



DSO
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**DSO ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

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| Timothy J. Power
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Operations Manager | Derrick Rutherford
Communications Manager |

OFFICE HOURS

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

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
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Watch the Clock to Lock in Energy Savings

As temperatures rise and summer activities heat up, a reliable flow of electricity is essential to ensure DSO members stay cool and connected.

August brings some of the most extreme summer temps, which means people will be spending more time indoors to avoid the heat, and air conditioners will be working overtime. This increased use of electricity will cause spikes in demand, also known as energy peaks. During peak times, DSO must work closely with our wholesale power provider to ensure a balanced supply of electricity is always available to meet our community's energy needs.

The electric grid is essentially a giant network that connects power plants, utility poles and power lines to homes and businesses across the country, throughout our state and to

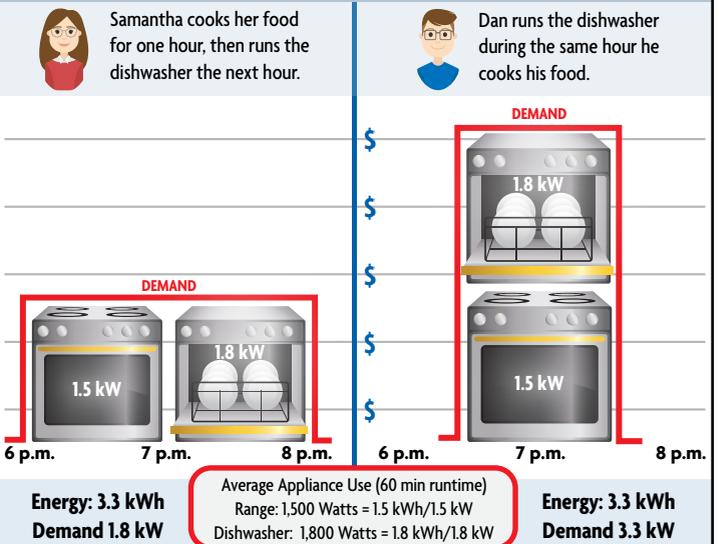
our local communities. All parts of the network must work together to ensure the flow of electricity stays balanced 24/7.

When the electricity demand is higher than usual, power providers must ramp up electricity production — whether from coal, natural gas, wind, solar or other energy sources — and utilities will pay more for electricity produced during the peak. These higher

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UNDERSTANDING DEMAND

As more appliances in your home run at the same time, your demand for power increases. The members in the following example use the same amount of energy to run their appliances, but each member is putting a different demand on the electric grid.



Watch the Clock to Lock in Energy Savings *Continued from page 12A* ▶

prices along with the general increase in electricity use are why you typically see higher bills during the hottest months. In extreme cases, demand can overpower the available supply, causing electricity shortages. During these times, utilities are required to implement rolling power outages to reduce the demand for electricity and rebalance the grid.

When our area experiences extreme summer heat and higher demand for electricity, you can help by conserving energy. It's easy — just check the clock and avoid your energy-intensive activities and chores during peak hours. DSO's peak hours during summer months are 3-6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Conserving during peak times also eases pressure on the grid and helps balance the supply and demand of electricity.

There are many ways to lower your home energy use. Here are a few recommendations to help you save energy (and money) during the summer peak:

- ▶ **SET YOUR THERMOSTAT A FEW DEGREES HIGHER.** If you have a smart or programmable thermostat, adjust the settings so your cooling system syncs with the off-peak hours.
- ▶ **SPEAKING OF RAISING THE THERMOSTAT, DID YOU KNOW CEILING FANS CAN MAKE YOU FEEL 4 DEGREES COOLER?** Operate ceiling or oscillating fans in occupied rooms to supplement your air conditioning. Be sure to raise the thermostat while fans are running for maximum energy savings. For summer operation, set your fan to rotate counterclockwise to push cooler air down, which creates a

“wind chill” effect. And, remember fans cool people (not homes), so turn them off when you leave the room.

- ▶ **PLAN ENERGY-INTENSIVE ACTIVITIES LIKE LAUNDRY AND RUNNING THE DISHWASHER FOR OFF-PEAK HOURS.** Use automatic timers to run hot tubs, pool pumps, water heaters and other appliances in the same way.
 - ▶ **UNPLUG ELECTRONICS** when they're not in use or use power strips to manage devices.
 - ▶ **CLOSE DRAPES AND BLINDS** during the afternoon to block unnecessary heat from sunlight.
- When we all work together to beat the summer peak, our entire community benefits. Saving energy during peak times reduces your bills, keeps electric rates lower for all and relieves pressure on the grid.

**USE THE SAME POWER
JUST A DIFFERENT HOUR TO HELP
BEAT THE
PEAK**

**FROM JULY 1-AUGUST 31 WE ASK MEMBERS
TO REDUCE USAGE FROM 3-6 P.M.**

DSO
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
*Empowering members to
improve their quality of life*

FROM
3-6 P.M.

K-State Expert Cautions Consumers Against Scams

BY PAT MELGARES, K-STATE RESEARCH

AND EXTENSION NEWS SERVICE

Kiss says taking the time to think could help to avoid a trap

Scammers, it often seems, never rest.

Whether it be by phone, email or suspicious website, consumers face an onslaught of characters aiming to cash in on an easy buck, or even steal an identity.

But Kansas State University family finance specialist Elizabeth Kiss says knowing the tangles that scammers often use will help consumers stay safe.

“The Federal Trade Commission has a lot of great information for consumers about fraud and they highlight signs for things that might be a scam,” Kiss said.

Some of the common signs consumers should look for include:

The scammer pretends to be from an organization you might know.

Some examples include the Social Security Administration, the IRS or Medicare. Or, Kiss notes, the caller may represent themselves as being from a utility company or charity. “They have used technology to change their phone numbers,” Kiss said, “so it looks like what you’re seeing (on your phone).”

The scammer indicates there is a problem that needs your attention.

You might be told that you owe money or someone in your family had an emergency and needs your assistance immediately. On a computer, you may get an urgent message about a virus infecting

your files. Another form of scam indicates that you’ve won a prize, and you must act immediately to claim it.

The scammer pressures you to act immediately. Scammers don’t want you to have time to think; they want to get your attention now. There is an urgency to the claims the person is making, whether it’s by phone or computer.

The scammer indicates you owe money and says there is only one way to pay.

You may be aware that you owe money and so the claim seems legitimate. But the caller indicates you must pay right away and that there is only one way to pay — such as crypto currency, wiring money to a company, or using a specific app. Some scammers have tried to lure consumers into paying with gift cards.

Kiss urges consumers to resist making decisions quickly. Investigate claims being made against you — whether it is by phone, email or other computer application.

“You can avoid a scam by not even opening yourself up to those potential communication channels,” Kiss said. “For example, you can block your number or filter unwanted text messages. Don’t give your personal or financial information in response to a request that you didn’t expect.”

If you’re on the phone, hang up and check out their story. If you’re on email, there’s no hurry, right? Check out the story online and verify if this is legitimate or not.

“I think we have to watch our footprint across the web, too,” Kiss said. “And we can protect our personal information by protecting our devices, which includes updating software regularly so that it has new patches and security protection.”

FOR SAFETY’S SAKE, DON’T MESS WITH A METER

For your safety, never tamper with or pull (remove) a meter. Only electric utility crews should access an electric meter.

Illegally accessing a meter can cause an arc flash bright enough to result in blindness and powerful enough to launch fragments of red-hot, shrapnel-like debris, according to the Cooperative Research Network. Serious injury or death from electrocution, explosion or fire is often a result of meter tampering.

Unfortunately, individuals may unlawfully try to tamper with a meter to bypass it, create an illegal connection to a power line, electrify fences or attempt to reconnect or disconnect the power, often resulting in disastrous consequences.

MORE ON METER SAFETY

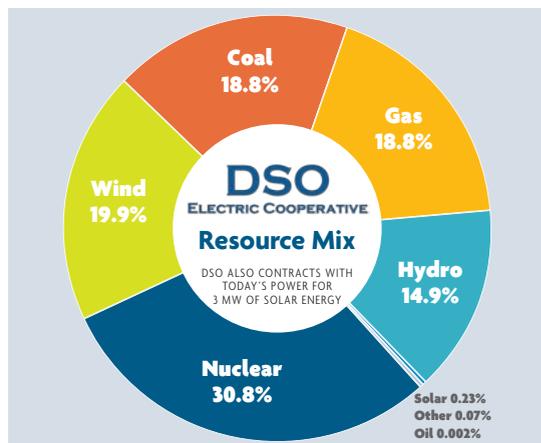
- ▶ Tampering with a meter is illegal in Kansas.
- ▶ Meters should only be installed, maintained or removed by electric utility crews.
- ▶ Accessing the backside of a meter can generate high voltage; pulling or tampering with a meter can cause electric shock, sparks, surges, explosions or fire.
- ▶ Electricity should always be connected or disconnected using a transfer switch or a dedicated disconnection point.
- ▶ There is no guarantee that a structure is de-energized by pulling a meter.
- ▶ If firefighters respond to a call and know they will need a disconnect, they should call the electric utility en route to the scene.
- ▶ If firefighters try disconnecting a home by pulling a meter, it can introduce additional problems and damage.

OTHER FACTS

If a home’s electricity is shut off at a main disconnect, the house can be automatically reconnected if there is a standby generator or battery-stored power.

Only the electric utility can properly and safely disconnect a meter. Utility crews are trained in proper disconnection techniques and wear protective clothing and gear.

For more information about electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

As you gear up for a new school year, practice electrical safety in the classroom and at home. From powering electronic devices to spending time outdoors with friends, always play it safe around electricity.

Read the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle, then double-check your answers in the key.



ACROSS

- 1. Never insert anything other than a _____ into an electrical outlet.
- 4. When outdoors, stay away from pad-mounted _____, big green boxes that lower electricity voltage.

DOWN

- 1. Never play around _____ when you're outside; you can get hurt!
- 2. Don't yank on a _____ when unplugging it. Instead, grab the base and pull from there.
- 3. Always make sure your hands are _____ before plugging anything in.

ANSWER KEY

- 3. DOWN
DRY
- 2. DOWN
CORD
- 1. DOWN
POWER LINES
- 4. ACROSS
TRANSFORMERS
- 1. ACROSS
PLUG