

# ***IMEA***

INDIANA MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION



## ***Power Connection***

***Mutual Aid Response***



## **A GUIDE TO IMEA SERVICES**

IMEA Mutual Aid Response: from IMEA  
Executive Director; Duane Richardson  
(Continued, Page 3) **01**

IMEA Mutual Aid Response: from IMEA  
Executive Director; Duane Richardson  
(continued, Page 5 ) **03**

IMEA Mutual Aid Response: Q & A from  
IMEA Executive Director; Duane Richardson **05**

IMEA Member Community Map **07**

IMEA Annual Meeting & Vendor  
Expo October 12 – 15, 2021 **09**

Mutual Aid Assistance : How it Works  
(Continued, Page 13) **11**

Mutual Aid Assistance : How it Works  
(Continued, Page 15) **13**

Mutual Aid Assistance : How it Works **15**

IMEA Workshops & Events Calendar **17**

### **Power Connection Quarterly Safety Tip**

**Stop! Think! Then act!**

It is easy for most people to see a dangerous situation and act instantly and instinctively. However, it is always better to approach any situation with a reasoned plan, based on training and situational awareness.





## Indiana Municipal Electric Association

ISSUE 2 2021

### **IMEA / Mutual Aid Response**

As we enter the Midwest's storm season, I would like to take this time to remind all IMEA member communities that in the event of an emergency, whether you are the recipient or aiding utility, to please keep the IMEA informed of any Mutual Aid activity.

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. **(Continued, Page 3)**

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Contact Dirk Garriott, Manager of Member Services for IMPA, to learn what the IMPA family can do for you.

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# The Value of Being an IMEA Member: Mutual Aid Response

## (Continued)

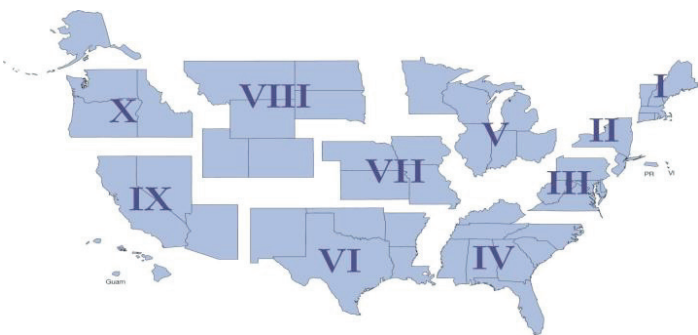
The state of Indiana has experienced its share of disasters and emergency situations that result in outages and damage to utility infrastructure across the state. From tornadoes and straight-line winds and flooding to snow, and ice, utilities are challenged to keep the power flowing and lights on throughout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

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

Duane Richardson  
Indiana Municipal Electric  
Association  
(765)366-5506 (cell)  
duane@imea.com

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.

Our first priority is to dispatch crews to IMEA member communities.

**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. If you have any questions about IMEA's Mutual Aid program or Restoration Services, please do not hesitate to contact us.





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## **ABOUT THE IMEA**

IMEA has operated as the statewide service association representing the issues and concerns of municipally owned and operated electric utilities while promoting the benefits and public power business model since 1941.





## The Value of Being an IMEA Member: Mutual Aid Response



### Q. What is the process of requesting mutual aid?

- A. Once a utility has determined a need, they can contact the IMEA Mutual Aid State / National Coordinator  
(Duane Richardson 756-366-5506 ) or one of our 2 regional coordinators if unable to reach me.  
North: Bob Dunderman  
Logansport 574-297-4775  
South: Willie Daniels  
Scottsburg 812-719-4958

Members may also contact neighboring utilities directly when the need is localized; however, when we experience widespread severe weather, we encourage the members to keep us informed of their needs so we can best coordinate and dispatch our resources. Communication is key for an effective operation.

### Q. What is the cost of mutual aid?

- A. Again the benefits of a membership!! No charge from IMEA for members. Non-IMEA members will be billed for IMEA time and expenses.

**Responding utilities** will, depending on the utility and the magnitude of the event invoice the **Requesting utility** for personnel, equipment, material, and incurred expenses.

### Q. How many members participate in our mutual aid program?

- A. We currently have 53 members; however, IMEA responds to requests from non-members at the local and national level. Non-IMEA members requesting aid will be billed for time & expenses. When prioritizing and dispatching resources members will always have priority.

### Q. Why is mutual aid such a valuable service for an organization?

- A. Like other first responders that combine forces to assist communities in times of need, utilities come together to restore services and keep the public safe. IMEA has directed inter and intra state mutual aid efforts for over four decades. Every emergency brings new challenges; the IMEA mutual aid program provides that critical point of contact for utilities to obtain emergency service in the form of personnel, equipment, and materials.

Our goal is to always ensure a **SAFE**, organized, and expeditious response to every request for assistance.

### What is in the future for mutual aid?

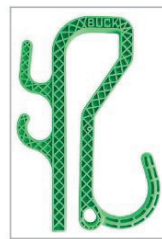
- A. Our regional coordinators and I communicate regularly so we can discuss and work on our Mutual Aid Playbook & Response.  
B. Whenever there's a request and a response for assistance we review and evaluate the processes to see if there's something we can improve.

The need for formalized mutual aid protocols has always existed but really became apparent when Superstorm Sandy caused widespread damage to the Northeast. In 2013 a national Mutual Aid Working Group was formed to establish a national network for public power utilities.

We work closely with APPA at the national level and IMEA is the APPA Network coordinator for Indiana.

## BUCKINGHAM BUCKET HOOK WITH TETHER CONNECTION EYE

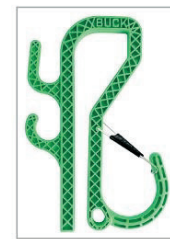
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Bucket Hook w/Tether  
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Bucket Hook w/Tether  
Connection Eye & Tool Tether  
2410T



Bucket Hook w/Tether  
Connection Eye & Gate  
2410G

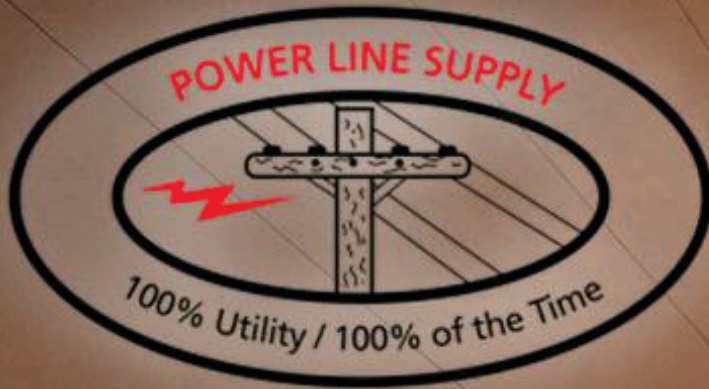


Bucket Hook w/Tether  
Connection Eye, Gate & Tether  
2410GT

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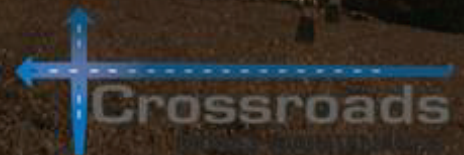
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The IMEA has operated as the statewide service association representing the issues and concerns of municipally owned and operated electric utilities while promoting the benefits of public power since 1941. IMEA serves the unified interests of Indiana's 72 public power communities as well as a forum for electric utilities to pool resources for effective leadership, representation, advocacy, education, training and protection.



# Benefits of Municipal Utilities

Indiana is home to municipal utilities of many shapes and sizes. Indiana is one of 49 states with public power systems. Public Power has close to a 125-year tradition of service in Indiana. Of the state's 568 municipalities, 72 own and/or operate their electric utility. The majority of Indiana's public power systems have celebrated their centennial. More than 500,000 Hoosiers own, control and are serviced by their municipal electric utility.

There are over 2,000 public power communities across the nation. One out of seven Americans are served by a public power community. Public power utilities are public service institutions whose primary focus is to serve their customers. Their common purpose is to provide reliable and safe not-for-profit electricity at a reasonable price while protecting the environment. The hallmark of public power is local control where citizens have a direct and powerful voice in utility decisions and policies.

Indiana has a long history of municipal utility operation. When private business would not or could not serve the utility needs of its citizens, city governments stepped up to provide essential utility needs – electric, gas, water, wastewater, stormwater and telecommunication services.

These community-owned utilities are municipal by choice.

The benefits of municipal utility ownership are numerous. From small, rural towns to large cities, municipal utilities are the culture of that particular American vision of local communities working together to meet the needs of their local citizens.

## Community Ownership

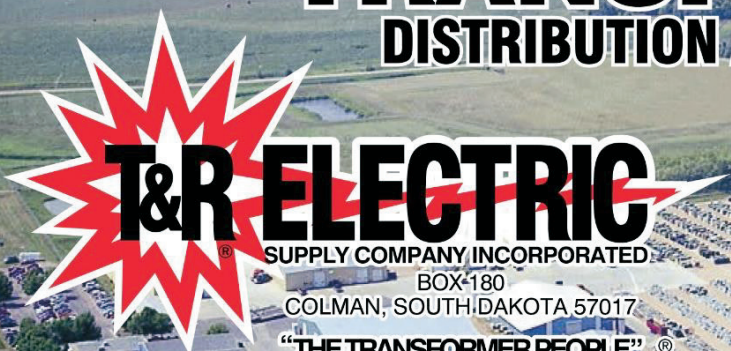
A municipal utility is owned by the city or town it serves. It exists to provide a public service to the citizens, businesses and industries of the community. Service, not profit, is the utility's mission / priority goal.

## Community Values

Decisions about the operation of a municipal utility are made locally, by members of the community, at open, public meetings. Because all decisions are made locally, a municipal utility is uniquely able to respond to the community's needs, build on the community's strengths, and reflect and advance the community's values.

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## Featured Seminars



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Basics of Corrosion,  
Mitigation and Repair

Paul Brewster  
Osmose, Director of  
Business Development  
Guest Speaker



Power Quality in  
Metering and Why  
It Matters

Rick Laster  
Leidy Engineering Sales, Inc.  
Ion Metering Specialist  
Guest Speaker



Dave Davlin  
Keynote Speaker

"THE GAME-WINNING  
3" – MAKING IT  
COUNT ... IN BUSINESS  
AND IN LIFE



Power Transformer Life  
Cycle Management

Frank Rudolf  
Alpha Engineering, Inc.  
Senior Engineer  
Guest Speaker



The Importance of Being  
Earnest in Maintaining  
Data for Your ROW  
Activities

Mark Mann  
Plant Growth Management  
Systems / CEO Founder  
Guest Speaker



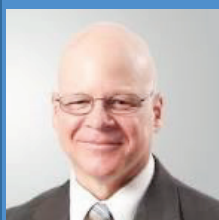
Regulator Safety & Basic  
Problems

Joe Robb  
Transformer Maintenance &  
Service, Inc.  
Senior Sales Representative  
Guest Speaker



IMEA Annual Meeting  
Safety Roundtable

Duane Richardson  
IMEA Executive Director



Future of the Electric  
Industry

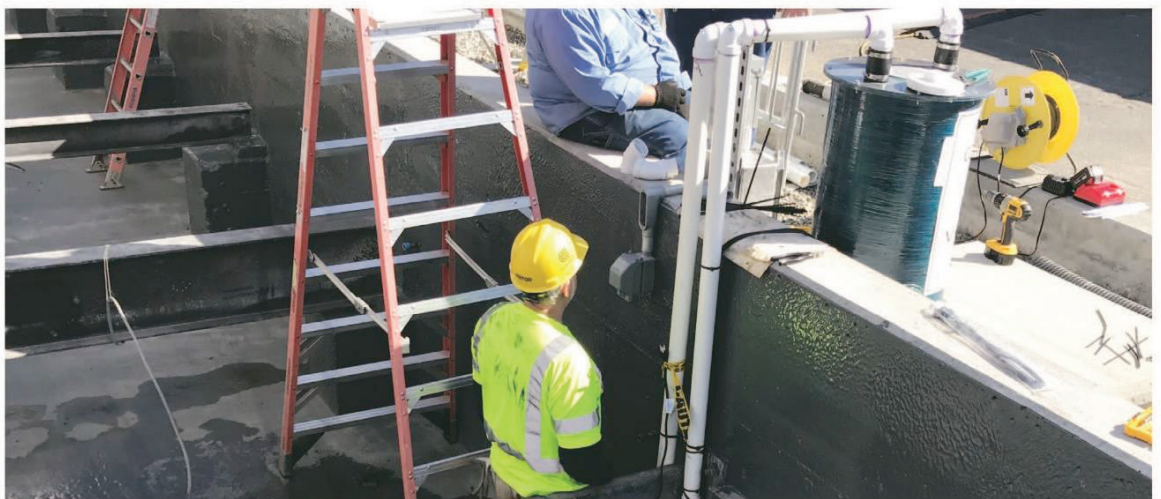
Chris Heimgartner  
General Manager  
Henderson Municipal Power  
and Light  
Guest Speaker



Erick Rheam  
Keynote Speaker

THE POWER OF  
LEADERSHIP  
DURING AND  
AFTER A CRISIS





The electric power industry has a strong track record of maintaining high levels of reliability. At times, however, hurricanes, earthquakes, storms, and other natural disasters occur that cause significant damage to the energy grid, creating widespread power outages. Following these events, electric companies must respond safely, swiftly, and efficiently to restore service to affected customers.

Restoring power after a major storm is a complex task, and a speedy restoration requires significant logistical expertise, along with skilled line workers and specialized equipment. Electric companies affected by significant outages often turn to the industry's mutual assistance network—a voluntary partnership of electric companies from across the country—to help speed restoration.

Mutual assistance is an essential part of the electric power industry's service restoration process and contingency planning. The mutual assistance network is a cornerstone of electric utility operations during emergencies.

## ***Understanding the Electric Power Industry's Response and Restoration Process***

Electricity is a crucial product many of us take for granted. ***We scarcely think about it, unless we don't have it.*** Because electricity plays such an important role in our everyday lives, we rely on electric companies to provide a reliable supply of on-demand power. Companies constantly plan for emergency situations that could impact their ability to generate or deliver power. The industry has a strong track record of maintaining high levels of reliability.

No matter how well the industry is prepared, hurricanes, earthquakes, storms, and other natural and man-made disasters can cause significant damage to the energy grid, creating widespread power outages. Following these events, electric companies must respond safely, swiftly, and efficiently to restore service to large numbers of affected customers. (Indiana Municipal Electric Association, IMEA) members, the statewide investor-owned electric Municipals, often turn to our mutual assistance program—a partnership of electric municipalities of the State of Indiana—to help restore power efficiently. Following are frequently asked questions about the response and restoration process and the steps we are taking to enhance our mutual assistance program to improve public safety and accelerate the industry's response.



## ***How do electric municipalities prepare for storms and other events that can cause outages?***

Electric municipalities' power restoration and business continuity planning includes year-round preparation for all types of emergencies, including storms and other weather-related events, as well as cyber and physical infrastructure attacks. For example, municipalities conduct exercises and drills to prepare them to respond to significant outages—whether they are caused by an expected storm or by an event that occurs without warning. Restoring power after a major incident is a complex task that must be completed as safely and efficiently as possible. A speedy restoration process requires significant logistical expertise, along with skilled workers and specialized equipment. Electric municipalities begin their preparation for weather-related events long before an event actually occurs, with organization-wide plans and drills that involve virtually all employees. When a major storm or natural disaster is expected, electric municipalities begin their standard preparations to organize restoration workers, trucks, and equipment.

## ***What is the mutual assistance program?***

IMEA's mutual assistance program is a member partnership of community-owned electric municipalities across the state of Indiana committed to helping restore power whenever and wherever assistance is needed. IOU's and electric cooperatives also have their own mutual aid programs that provide restoration support to their participating utilities. IMEA communicates regularly with the associations that serve municipal and cooperative utilities during major outage incidents.

***(Continued, Page 13)***





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Mutual Aid Assistance : How it Works

(Continued)

Created decades ago, our mutual aid assistance program provides a formal, yet flexible, process for electric municipalities to request support from other electric municipalities in parts of the country that have not been affected by major outage events. Mutual assistance is an essential part of the electric power industry's service restoration process and contingency planning. Electric municipalities impacted by a major outage event are able to increase the size of their workforce by "borrowing" restoration workers from statewide and nationwide companies and municipalities. When called upon, a municipal will send skilled restoration workers—municipality employees—along with specialized equipment to help with the restoration efforts of a fellow municipality.

How does mutual assistance work?

Partnerships in our mutual assistance program are based upon voluntary agreements among electric municipalities within the membership. Most of these agreements are managed by the statewide coordinator.

(Continued, Page 15)



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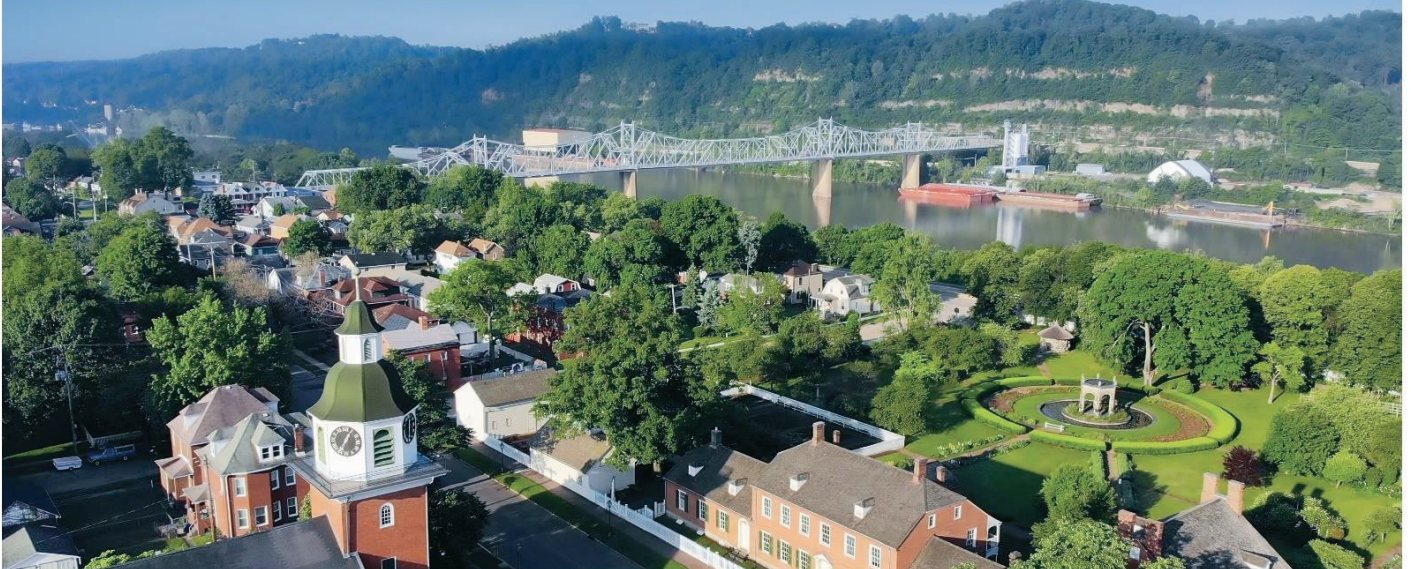
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# Mutual Aid Assistance : How it Works

## How does mutual assistance work?

### *(Continued)*

The Statewide Coordinator facilitates the process of identifying available restoration workers and help municipalities coordinate the logistics and personnel involved in restoration efforts. For example, the Statewide Coordinator can help municipalities locate specialized skill sets, equipment, or materials, and can assist in identifying other types of resources that may be needed, including lineworkers, tree trimmers, damage assessors, and even call center support. Municipality restoration workers involved in mutual assistance typically travel many miles to help the requesting municipalities rebuild power lines, replace poles, and restore power to customers. Before their restoration work begins, the member restoration workers receive any necessary safety training and an overview of the affected facilities from the host Statewide Coordinator.

### *What are the key goals of the mutual assistance program?*

The mutual assistance program serves as an effective—and critical—restoration resource for electric municipalities because of its unique structure. It is both flexible and voluntary, empowering the network to respond quickly to the unpredictable nature of weather, while also recognizing that any one municipality may be limited in its ability to provide resources at a given point in time. While a primary goal of the mutual assistance program is to restore electric service in a safe, effective, and efficient manner, the program also serves additional objectives that benefit the entire electric power industry. The mutual assistance program:

- Promotes the safety of employees and customers;
- Strengthens relationships among electric municipalities;
- Provides a means for electric municipalities to receive competent, trained employees from other experienced municipalities;
- Provides a predefined mechanism to share industry resources expeditiously;
- Mitigates the risks and costs of member municipalities related to major incidents;
- Proactively improves resource-sharing during emergency conditions;

- Shares best practices and technologies that help the electric power industry improve its ability to prepare for, and respond to, emergencies;
- Promotes and strengthens communication and;
- Enables a consistent, unified response to emergency events.

### *What is the role of the states during power restoration efforts?*

The Indiana Municipal Electric Association, IMEA and electric member municipalities should continue to collaborate and work with first responders to ensure a flexible approach to storms and other events that lead to widespread power outages. A timely restoration effort requires a smooth transition of resources from other regions into the affected area, regardless of the state boundary. Member municipality service territories often extend beyond state boundaries, and restoration work often involves multiple jurisdictions. Having flexibility to move resources to the outage location is the key to successfully completing a restoration.

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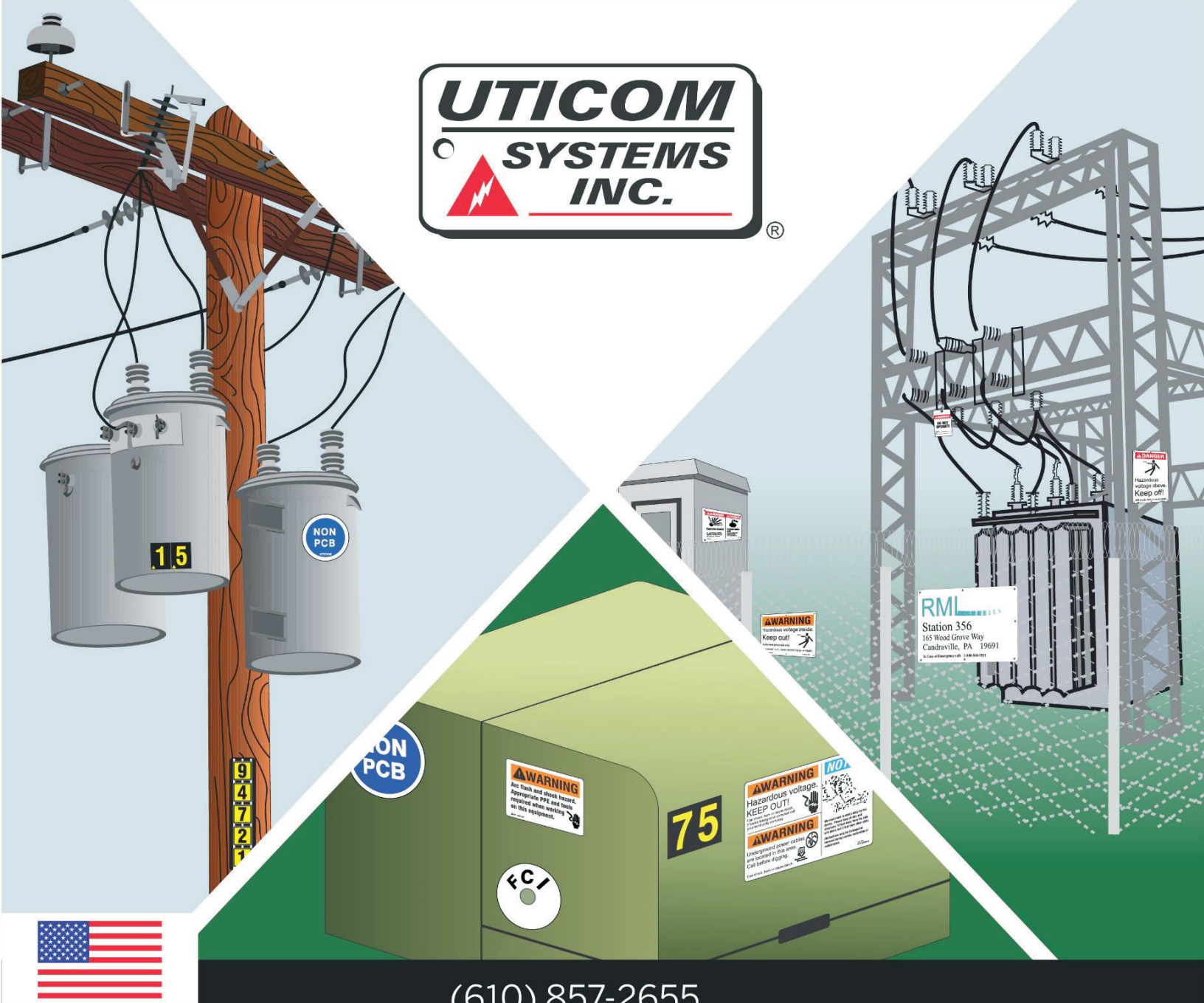
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**IMEA Brown Bag Virtual Series**

**Introduction to Distribution Automation / G&W Electric**

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**July 13, 2021**

**IMEA Brown Bag Virtual Series**

**End to End Lateral Protection / Jeremi Jermakowicz / S & C Electric**

Registration Coming Soon! / Go-To Webinar

**August 24-25, 2021**

**IMEA Transformer Theory and Connections Workshop Mishawaka, Indiana**

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**August 30 – September 3, 2021**

**IMEA 613 Advanced Construction and Maintenance Workshop**

**Class # 100118**

**Mid-America Science Park (Scottsburg, IN.)**

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**September 20 - 24, 2021**

**IMEA 612 Intermediate Construction and Maintenance Workshop**

**Class # 093019**

**Mid-America Science Park (Scottsburg, IN.)**

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**September 27 – October 8, 2021**

**IMEA 610 Wood Pole Climbing Workshop**

**Class # 092721 (Lebanon Utilities)**

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**October 12 – 15, 2021**

**IMEA Annual Business Meeting & Vendor Expo**

**Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center**

**Noblesville, IN.**

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**October 26 – 27, 2021**

**IMEA Supervisor Safety Workshop / All About OSHA / IOSHA**

**Lebanon, IN.**

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