

# Steps to Restore Your Electric Service

Check your neighbors. If they have lights, most likely the problem is in your home. If your neighbors' lights are also out, call Firelands Electric Cooperative at 1-800-533-8658 to report the outage. If your neighbors still have power, the problem may lie in your home's electrical circuits.

## HOMES WITH CIRCUIT BREAKER SERVICE PANEL

Circuit breakers operate like wall switches but have the ability to sense an overload of current flow. When this happens, they snap to the "off" or half-open position. The 15- or 20-amp sizes are used to protect branch circuits. Check the handle position to see which ones have tripped.

1. If the main breaker has tripped, turn off as many lights and appliances as possible. Then move the breaker handle completely to the "off" position and then to "on."
2. If a branch circuit breaker is tripped:
  - Unplug all lamps, cords or appliances on that circuit.
  - Move the branch breaker handle completely to the "off" position and then to "on."
  - Turn on lights and plug in appliances one at a time to see if one trips the breaker. This would indicate a faulty light or appliance. If the breaker trips again after a short time, the problem may be an overloaded circuit. You must then shift some of the load to another circuit or install other circuits to handle the load.
3. If power is still not restored, call Firelands Electric Cooperative.  
Do not replace a fuse or touch a circuit breaker while contacting water pipes or other grounded metal surfaces!

## HOMES WITH FUSE SERVICE PANEL

1. Check your fuses. When branch fuses blow, the metal link melts and you usually can see a burned spot on the face. Since they are the easiest to spot, check these fuses first. Cartridge fuses, used in "main" switches or in pull-out sections, give no visible indication of blowing. No lights at all or lights in approximately half of the house indicate that one or more of these fuses may have blown.
2. To check if a main cartridge fuse has blown. First, turn off as many lights and appliances as possible. Then replace the fuses, one at a time, and see if this restores service.
3. To check if a branch circuit fuse has blown:
  - Unplug all lamps, cords or appliances on that circuit.
  - Disconnect all electricity to your house. If you have a main switch with a side operating handle, move it to "off." If your main fuse box has pull-out sections for disconnect purposes, remove them, noting top and bottom.
  - Replace the blown branch fuse with one of the proper size and type.
  - Return the main switch to the "on" position or correctly replace the pull-out section in the fuse box.
  - Turn on lights and plug in appliances, one by one, to see if one blows the fuse. If after a short time the fuse blows again, the problem may be an over-loaded circuit.

NOTE: A blackened or discolored window usually indicates a short circuit and high current flow. Look for lamps, cords, or appliances which might have bare wires, loose parts, or other faults that allow the current to take the wrong path, causing a short circuit. A parted or melted fuse link is an indication of an overloaded circuit. You'll need to shift some lamps or appliances to another circuit in your house. Don't install a larger fuse to remedy this situation.

Call an electrician right away if your circuit breaker trips off frequently, your fuses keep blowing, or if you spot danger signals such as dimming lights, TV picture shrinkage, or warm outlets and wall switches. A qualified electrician can test your present load and tell whether you need additional circuits or increased service panel capacity.