kilowatt hours or 75,000 kilowatt hours. This is especially true during peak energy use situations, such as scorching heat or bitter cold.

Put another way: On a sweltering summer day, if 10,000 customers

raised the temperature on their thermostats by 3 degrees, the reduction in OPPD's demand would be roughly equivalent to powering 10 grocery stores or 1,000 homes.

In closing: Phantom load is real and you can make a difference. However, it primarily works on a large scale when we all work together.



7"x 2.5" AD SPACE AVAILABLE IN 2023 Proceeds benefit EAP. For details, please email gpschulte@oppd.com.

Proceeds from the sale of advertising space in *Outlets* are donated to OPPD's Energy Assistance Program. An advertisement in *Outlets* does not constitute an endorsement by OPPD. For information about this space, call 402-536-4131.