

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

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Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Simon Sanchez
- ▶ Randy Skinner
- ▶ Herman Loeb
- ▶ Cheryl Mann
- ▶ Arlie Lohrding
- ▶ Megan McCuiston

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!



Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Have you ever noticed your lights blink during a thunderstorm? Or perhaps you've noticed a blinking microwave clock when you arrive home. When this happens, you've likely experienced a brief disruption to your electric service, which could result from a power surge or blink. While the symptoms of surges and blinks can appear similar, what's happening behind the scenes can be quite different.

What's a Power Surge?

Power surges are brief overvoltage spikes or disturbances of a power waveform that can damage, degrade or destroy electronic equipment within your home or business. Most electronics are designed to handle small variations in voltage; however, power surges can reach amplitudes of tens of thousands of volts — this can be extremely damaging to your electronic equipment.

Surges can be caused by internal sources, like HVAC systems with

CMS Electric encourages all members to install surge protective devices (such as surge protector power strips) to safeguard your sensitive electronics.

variable frequency drives, or external sources, like lightning and damage to power lines and transformers.

CMS Electric encourages all members to install surge protective devices (such as surge protector power strips) to safeguard your sensitive electronics. If you're experiencing frequent surges in your home or business and you believe the cause is internal, contact a qualified electrician to inspect your electrical system.

What's a Power Blink?

Power blinks are also brief service interruptions, but they're typically

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Understanding Power Surges and Blinks Continued from page 12A ▶

caused by a fault (short circuit) on a power line or a protective device that's working in reaction to the fault. Faults can occur through a variety of instances, like squirrels, birds or other small animals contacting an energized power line, tree branches touching a power line, or lightning and other similar events. In fact, when it comes to power disruptions caused by critters, squirrels reign supreme. In 2019 alone, squirrels were responsible for more than 1,200 outages.

Any of the events noted above can cause your power to blink, but you may



CARINA HOFMEISTER

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also experience a brief interruption when protective devices that act like circuit breakers are working to detect the fault. Believe it or not, these brief power blinks caused by protective devices are good because that means the equipment is working as it should to prevent a prolonged outage.

Regardless of the cause, CMS Electric crews will be on their way to inspect the damage and make necessary repairs after a power outage. And you can help too! Any time you experience repeated disruptions to your electric service, please let us know.

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Share the Road

It's always a good idea to brush up on road safety, but especially as everyone heads back to school. Before school begins, take a morning to walk through your routine with children and discuss the rules of arriving to school safely.

Young Pedestrians

- ▶ Be alert, children are unpredictable.
- ▶ Don't block the crosswalk when stopped forcing pedestrians to go around you.
- ▶ Always stop for a school patrol officer or crossing guard holding up a stop sign.

Utility Vehicles

- ▶ The Move Over and Slow Down law in Kansas requires drivers to vacate the lane closest to a stationary utility or emergency vehicle if possible or slow down to a safe speed for weather conditions.
- ▶ Driving too fast or not moving over can endanger a lineworker elevated in a bucket truck by causing the bucket to move or sway and endanger lineworkers on the ground.

Bicyclists

- ▶ Watch for bicyclists turning in front of you without looking or signaling, especially children.
- ▶ Watch for bikes coming from driveways or behind parked cars.
- ▶ Check side mirrors before opening your door.

School Buses

- ▶ It is illegal in all 50 states to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children.
- ▶ The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them space to safety enter and exit the bus.



NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

LABOR Day Office Closing

In observance of Labor Day,
our office will be closed on
MONDAY, SEPT. 4.

Your CMS Payment Options

CMS Electric has six convenient payment options for our members. All members receive a standard monthly bill for their electrical use. Bills are due and payable upon receipt. We realize one method of payment does not fit every members' needs, so we have several payment options available for your convenience. All our payment options are free.



Auto Payment/Bank Draft

Members have the option to have payments automatically withdrawn from their bank accounts or credit/debit cards. Sign-up is available through our online bill pay system or through the office. Auto payments are drawn automatically each month on the due date of the bill. A form is also available on our website cmselectric.com.



SmartHub/Online Bill Pay

Online bill pay is also available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Click the "Pay Online" button on the left side of CMS Electric's website or follow cmselectric.smarthub.coop/login.html. Members can also download the "Smart Hub" app from the Apple or Android marketplaces on any mobile device.



CMS Electric Offices

You may pay by check, cash or credit/debit card at either office in Meade or Coldwater. Our offices are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday, except for select holidays.



Night Deposit Boxes

There are night deposit boxes located at either office in Meade or Coldwater. Payments dropped off after 4 p.m., Monday-Friday, will be posted the next business day. Please pay inside to avoid broken payment arrangements or disconnection.



Mail*

CMS Electric's monthly bill comes with a return envelope to mail your check back to us at P.O. Box 790, Meade, KS 67864 or P.O. Box 738, Coldwater, KS 67029

**Please allow additional time if using the postal service. Payments must be received in our office on or prior to due date. We DO NOT use the mailing post date for the payment date.*



IVR

CMS Electric has an automated pay-by-phone option. Members can use a check or credit/debit card by calling 888-395-5281.

To Mow or Not to Mow

BY MADDY ROHR, K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION NEWS SERVICE

While opinions vary on how high to mow the home's lawn as the fall temperatures lower, Kansas State University horticulture expert Ward Upham shares the science behind why certain species of grass should be kept short in the cold temperatures.

He said winter tolerance differs among warm-season and cool-season grasses, but both benefit from healthy maintenance practices, including fertilizing, watering and mowing during the spring, summer and fall.

"Cold tolerance is improved by increasing the health of the plants going into the winter, and healthy plants are a result of a sound management program," Upham said.

The recommended lawn height (in inches) for homeowners in Kansas is:

- ▶ Tall fescue: 2.5-3.5
- ▶ Kentucky bluegrass: 2-3
- ▶ Buffalo grass: 2-3
- ▶ Bermuda grass: 1-2
- ▶ Zoysia grass: 1-2

"The lawn will benefit more from continuing to mow at the recommended height than from trying to gain some insulation against winter cold by allowing it to grow tall," Upham said.

Some variability in the recommended lawn height is beneficial to certain grasses throughout the year.

"For example, it is a good practice to mow warm-season grasses at the higher end of recommended heights during late summer and early fall because this practice should help them store more carbohydrate reserves for the winter, and it may reduce the incidence of certain cool-weather diseases," he said.

Upham and his colleagues in K-State's Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources produce a weekly Horticulture Newsletter with tips for maintaining home landscapes and gardens. The newsletter is available to view online or can be delivered by email each week.

Interested persons can also send their garden and yard-related questions to Upham at wupham@ksu.edu, or contact your local K-State Research and Extension office.

HELP THE LINEWORKER RESTORE POWER

Occasionally, severe weather can cause power disruptions. When outages occur, our lineworkers get to work! They restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

Help the lineworker reach the transformer to fix the power outage.

