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know in
5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA
www.mitchellemc.com

Understanding Power Surges and Blinks

By Abby Berry

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

Mitchell EMC 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 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 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 actually good because that means the equipment is working as it should to prevent a prolonged outage.

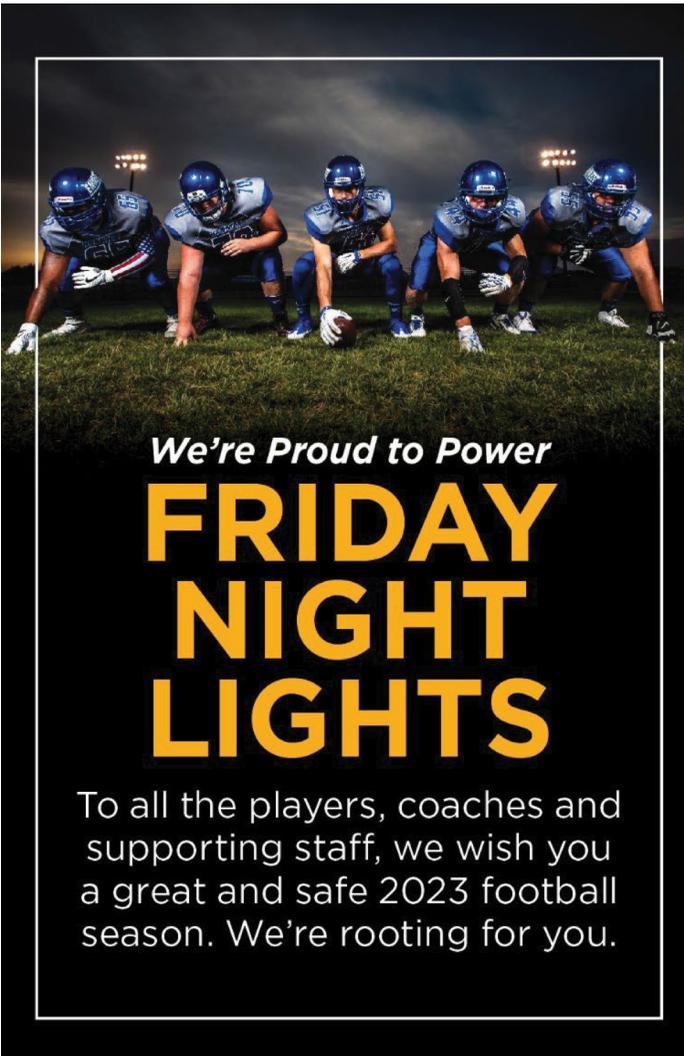
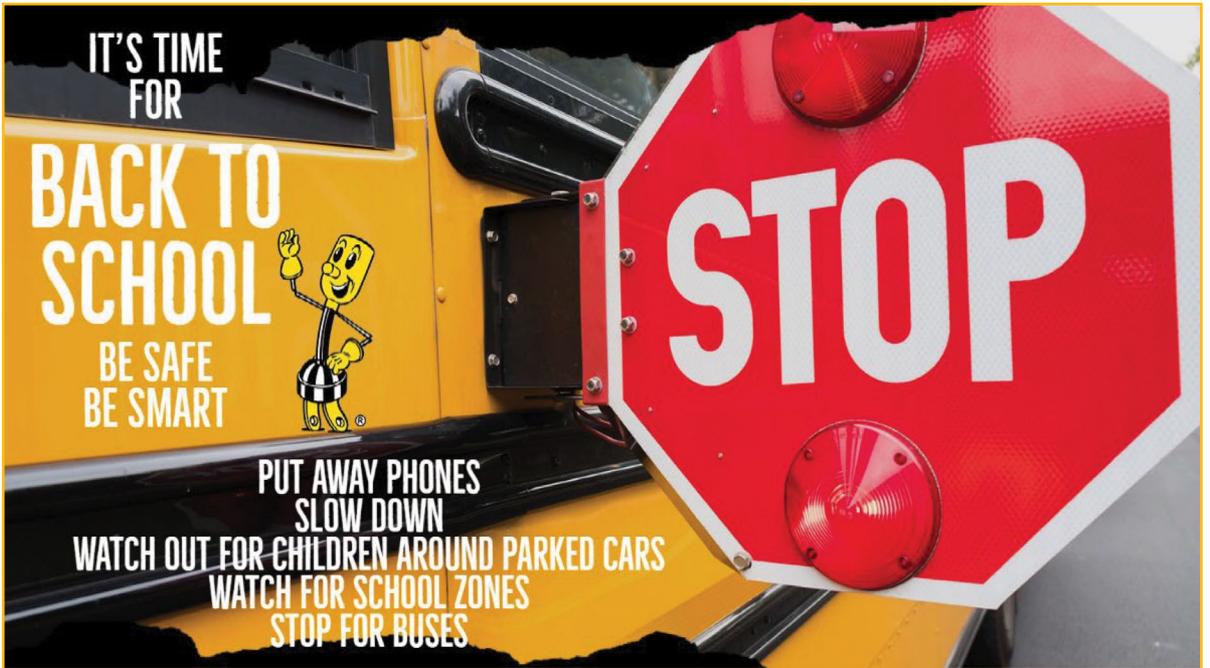
Regardless of the cause, Mitchell EMC crews will be on their way to inspect the damage and make necessary repairs after a power outage. And you can help too! Any time you experience repeated disruptions to your electric service, please let us know by calling 800-479-6034 or visiting www.mitchellemc.com/outage-center.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.



In 2019 alone, squirrels were responsible for more than 1,200 power outages. Photo Source: Carina Hofmeister

A Community Partner Since 1937



4 KEY FACTORS That Impact Energy Bills

You pay for the electricity you consume each month, but there are additional factors that impact your energy bills.



Fuel Costs

Before electricity can be delivered to your home, it must first be generated at a power plant or from a renewable source. The cost of fuels used to generate electricity fluctuates, which is why you see a power or fuel charge on your monthly bill. This monthly charge covers cost fluctuations without having to continually restructure electricity rates.



Service Costs

Your bill includes a monthly service charge, which recovers part of the co-op's ongoing investments in poles, wire, meters, system maintenance and additional costs necessary to provide electric service.



Weather

When temperatures soar or dip, your cooling or heating equipment must run longer and at maximum capacity, which can greatly increase your energy use. Extreme temperatures can also affect electricity market prices. When the need for electricity increases due to extreme heat or cold, the price of power typically rises.



YOU HAVE CONTROL

Energy Consumption

This is the amount of electricity you use each month to power your home's cooling/heating system, appliances, lighting, electronics and more. The amount of electricity you consume is measured in kilowatt-hours, or kWh. You have control over how much energy you use, which can ultimately help manage your monthly costs.

Attention Farmers Just a reminder...

Time Of Use (TOU) rates for irrigation systems started on June 1. The TOU kWh cost is based on the time of day in which it is used. The rate will distinguish between ON-PEAK and OFF-PEAK usage.

**TOU rates apply from June 1 through September 30.* If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 229-336-5221 or 1-800-479-6034.



TAKING AIM AT PROGRESS

Mitchell EMC participated in this year's Take Aim at Progress. Take Aim is a charity sporting clay event for Georgia Electric Membership Cooperatives and Venders to raise money for NRECA's International Foundation. The Take Aim at Progress program works to extend power lines in villages and rural communities that have never had electricity. Moneys raised at this event will be used to send volunteers to impoverished countries to build power lines.

This year's event was hosted by Coweta Fayette EMC and was held at Big Red Oak Plantation near Gay Georgia. The competition consisted of 6 person teams shooting 100 rounds of sporting clays. There were over 250 participants plus venders at this year's event.



Thanks to our Mitchell EMC Team, (L-R): Wridge Pendley, Beau Boyett, Jay Jennings, Matthew Souter, Adams Hester, and Fred Stoyle.

Service, reliability and customer satisfaction are our primary goals at Mitchell EMC.

Fiber network design is underway and make-ready engineering has started in some areas. This means trucks and crews are out assessing the existing electric infrastructure. Field engineers determine if modifications to any poles are required in order to support the fiber and the steel strand that accompanies it. Poles may need to be moved to make more space, or they may need to be replaced with stronger or taller poles. During make-ready engineering and assessment, we also make sure every member in the territory is included in the build.

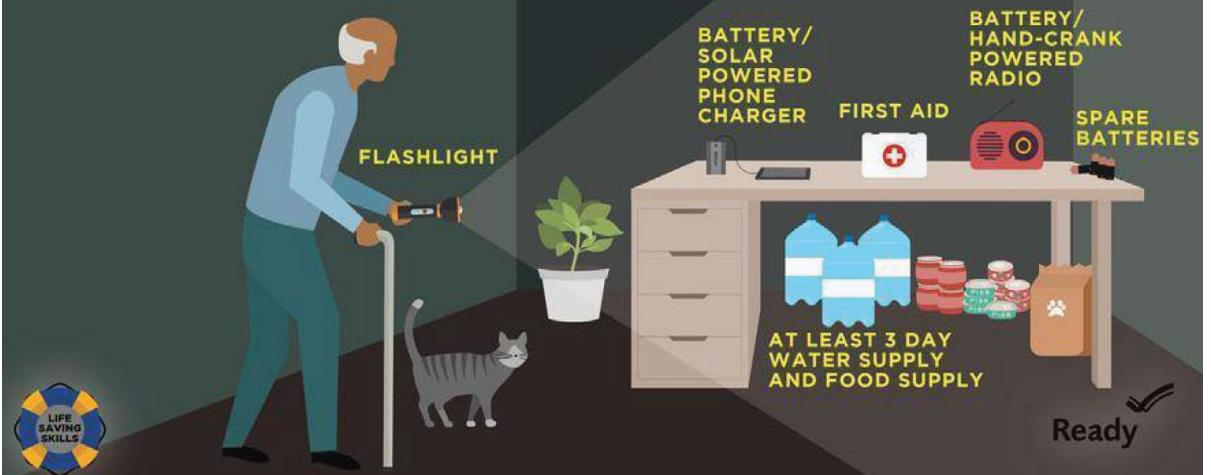
This doesn't mean that service is going to be available at your home next week, it does mean our project is on track and we're working as fast as we can to bring you high-speed internet.

This process will be ongoing in your area over the next two to three months. You may see Mitchell EMC and contractor vehicles in the area. Be assured, we are there to serve you. If you have any questions, please call Mitchell EMC at 229-336-5221 or 1-800-479-6034 and ask to speak with our Vice President of Technical Services.

As always, serving you is our pleasure.

Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A POWER OUTAGE?



According to the National Hurricane Center, peak season for hurricanes runs from mid-August to late October. Being prepared requires more than having a flashlight, canned goods, and potable water on hand. Preparedness also means having a proper plan in place before disaster hits. It's important to know how to protect yourself and your family during an extended power outage. Make sure your Emergency Plan is current, insurance coverage is adequate, and that you have an emergency kit and an exit strategy in the event of an evacuation. Know Your Medical Needs. If you rely on electricity for any medical needs, make a power outage plan for medical devices or refrigerated medicines. It is important that you have a back-up plan and a place that you can go in the event of an extended power outage.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know ceiling fans can make a room feel 4 degrees cooler? To save energy through ceiling fan use, remember to raise your thermostat a few degrees while fans are turned on. Ceiling fans can help improve comfort year-round. In the summer, operate the ceiling fans in a counterclockwise direction. Reverse the direction to clockwise during winter months and set fans on a low speed so warm air can circulate from the ceiling to the lower levels of the room. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not spaces. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Note: If you move or no longer have electric service with Mitchell EMC, it is important that members keep their address current, so that future disbursements can be properly mailed. Capital credits are reserved for members even if they move out of the Mitchell EMC service area. Mitchell EMC will make a diligent effort to send a check by mail.

Statement of Equal Employment Opportunity

All applications for employment shall be considered and hired on the basis of merit, without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), age, national origin, disability, genetic information, or past or present military status. The employment practices shall ensure equal treatment of all employees, without discrimination as to promotion, discharge, rates of pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or past or present military status. M/F/V/D/V/D



Chicken Spaghetti

Ingredients

Small box spaghetti, cooked
2 c. cooked chicken, chopped
1 jar (2 oz.) diced pimentos, drained
1/2 c. chopped green onions
1/4 c. chopped green pepper
1 can chicken broth
1 can cream of mushroom soup
1 c. sour cream
1/2 c. mayonnaise
2 c. grated sharp cheddar cheese

Directions

Cook spaghetti and drain. Mix all ingredients except 1/2 of cheese. Pour into 2 quart greased dish. Sprinkle remaining cheese on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-55 minutes.

Submitted by:

Diane Hudson, Baker County

Share & Win!

Send us your favorite quick and easy dinner recipes. If your recipe is chosen for print, you can win a

\$25 credit

on your next Mitchell EMC bill.

Send recipes to: Heather Greene, P.O.
Box 409, Camilla, GA 31730 or email to
heather.greene@mitchellemc.com.