



P.O. Box 699, 530 W. Jones, Troy, KS 66087
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www.donrec.org

**DONIPHAN ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE ASSN., INC.**

Co-opConnect

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Office Hours

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday

FROM THE MANAGER

Spring: Surges, Blinks, Blops

(OK — I made that last one up)



Michael Volker

Spring is awesome in a number of ways. It is the season of new beginnings, new life and new growth. It is the season of color and emergence.

It is the season of thunderstorms and the most changeable weather in the place where weather is well known for changing rapidly. It can wreak havoc on an electric distribution system including that of Doniphan Electric Cooperative. For this reason, I've coined it the season of surges, blinks and blops.

Do you ever notice when your lights blink during a thunderstorm or when you have a blinking clock on your microwave? Of course, it is more

obvious when the lights go out and stay out for a longer period of time — an outage. You may have experienced a surge or a blink.

What's a Power Surge?

Power surges are brief overvoltage spikes or disturbances of a power wave that can impact electronic equipment. Most electronic equipment is designed to handle small variations in voltage; however, power surges can reach extreme voltage levels and thereby cause damage to unprotected electronic equipment. Surges can be caused by internal sources like HVAC systems, or external sources like lightning. If you have particularly sensitive equipment, it would be wise to protect that equipment with a surge protector of some kind.

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Washing windows and screens is a great way to practice energy efficiency during spring cleaning. Clean windows and screens make your home brighter by allowing more sunlight in, reducing the need for lamps and fixtures. Clean screens also allow more fresh air in the home when the windows are open to recycle indoor air. Natural light and clean air are energy savers, and they enhance overall health and productivity. **SOURCE: WWW.ENERGY.GOV**



Chainsaw Safety

- STATISTICS -

36,000 people each year are treated in hospital ERs for chainsaw-related injuries.

36% of chainsaw accidents result in injuries to the legs and knees.



The average chainsaw injury requires **110 stitches**.



The two most common places for injuries are the **front left thigh** and the **back of the left hand**.



1 in 5

One in five chainsaw injuries is from kickback.



Kickback is the single greatest cause of injury to **chainsaw users**.



Medical costs for chainsaw injuries amount to around **\$350 million** per year.

SOURCE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- INJURIES -



Head Injuries
3,418



Upper Body Area
2,141



Arm and Hand Area
17,994



Leg Area
16,348

SOURCE: U.S. PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Spring: Surges, Blinks, Blops *Continued from page 12A*

What's a Power Blink?

Power blinks are brief service interruptions usually caused by a fault (short circuit) on a power line or even by the protective equipment working in reaction to a fault. Faults can occur from a variety of events: squirrels, birds, other small animals, or trees contacting a power line. I'm told squirrels are the king of small animals causing power blinks (though I'm amazed anyone would want to tabulate that!). And of course, lightning and other weather-related events can also cause faults.

While any of these events can cause your power to blink, you may also experience a brief interruption when protective devices that act like circuit breakers are working to detect a fault. While this may seem a bit backward,

power blinks caused by protective devices are good because that means the protective equipment is working as it should to prevent a prolonged power outage. What starts out as a surge or a blink can ultimately result in an outage. If that happens, you can bet the crews at Doniphan Electric are always ready to get your power back on as quickly as possible.

On a Different Note

This is a reminder that Doniphan Electric Cooperative's **ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 30 WITH REGISTRATION BEGINNING AT 5:30 P.M.** The meeting will be again held at the Troy Community building on Last Chance Road. We look forward to seeing you there!

Play It Safe Around Power Lines

Digging holes, climbing trees, flying kites — outdoor play often creates beautiful childhood memories. Before hitting the great outdoors, discuss electrical safety with your children.

Flying Fun

While flying kites, model airplanes, remote-control flying toys and drones, stay in large, open areas (such as parks or fields), far away from power lines. If an item gets caught in a power line, teach children to never try to retrieve it. Instead, an adult should call their electric utility for help.

General Outdoor Safety Tips

Other important safety guidelines for kids and adults include:

- ▶ Never throw objects at power lines.
- ▶ Stay far away from downed, damaged or low-hanging power lines. An adult should call 911 to report a downed or damaged line.
- ▶ Be cautious after a severe storm that caused a power outage. Downed power lines could be hidden under water, snow or storm debris. Wait

to go outside until power has been restored.

- ▶ Do not climb, sit or play on pad-mounted transformers (green boxes).
- ▶ Do not climb trees that have overhead power lines near or running through them.

Poolside

When spending time by the pool, look overhead when using pool skimmers or other long objects to be sure you are not getting close to an overhead power line. If you are swimming and feel a prickly or tingling sensation, do not stay in the pool. There could be a stray electric current from a downed power line or a damaged electrical device. Also, never play in a flooded street or ditch; a downed power line could be hidden by the water and fallen debris.

Prevention is Key

Electric shock and injuries are often preventable. Empower your family with electrical safety knowledge to avoid preventable electric injuries. For more information, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

10 Do's and Don'ts When Using Portable Generators

Storm season is upon us, which means greater potential for power outages. If you're planning to use a portable generator in the event of an outage, Doniphan Electric reminds you to play it safe.

With proper use and maintenance, portable generators can provide great convenience during an outage. However, when generators are used incorrectly, they can be extremely hazardous. In a 2022 report, the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated 85 U.S. consumers die every year from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning caused by gasoline-powered portable generators.

Here are 10 do's and don'ts to keep in mind when using portable generators:

1. **DO:** Install back up CO alarms.
2. **DO:** Keep children and pets away from portable generators at all times.
3. **DO:** Position generators at least 25 feet outside the home, away from doors, windows and vents that can allow CO to enter the home.
4. **DO:** Ensure your generator is properly grounded. Use a portable ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to prevent electric shock injuries.
5. **DO:** Use three-pronged extension cords that are rated to handle the load of the generator. Inspect extension cords for cuts, frays or other damage before use.
6. **DON'T:** Operate a generator inside

your home or an enclosed (or partially enclosed) space. Generators produce high levels of CO, which can be deadly.

7. **DON'T:** Open windows or doors while the generator is running.
8. **DON'T:** Rely on generators as a full-time source of power. They should only be used temporarily or in emergency situations to power essential equipment or appliances.
9. **DON'T:** Overload generators. They should only be used to power essential equipment. Make sure your generator can handle the load of the items you plan to power.
10. **DON'T:** Connect generators directly into household wiring unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed. If a generator is connected to a home's wiring without a transfer switch, power can backfeed along power lines and electrocute utility lineworkers making repairs.

While generators provide convenience during power outages, they can quickly become hazardous — even deadly — if improperly operated. Before you operate a portable generator, be sure to thoroughly read the owner's manual for important safety information and tips.

If you have questions about proper use of portable generators, we're here to help. Give us a call at 785-985-3523 or contact us at www.donrec.org.



WHEN FLOODWATERS RISE

7 Tips to Evacuate Safely

Once you leave your home:

1. Never drive around barricades.
2. Listen to weather alerts for information and instructions.
3. Do not walk, swim or drive through floodwaters.
4. Know that standing water could be energized.
5. Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.
6. Stay inside your car if it is trapped in rapidly moving waters.
7. Get on the roof if water is rising inside your car.

Source: Ready.gov

Do not return home until it is safe to do so.

Flooding Dangers

145 U.S. flood-related fatalities in 2021



Driving: **76**



At home: **40**



Boating: **1**



Working: **1**



Walking/hiking: **8**



Falling in: **2**



Other: **10**



Unreported: **7**

Source: National Weather Service

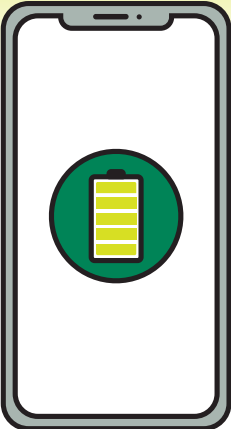
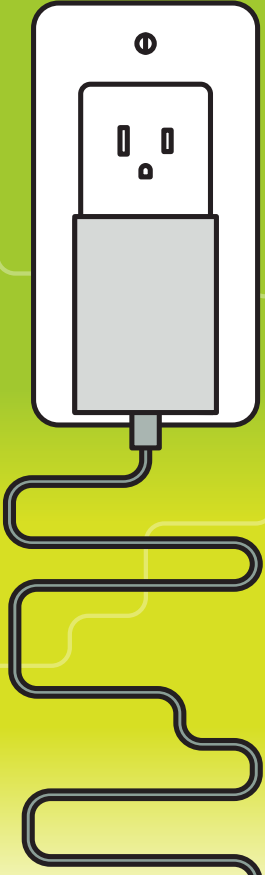
ELECTRONICS EFFICIENCY WORD SEARCH

Did you know there are ways you can reduce your electronics energy use?

Read the energy-saving tips below, then find and circle the **bolded words** in the puzzle.



B	J	C	M	G	S	N	A	M	O	R	S	W	U	L
R	A	F	O	D	V	T	L	L	P	D	I	O	S	W
E	B	T	E	M	V	C	E	U	X	S	Y	W	D	G
C	B	P	T	D	P	O	W	E	R	S	T	R	I	P
H	Y	G	M	E	T	U	A	U	Y	H	Z	P	U	Z
A	R	P	Q	E	R	U	T	L	R	N	Z	N	U	Y
R	F	I	H	L	V	I	C	E	Q	V	P	C	E	S
G	T	D	F	F	W	K	E	M	R	L	B	N	H	O
E	B	H	W	C	F	Q	W	S	U	K	Y	N	Z	M
A	Q	I	L	I	F	K	N	G	L	O	I	K	B	A
B	S	R	E	G	R	A	H	C	E	N	O	H	P	C
L	N	O	Y	O	V	I	M	A	I	V	I	R	X	T
E	V	S	U	A	I	L	K	O	L	U	Y	N	F	C
Y	H	V	K	S	L	F	G	T	R	I	P	B	T	G
P	O	W	E	R	M	A	N	A	G	E	M	E	N	T



- ▶ Use a **power strip** with an on/off switch when powering multiple electronics to easily manage energy use.
- ▶ For devices that require **batteries**, use **rechargeable** ones, which are more cost-effective and environmentally friendly.
- ▶ **Unplug** electronic products that consume energy even when they're not in use, like **phone chargers**.
- ▶ Use the sleep or **power management** mode on your **computer** to save on energy costs.

