

 Oakdale Electric Cooperative		Board Policy
Policy Name: Meter Tampering and Theft of Electricity		Policy No: 6.10
Last Reviewed/Revised: 07-27-2023		Page 1 of 2

I. PURPOSE

To establish a written policy outlining our procedures regarding prevention of theft of electricity and damage to meters.

II. POLICY

Oakdale Electric Cooperative will pursue prosecution and charge a fee to the responsible person(s) for the intentional damage to an Oakdale Electric Cooperative meter and the theft of electricity.

III. PROVISIONS

A. Meter tampering/theft of electricity.

B. All Oakdale Electric Cooperative meters will be sealed with approved seals when they are installed on our system. It shall be the responsibility of all cooperative employees working with or around the meters to check for broken seals. A broken seal is an indicator of possible meter tampering and/or power theft. Wisconsin Statute 941.36 provides for penalties for criminal actions of this nature.

In cases where the seal is broken, the member whose name(s) the service is listed in shall be considered the responsible party. If no reasonable explanation is given, a fee may be charged (see Administrative Policy #16).

In cases where a meter automatically reports an outage due to unauthorized removal of the meter from the meter socket, a fee may be charged (see Administrative Policy #16). The member whose service was affected shall be considered the responsible party.

C. When Oakdale Electric Cooperative has reasonable evidence that a member is obtaining part or all of their electricity by any method that interferes with the proper metering of electric service or unauthorized connection to obtain electric service has been made, disconnection of service will follow. The amount of stolen electricity will be estimated based upon past usage and added to member's account.

Before the meter will be reconnected in the same member's name, the member must pay the meter-tampering penalty fee (see Administrative Policy #16), the estimated electricity charges, and any other charges, which may have been related to previous disconnection. If a complaint is filed with the District Attorney, the actual costs associated with the investigation will be included on the restitution form. These charges will include, but are not limited to labor, trip charge and equipment repair.

Meter tampering is a dangerous act and will be dealt with severely.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY

The General manager of Oakdale Electric Cooperative shall be responsible for the administration of this policy.

Issued: 05-30-03	Reviewed Date (no revisions): 07-29-2020, 07-27-2023	Revised Date: 10-31-18
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