

What Causes Blinking Lights?

We realize that blinks can be annoying, especially when they cause your computer to shut down or you have to reset your digital clocks. Did you know that blinking lights are actually a sign of a properly functioning distribution system? If a fault occurs on a line (this could be from animals, a lightning strike, or trees limbs coming in contact with a line), a device called an Oil Circuit Recloser (OCR) opens to clear the fault and then closes again.

In this way OCRs are essentially “circuit breakers” for the distribution system, much like the breakers in your home’s electrical panel. It permits power to continue flowing with only a brief interruption rather than an extended outage.

Typically, the OCR will open and close three times to give the fault a chance to clear itself. If the fault does not clear itself after the third “blink,” the OCR stays open, causing an outage. This protects

the lines from damage and isolates the problem until linemen can repair it.

Members can help counteract these effects by purchasing appliances with battery backups. Surge protectors for lightning strikes or regulator malfunctions or uninterruptible power supplies (UPS) for low voltage or loss of power are also recommended for critical devices.



Meanwhile, Citizens Electric is working to keep blinking lights to a minimum. Tree trimmers are hired to keep power lines free of interfering tree branches. Animal protectors are installed to keep animals away from sensitive equipment. Lightning arrestors are also used to make sure members have a reliable system.

We need to know if you are experiencing blinks frequently. Make note of the time and date of the blinks and contact your local CEC office or email us at [citizens @cecmo.com](mailto:citizens@cecmo.com).

Consolidating Electric Meters

Some members have asked us recently what’s involved in having a second meter removed that may currently be located at their garage, barn or outbuilding. Your first step is to call (877) 876-3511 and ask for the Operations Superintendent for your district.

He will explain the process and schedule a site visit to discuss your

options and potential costs. If you no longer need electricity to the second location, there is no cost to have the meter removed. However, if you want to consolidate the two meters into one, there are usually costs associated with Citizens’ service work and with an electrician.

Also be aware that when meters are consolidated, the electric equipment

located beyond the meter becomes the member’s responsibility to own and maintain. Citizens Electric is only responsible for maintaining the service up to the meter.

We are here to provide you with options to help you make informed decisions. If it’s possible and affordable to consolidate your meters, we’ll be happy to help you through the process.

Office Closings in November

Nov. 11 – Veteran’s Day

Nov. 17 – Offices will be closed from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for All-Employee Meeting

Nov. 26 and 27 – Thanksgiving Holidays. Please call 1-800-286-2251 for electrical emergencies.

Block the Wind, Not the View



While quantities last, CEC is giving away samples of shrink-film window kits at each of our District Offices.

Making your home more energy efficient doesn't have to be expensive. While plastic window kits may not take the place of double-pane windows, they are an inexpensive way to reduce heat loss. The fitted plastic creates an air-tight gap which prevents drafts and condensation.

Window kits are available at any hardware store or home improvement center. For less than \$10, you can usually get a kit that will insulate five standard-size windows or at least one extra large window.

Please note: These kits are not recommended for most aluminum-framed windows and doors, as there is not enough gap between the window frame and the glass to work effectively.

The kits contain sheets of plastic film that are slightly thicker than cling-film and double-sided tape which is applied to the window frame. You'll also need a sharp pair of scissors or a razor to cut the plastic to fit the window's frame and a hair dryer to shrink the plastic sheeting tight.

Avoid placing the plastic insulation in an area where you will have to remove any window hardware. Just take down the shade, curtain or blind, so you can clearly see the window, and determine where to apply the adhesive. To ensure that the tape sticks, first clean and dry your window frame and follow manufacturers' instructions.

Along with simple weather-stripping, you can increase the energy efficiency of your windows and prevent your hard-earned dollars from seeping through the cracks.

Level Out Electric Bills Year Round

Level Pay allows residential members to pay an average amount rather than the actual amount of your bill. While this doesn't reduce your overall electric costs, it lowers expenses during months when your electric usage is greatest.

Here's how it works:

- Your rolling average is recalculated each month, based on your most recent 12 months and your actual balance.
- This means you will pay more or less than your actual bill each month.



- The even dollar amount fluctuates slightly each month.
- There's no "catch-up" month unless you go off of Level Pay.
- You are eligible to participate if you have a zero balance and a full year's history with Citizens Electric.
- If a bill is not paid by the due date, your account will automatically revert back to actual billing.

To sign up, check the Level Pay box on the back of your electric bill remittance stub and return it with your payment, or give us a call at 1-877-876-3511.

Stumped about what to give a special friend or relative?

Give the gift of light by making a payment on their electric bill. Stop by one of our local offices or call toll-free (1-877-876-3511) and make a payment for any amount by credit card, debit card or check. Just give us the customer's name and address and your payment information. We'll send a card to the recipient stating the amount of the gift applied to their account.

This is a great way to show you care during any season. Give us a call. You have the power to make a difference!

