



**DSO ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

DSO
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

HEADLINER

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Derrick Rutherford
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Office Hours

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday
Open over the lunch hour

Payment Locations

**CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK IN
WALMART SUPERCENTER**

521 E. Chestnut St., Junction City, KS 66441

FARMERS STATE BANK

447 Harrison, Lindsborg, KS 67456

Outage Information

**IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE, CALL
800-376-3533.** After-hours calls will be
answered by dispatch and forwarded to
standby personnel.

Find Out More

 [facebook.com/DSOElectricCooperative](https://www.facebook.com/DSOElectricCooperative)

 @DSOElectricCoop

Proper Load Management Benefits Everyone

BY DERRICK RUTHERFORD, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Most are familiar with the kilowatt-hour (kWh) entry on your monthly electric statement. The number of kWh represents the energy consumed each month, measured by your electric meter. For residential members, charges on monthly statements include the facility charge, kWh charge, power cost adjustment (PCA), and taxes.

As of last month, your monthly statement now also shows monthly demand. Demand is the maximum kilowatts (kW) used at a single point in time. We don't specifically charge for demand, but the monthly peak kW is shown for your information.

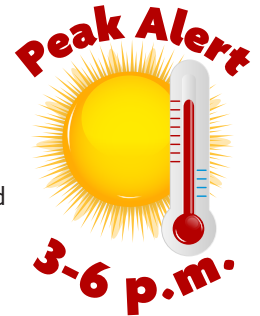
Our electric grid is designed with the capacity to provide service above any peak demand our members may require at any given time. DSO pays for that peak demand through the bill DSO receives from Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), its energy supplier. That is why it is so important for DSO and its members to try to reduce usage during peak billing times.

DSO IS BILLED FOR PEAKS BETWEEN 3 AND 6 P.M. FROM JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER, but the key months are July and August. The higher of those two monthly peaks will partially determine what DSO will be billed for the following October through May period.

To help keep that peak as low as possible (and subsequently lower all members' utility bills), DSO has invested money and staff time into an active load management program. Over the past seven years, DSO has added two 1-megawatt solar arrays, three 1-megawatt generators, and restructured some of its rates to encourage off-peak energy usage.

AS MEMBERS, YOU CAN HELP DSO FLATTEN ITS PEAK USAGE AT HOME by using your major appliances, such as the washer and dryer, in the morning or late in the evening. Also consider using slow cookers and other small appliances, which use less electricity and won't add as much heat to your home. Another way to help is by signing up for our interruptible rate. This rate will pay you a credit for allowing DSO to turn off your power during peak times.

Using electricity wisely at the right time of day can save you and the cooperative money. Proper load management benefits everyone. Don't hesitate to contact us during business hours at 800-376-3533 with any questions.



Driving Behind Farm Equipment: Do Your Part

Spring planting and fall harvest are busy times. Farmers and workers have big equipment and implements on the road. Navigating roadways can be dangerous for farm equipment operators and auto drivers who follow behind them.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 410 farmers and farm workers died from work-related injuries in 2019. Transportation incidents, which included overturned tractors, were the leading cause of death for these farmers and farm workers.

Follow these safety tips to make it safer for everyone involved.

Equipment Operators

- ▶ Make sure all flashers and lights are operational.
- ▶ Drive as far to the right side of the road as possible when going around a curve.
- ▶ Pull over and allow vehicles to pass when traffic builds up behind you.
- ▶ Take care at railroad crossings.
- ▶ Avoid traveling during busy traffic times.
- ▶ Be mindful of the height and width of machinery, watching power lines, bridges and other hazards.
- ▶ Along with turn signals, use hand signals.
- ▶ Stay rested; do not drive when you are too tired or hungry.
- ▶ Keep a first-aid kit onboard in case of accidents or emergencies.

Auto Drivers

- ▶ Think about how long it will take to get to your destination and add extra time for busy farm roads.
- ▶ Give farmers plenty of room on the road. If a piece of equipment takes up the entire road, pull into a driveway or area and wait for them to pass.
- ▶ When passing, be sure you do so in a passing zone where there is clear visibility around farm equipment. Watch for oncoming vehicles.
- ▶ Go slow. Farm operators often stop or turn into fields. In addition, cars going at or over the speed limit can catch up to farm machinery quickly, since farmers in equipment move slowly.
- ▶ Do not assume that a farmer can move over in narrow areas — it is not always possible.
- ▶ Honk or motion when passing farmers. They may not see you or know you are there as their equipment is big and noisy.
- ▶ Do not tailgate; the farmer often cannot see you.
- ▶ Do not pass and then slow suddenly in front of equipment with implements behind it or farm trucks full of grain. They cannot stop quickly.
- ▶ Farmers make very wide turns. Give them plenty of time and room.

These are a few tips to make it safer for both the equipment operator and automobile drivers and to provide a more pleasant drive for all.


PROTECT YOURSELF FROM UTILITY SCAMS



The illustration shows a smartphone on the left with a call log entry for 'UNKNOWN CALLER'. A dashed line connects it to a person in a black balaclava and mask on the right. A red exclamation mark is next to the person, and a blue 'X' is next to the phone. A red 'X' is also in the bottom left corner of the graphic area.

- ▶ Never give personal information to an unknown visitor or caller.
- ▶ Demands for payment by gift card or cryptocurrency should immediately raise red flags.
- ▶ When in doubt, call your electric co-op directly.

Play it Safe Near Grain Bins



The photograph shows a large, cylindrical metal grain bin in a rural setting. A white grid is overlaid on the ground in front of the bin, indicating a 20-foot clearance zone. The grid is 10 units wide and 10 units high.

When moving equipment, be aware of power lines and maintain at least a 20-foot clearance to ensure safety. Follow all guidelines set by the National Electrical Safety Code.



Sending a Child to College?

Discuss safety first

As you are shopping for dorm room supplies, décor, snacks and other back-to-campus items, take a moment to discuss safety tips with your child before hugs and goodbyes.

Here are some safety topics to help keep your college student safe.

Electrical Safety Tips

- ▶ When shopping for items that run on electricity, look for a safety endorsement label, such as UL (Underwriters Laboratories).
- ▶ Do not put a cellphone under a pillow or place it on or under bedding. It could overheat or catch fire.
- ▶ In the dorm or apartment, make sure outlets near water sources are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). If they are not, contact the resident assistant, campus housing staff or landlord. Look for a test and reset button on the face of the outlet.
- ▶ Use power strips with an over-current protector that will shut off power if too much current is drawn.

- ▶ Avoid overloading extension cords, power strips or outlets.
- ▶ Do not hang decorative lights with nails or tacks; always use plastic hooks.
- ▶ Do not run electrical cords across traffic paths or under rugs.

General Safety Tips

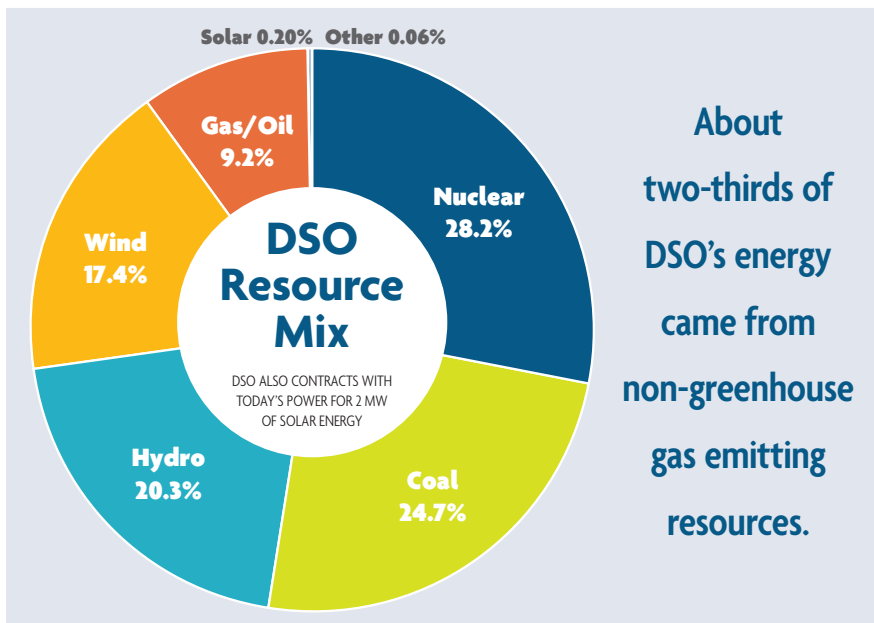
- ▶ Find out what type of public safety department is on campus and how it functions; ask which services the department offers and the steps it takes to prevent crime.
- ▶ Locate emergency call buttons or phones across campus in case of an emergency.
- ▶ Walk with a friend, especially at night.
- ▶ When attending events or parties, go with at least one person you know and trust. If your friend leaves, do not stay.
- ▶ Always be aware of your surroundings.
- ▶ Avoid being distracted (listening to music, texting, and so on) while walking on campus.
- ▶ Find out what types of mental health services or counseling the campus offers.

CAMPUS SAFETY TIPS

Every College Student Should Know

Relay these safety tips to your young adults who are campus bound for the first time or returning for another year.

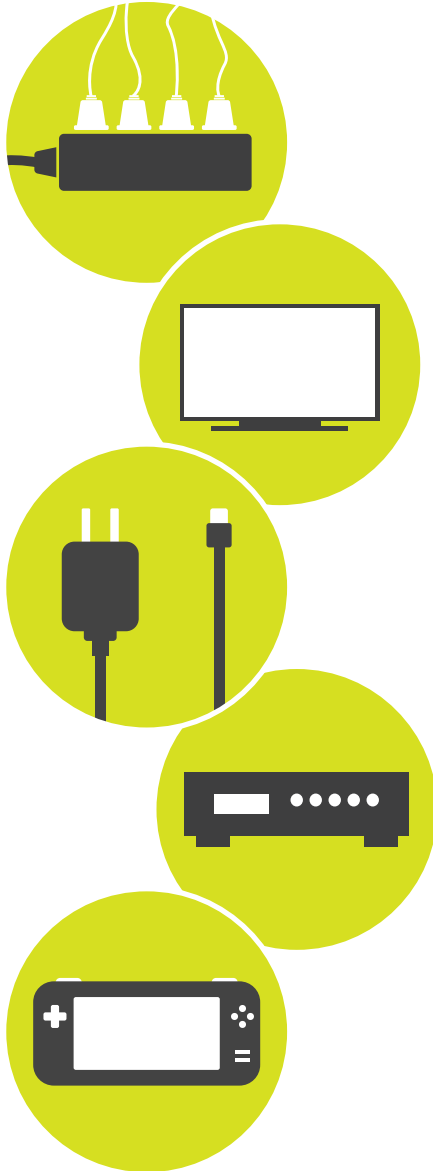
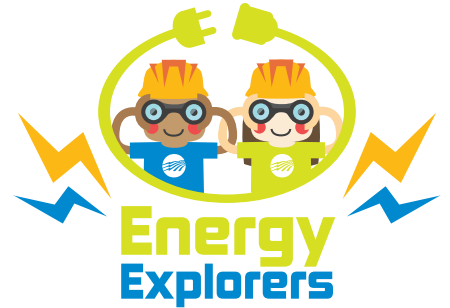
- 1** Do not overload electrical outlets, power strips or extension cords. Use power strips with an overcurrent protector.
- 2** Be aware of your surroundings, especially when listening to music or texting.
- 3** Unplug small appliances when not in use and all appliances when away for extended periods.
- 4** Never walk alone at night.
- 5** Avoid using generic charging cubes or cords. They could overheat, shock or burn you.
- 6** Locate the emergency call buttons or phones across campus in case of an emergency.
- 7** Do not put your cellphone on or under your pillow or bedding. It could overheat or catch fire.



ELECTRONICS WORD SCRAMBLE

You can be more energy efficient by turning off unused electronics. Many electronics consume energy even when they're not being used. Unplug them to save energy.

Unscramble the letters below to reveal electronics you can turn off when not in use. Use the pictures for clues and check your work in the answer key.



1. NEPOH EHGRAC

2. MGAE NOESCLO

3. LCAEB XBO

4. EWROP PRTIS

5. ONSILEETIV

WORD BANK

Power strip
Cable box

Television
Phone charger

Game console

ANSWER KEY: 1) PHONE CHARGER 2) GAME CONSOLE 3) CABLE BOX 4) POWER STRIP 5) TELEVISION