



Newsletter

February 2022

eSource

IMEA MUTUAL AID ASSISTANCE

Mutual aid is just what it sounds like - utilities helping each other in times of need. The Association, together with state and regional public power utilities and organizations, coordinates the mutual aid network for the nation's public power utilities. More than 1,100 utilities across the country participate.



Electric companies affected by significant outages often turn to the industry's mutual assistance network—a voluntary partnership of electric companies statewide and nationwide—to help speed restoration. ... The mutual assistance network is a cornerstone of electric utility operations during emergencies.

Helping Assist: When Mutual Aid From other Organizations, Agencies and Utilities Creates Confusion

On the heels of “damaging weather,” it’s easy to assume catastrophic storm damage causing massive outages. But, thanks to the utility industry’s tradition of neighbor helping neighbor, companies would likely send mutual aid crews with the experience to help restore power.

The truth behind this scenario can be fraught with mid-storm confusion. The impacted utility wants to leverage the assistance, however, integrating all of the volunteered assistance and crews can become a burden if not managed and coordinated effectively. Adding to the outage/storm situation is the affected utility’s inability to see what’s going on within the context of their electrical distribution system as well as functioning. This compounds the challenge to enable the outside crews to help efficiently.

However, if adding an sharing vital system and customer outage information in real time isn’t a simple task: In many cases the affected utility is not able to offer neighboring utilities sufficient access into network information without (potentially) exposing proprietary data. So, despite the best intentions, mutual aid resources provided from neighboring utilities may snag or even slow down efforts to restore power.

As a result, customers can be left frustrated and (in the case of this year’s winter storms across the Midwest and Northeast) freezing. Not a pretty picture.

In the event of a disaster, the IMEA Mutual Aid program is designed to provide trained personnel and assistance to any municipality, IOU or electric cooperative in or outside of the state of Indiana.

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Needing Assistance?

Please Contact Us!

Indiana Municipal Electric Association

176 W. Logan St. #225

Duane Richardson, IMEA Executive Director

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(Continued)

A strong mutual aid plan starts well before a storm strikes. For more than five decades, the Indiana Municipal Electric Association's statewide Mutual Aid Program has helped member utilities face the risks of storm damage, power outages and other unpredictable emergency needs. Emergency readiness has grown in importance with heightened customer demands and concerns about a broader range of potential threats and vulnerabilities.

Indiana's municipals have always had a strong concept of neighbors helping neighbors when it comes to power restoration.

IMEA formalized the concept into a well-coordinated and collaborative program to ensure a rapid response with trained responders for the safe and efficient service restoration – large or small. Our decades-old program also helps the industry mitigate the risks and costs associated with major incidents by sharing personnel and resources.

As a member of IMEA, you are part of a team. Along with your neighboring municipal utilities, you may either request or provide assistance when service to the customers is threatened or disrupted for any reason. It is this spirit of cooperation that has given strength and reliability to our Hoosier municipal utilities systems for many years.

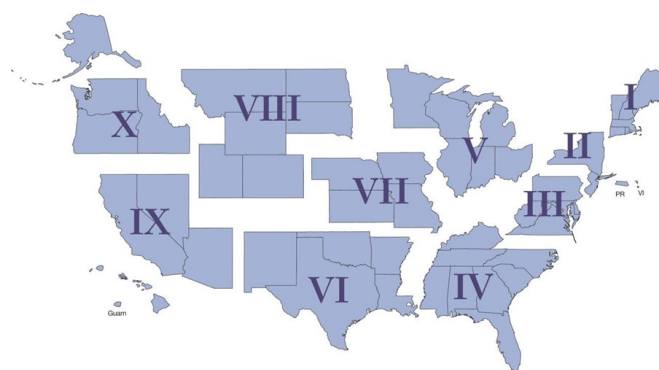
The state of Indiana has experienced its share of disasters and emergency situations that result in outages and damage to utility infrastructure across the state. From tornadoes and straight-line winds and flooding to snow, ice, utilities are challenged to keep the power flowing and lights on throughout the year. Primary concerns when disaster strikes your utility are:

- Protect the public health, safety and welfare;
- Secure the area and utility assets;
- Assess the damage;
- Determine priorities for recovery; and
- Restore and clean up.

Should your utility require restoration and/or emergency assistance for any reason, your first step is to contact the IMEA or one of our regional coordinators. The IMEA provides an organized process for requesting aid, coordinating resources and responding with manpower and equipment for utilities.

Our staff works in established industry networks at the **local, state and national** level to help you restore power to your customers quickly and safely.

National



Public Power's Mutual Aid Network Regions

The ten regions are based on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regions, which helps ensure a coordinated response with state and federal government officials.

Region V (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)



Indiana

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(Continued)

In the event of a disaster, the IMEA Mutual Aid program is designed to provide trained personnel and assistance to any municipality within or outside of the state of Indiana.

In the event of an emergency, whether you are the recipient or aiding utility, please keep the IMEA informed of any request or needs for assistance.

A phone call / text or email will tell us who is already involved and help us in coordinating efforts should the event escalate.

If you are contacted to provide assistance OR call to request assistance and do not inform IMEA it may actually hinder our coordinating efforts to benefit all IMEA communities in the event of a widespread emergency.

As an important safety reminder:

1910.269(a)(3)

Information transfer

Subpart V Electric Power

Transmission and Distribution

1926.950 General. (c) Information transfer.

Any employer working on your system that does not own or operate your system is considered a **Contract Employer** and all OSHA Information Transfer Standards apply and need to be strictly adhered to, especially during emergency restoration services please do not hesitate to contact Duane Richardson, Indiana Statewide Coordinator at 765.366.5506 / duane@imea.com .

USCCO / Power Line Supply

**THANK YOU TO OUR FEATURED
ASSOCIATE MEMBER for FEBRUARY!**

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Our mission at USC is to remain 100% safety focused and exceed customer expectations through the education and empowerment of creative employees and committed suppliers, assuring innovative and cost effective solutions.



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IMEA Workshop Calendar

2022

January

- 12 Supervisory Development Series: Session One (Mishawaka)
- 26 Excavation Competent Person (Lebanon)

February

- 8 & 9 Supervisor Safety (Lebanon)
- 16 Supervisory Development Series: Session two (Mishawaka)

March

- 9 – 11 Apprentice Top-Out Exam #031918 (Scottsburg)
- 16 Supervisory Development Series: Session Three (Mishawaka)
- 21 – 25 IMEA 612 Intermediate Workshop #032320 (Scottsburg)

April

- 4 - 8 IMEA 613 Advanced Workshop #031819 (Scottsburg)
- 12 - 13 Line Clearance Arborist Certification (Frankfort)
- 25 -29 IMEA 611 Basic Workshop #041921 (Scottsburg)

May

- 2 - 13 IMEA 610 Wood Pole Climbing Workshop #050222 (Scottsburg)
- 24 - 26 IMEA 212 Transformer Theory & Connections (Scottsburg)

June

- 7 - 8 Working it Hot - Insulate / Isolate (Scottsburg)

August

- 22 - 9/2 IMEA 610 Wood Pole Climbing Workshop #082222 (Scottsburg)

September

- 12 - 16 IMEA 613 Advanced Workshop #093019 (Scottsburg)
- 21 - 23 Apprentice Top-Out Exam #100118 (Scottsburg)
- 26 - 30 611 Basic Workshop #092721 (Scottsburg)

October

- 11 - 13 IMEA Annual Meeting & Vendor Expo (Blue Chip Casino, Michigan City, IN.)
- 25 - 27 IMEA 212 Transformer Theory & Connections (Scottsburg)

Register Today! www.imea.com / workshops



Jobs in Public Power



Public power is more to communities than just an essential utility. It is a source of unique and fulfilling career opportunities in your local community. Employees make a difference by serving their own neighborhoods and families. Talented high school, college and technical college graduates—and even technology, environmental and public service professionals—will find that competitive salaries aren't the only this attractive about careers in public power.

To post a classified ad to our jobs in Public Power page. Please email text to janel@imea.com.

2022 IMEA Annual Meeting & Vendor Expo

~ October 11 - 13, 2022 ~

Blue Chip Casino
Hotel & Event Center
Michigan City, IN.

Registration Coming in May 2022!

LEADERSHIP • INNOVATION • COLLABORATION

Do you have important news or photos that you would like to share in our bi-weekly newsletters? Please email all news and photos to janel@imea.com

INDIANA MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION

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