



**DSO ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

**DSO**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# HEADLINER

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## 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
-  @DSOElectricCoop

# Look Up and Live

BY TRACY TURNER, OPERATIONS MANAGER

June is the time of year when everything seems to hit at the same time — harvest, planting and hay season. Not to mention every rain event seems to shorten the window for completion. When using farm equipment, it's easy to focus **AHEAD** instead of **UP**, especially when learning the functions of new or different equipment.

If your farm equipment hits a power pole or contacts a power line, call DSO and 911 immediately. For your safety, stay in or on the equipment and let us get the power turned off before you exit the equipment. If possible, without exiting the equipment, move it at least 75 feet away from the power lines.

If you must leave the equipment due to fire or other hazard, make sure you never touch the ground and equipment at the same time. Instead, jump and land with both feet together, then

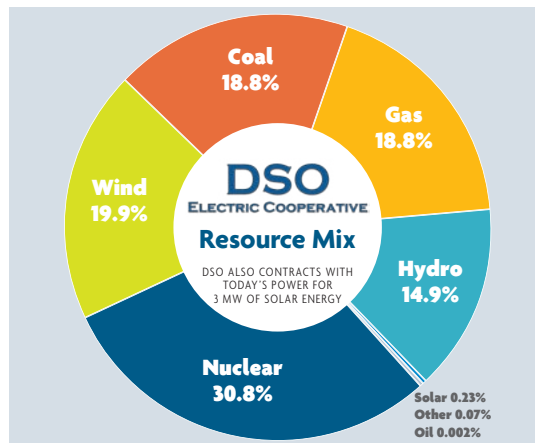
shuffle or hop away, keeping both feet on the ground until you are at least 75 feet away. Never get back on the equipment. Communicate with others in the area to stay away and not to touch the equipment.

As if keeping an eye out for overhead power lines isn't enough to contend with, don't forget about guy wires and anchors, which can be hard to see along field edges. Guy wires play an important role in maintaining clearance for overhead power lines.

If you have concerns or questions about overhead power lines on your property, or you're interested in a safety demonstration, please contact DSO at 800-376-3533 and ask for the operations department.


Be aware of your surroundings; look up and live!

THIS ARTICLE WAS ORIGINALLY POSTED TO DSO'S WEBSITE IN EARLY JUNE.



**REDUCE YOUR  
POWER USE  
DURING PEAK  
ALERT HOURS**

**Peak Alert**



**3-6 p.m.**

# 10 Ways to Prepare Your Home for Summer Vacation

**ONCE YOU HAVE PACKED YOUR BAGS, GET YOUR HOUSE READY FOR VACATION TOO.**

1. Set or program your thermostat to 85 degrees.
2. Unplug small appliances and electronics.
3. Turn your natural gas water heater to low.
4. Turn off your electric hot water heater.
5. Use light timers or smart lighting.
6. Ensure your sump pump is operational.
7. Clean out your refrigerator.
8. Pause your mail.
9. Make sure doors and windows are locked.
10. Let a neighbor know your plans.



## The Power of Smart Home Technologies

Smart home technologies are transforming how we live, making our homes more comfortable, convenient and energy efficient than ever before.

Smart home technologies are devices that communicate with each other to automate everyday tasks and functions around the home, like heating and cooling, lighting and security. In addition to convenience, smart technologies enable consumers to manage and monitor their energy consumption through device scheduling and control.

With just a tap on your phone or a voice command to your virtual assistant (like Alexa or Siri), you can control many aspects of your home environment. If you're new to the smart tech world, there are several cost-effective devices you can try as you explore ways to make your home smarter.

One of the best and most inexpensive places to start is with a smart bulb or plug. Smart LED bulbs allow you to control home lighting remotely through a smartphone app or voice commands. You can set schedules to automatically turn lights off or on, which can help you save energy and boost home security.

Smart plugs are another inexpensive way to give electronics and small appliances the smart home treatment. Smart plugs allow you to set schedules and remotely control power to lamps, small appliances and electronics, minimizing standby energy consumption and maximizing convenience. For example, you can sync the timing of your bedside lamp, alarm, speakers and coffee maker to turn on at the same time each morning.

If Alexa or Siri is already part of your household, you can build on your existing "tech ecosystem" by adding a smart hub, like Amazon Echo or Apple

HomePod. Voice assistants that are synced to smart devices like bulbs and plugs provide additional options for device management and allow family members to interact with the various devices through voice control rather than individual apps.

Home heating and cooling account for a significant portion of energy use, so one of the best investments you can make in smart tech is a smart thermostat. While traditional programmable thermostats can be set to your schedule and preferences, a smart thermostat takes this one step further by learning and adjusting to your routine and building a schedule around it.

Smart security systems are popular options for homeowners looking for advanced security solutions that incorporate cameras, sensors and cloud-based video recordings. As with other smart technologies, smart security systems provide convenient, flexible ways to monitor homes (and businesses), giving you peace of mind even when you're away.

If you're considering smart tech for your home, start by defining your goals. Is saving energy your top priority, or are you aiming to improve home security? Smart home technologies provide great convenience — but remember, they are internet-connected devices. That means you'll need a stable Wi-Fi connection to ensure devices are working properly, and you'll need strong passwords for your router and individual devices.

Whether you're looking to automate every aspect of your home or simply want to try a device or two, smart technologies have the power to transform your living space into a home where comfort and convenience reign supreme.

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts for a significant portion of your home energy use. To save energy when using your clothes dryer, add a clean, dry towel to damp clothing before starting the cycle. The towel will absorb excess water, reducing drying time. Remove the towel after 15 minutes. If your dryer lacks an autosense drying feature, reduce the timer to about half a normal cycle. **SOURCE: WWW.HOMESANDGARDENS.COM**

# 10 Things You Might Not Know About Power Restoration

Have you ever watched a video or TV show where a person is cooking a meal, then suddenly, they snap their fingers, and the meal is plated and ready to eat? That's called a jump cut.

While we wish we could "jump cut" from a power outage to power restoration, it can often take a lot more effort and people to make it happen.

We're accustomed to members' questions about power outages and why it can take time to get the lights back on. Given our reliance on electricity, there's simply never a good time to be without it.

This month, we'd like to shed light on our restoration process to help our members understand what may be happening behind the scenes. Here are 10 things you might not know about restoration:

**1 WE NEED YOU.** When your power goes out, it might be just at your home or a small section of a neighborhood. We may already know about it, but we rely on you to let us know if your power is out. You can do this by dialing 866-311-4778.

**2 OUR EMPLOYEES MIGHT BE AFFECTED TOO.** Because DSO is a local electric cooperative owned by the members we serve, our employees are local too. They are your neighbors, friends and familiar community volunteers. When you're without power, our people might be too.

**3 IT'S A TEAM EFFORT.** Every one of our employees are working to get your power restored as soon as possible. Our member services representatives are taking your calls, engineers and field staff are surveying damage, our vegetation management team is clearing hazards, dispatchers are organizing crews, and communicators are keeping everyone informed of progress or potential dangers. When your power goes out, we all work together as quickly and safely as possible to get you back to normal.

**4 WE ASSESS THE SITUATION FIRST.** Every outage is different, and we don't know how dangerous it is or what equipment might need to be replaced. When responding to outages, we first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need and a plan for how to fix the problem(s) without compromising electric flow for the rest of our members.

**5 RESTORATION IS NORMALLY PRIORITIZED BY THE LARGEST NUMBER OF MEMBERS WE CAN GET BACK ON IN THE SHORTEST AMOUNT OF TIME.** Our crews

focus on responding first to public safety issues and critical services like hospitals. Then we complete work that impacts the largest number of people first.

**6 OUR EMPLOYEES FACE MANY DANGERS.** Besides working around high voltage electricity, our crews are on alert for wild animals, weather elements, falling trees and fast-moving cars. (If you ever drive past one of our vehicles, please do so slowly.)

**7 FLICKERING LIGHTS ARE A GOOD THING.** Some folks mistake flickering lights for outages, but these "blinks" are important because they indicate our equipment worked and prevented a possible outage likely caused by wayward animals or stray tree limbs on the lines.

**8 YOU NEED A BACKUP PLAN.** We do our best to help those who need it, but if you depend on electricity for life support purposes, you must have a back-up plan — remember, we don't always know how long restoration efforts will take. If you're unsure what to do, call us so we can help you prepare an emergency location.

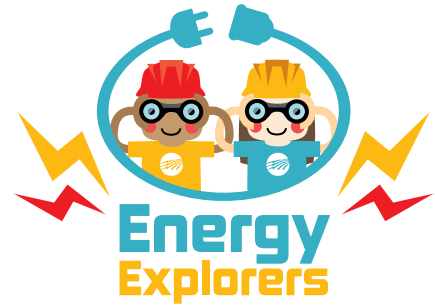
**9 OUR EMPLOYEES HAVE TO PLAN, AND EAT.** If you ever see our trucks in a restaurant parking lot while your power is out, know that sometimes our employees huddle in a safe, common area to map out their plan for getting your power back on. Also, our crews work long hard hours during outages and need to take time for meals just like everyone else.

**10 SOMETIMES IT'S A WAITING GAME.** Our portion of the power grid is connected to other electric utilities, and we maintain positive relationships with power providers interconnected to our system. If our outage is due to an issue from their feed into our system, we must let them do their repairs and be mindful of what they're going through to fix it.

We do our best to avoid power disruptions, but they are inevitable from time to time. If the lights go out, know that your co-op team works as quickly and safely as possible to restore power. Please let us know if you experience an outage by dialing 866-311-4778.

# NATIONAL GRILLING MONTH WORD SEARCH

July is National Grilling Month! Can you find all the words associated with grilling in the puzzle below? Use the word bank as a guide.



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



## WORD BANK

- Hamburger
- Spatula
- Hot Dog
- Friends
- Summer
- Apron
- Grill
- Barbeque
- Family
- Tongs



Cooking outdoors is a fun way to spend time with friends and family! By cooking outside, you can save energy indoors and keep your home cooler.