

FEC® POWER

Source

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Protect Your Sensitive Equipment

Now that was some storm last night! The power was off until the wee hours of the morning! As you go about your daily chores, you discover that the DVR and your computer are no longer working. In a panic, you begin checking other electronics and appliances... Sound familiar? Have you ever stopped to think about all the things you use that operate electronically? It seems like nearly everything is electronically controlled these days: your clocks, your microwave, your refrigerator, your oven, your coffee maker, your computer, your DVR, your TV; the list goes on and on. It would be easier to list things that are not electronically controlled.

Today's home appliances and electronics are filled with transistors and microprocessors that are wonders of modern technology, unfortunately, they are also highly susceptible to fluctuations in electrical voltage. Protecting your equipment from voltage fluctuations represents a tremendous value when compared to the cost of repair, replacement, inconvenience, and frustration caused by failed equipment. Problems with sensitive electronic equipment and the electricity they need are called "power quality" problems. There are four primary causes of power disturbances: voltage fluctuations, transients, electronic noise, and power outages.

Voltage Fluctuations: Dimming lights or "shrinking" computer or TV displays are the most common visual indications of voltage problems. These voltage problems can be caused by overloaded electric circuits, or the starting of large electric motors. If the condition is continuous, it can cause errors in data storage and retrieval as well as permanent damage to equipment.



Transients: Transients are very brief voltage "spikes" above the normal voltage level carried on the power lines. Most transients (70 – 90 percent by some estimates) originate inside the home or business and are generally caused by electric motors coming on and going off. Lightning is also a very damaging cause of spikes. These spikes or surges can cause computer programs to stop running or erase data stored in memory or, in the case of lightning, cause a total equipment "melt down."

Noise: Electrical noise or harmonics can be created by radio transmissions, fluorescent lighting, LED lighting, and light dimming devices, just to name a few. Electronic noise can cause unexplained "glitches" in computer programs. Transients and noise are the most common source of power disturbances that affect computer performance.

Power Outages: Power outages are the total interruption of power supply to your home or business. They may be caused by overloaded circuits within the home or may be widespread, involving the Cooperative's distribution system., (i.e. bird contact, lightning strikes, vehicle collisions with equipment, etc.). A power outage may cause the complete and total loss of any information in a computer's memory, and whatever precipitated the outage may also damage sensitive equipment.

To minimize problems from power disturbances, you should want to invest in a surge arrestor, (surge suppressor), and/or power conditioner. It was once said by a winning football coach, "the best offense is a

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Know Your Co-op Structure

Next month, October, is slated as National Co-op Month. For Farmers' Electric Cooperative (FEC), this is a time to celebrate the co-op business model and the hardworking pioneers who made the dream of rural electrification a reality. Since our inception in 1938, FEC has evolved to better serve the needs of our members. In honor of and in recognition of next month being National Cooperative Month, FEC presents a brief description of a few of these organizations that exist to empower you and your communities through our partnership.

Distribution Co-op:

 A distribution co-op (FEC) is an electric cooperative that purchases wholesale power and delivers it to consumer/members who are the owners of the co-op. A distribution co-op is governed by a member-elected board of Trustees. As a member/owner, you have a vested interest in your co-op's affairs. There are 16 distribution cooperatives in New Mexico.

Generation & Transmission Co-op:

 Or, G & T, as it is commonly known, is a power-supply cooperative owned by a group of distribution cooperatives (Western Farmers Electric Cooperative or WFEC). G & Ts, generate power or purchase it from other suppliers. WFEC is our G & T and is headquartered in Anadarko, Oklahoma. WFEC is owned and governed by 22 member co-ops within Oklahoma and New Mexico.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA):

 This is a national service organization headquartered in Arlington, Virginia. NRECA was created to represent 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric distribution cooperatives and G & T cooperatives all across the United States. To learn more, visit www.nreca.coop

Touchstone Energy Electric Cooperatives:

 A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative is a national brand for the nation's electric cooperatives launched in 1998. Each electric cooperative is autonomous, meaning they are self-governed by their member-elected board of Trustees – but in the 1990s, co-ops nationwide felt the need to be unified under one name that represents their shared values. Today, nearly 800 co-ops are under the Touchstone Energy umbrella. To learn more, visit www.touchstoneenergy.com

New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association:

 Also known as “Statewide” was organized in 1944 and is headquartered in Santa Fe. NMRECA represents the interests of the state's electric cooperatives and their members through legislative and regulatory representation, and public affairs. NMRECA provides specialized training for the boards of Trustees, managers, and employees of its member electric cooperatives. To learn more, visit www.nmelectric.coop

enchantment magazine:

 A monthly publication, published by NMRECA and distributed to co-op members. *enchantment* is dedicated to serving rural New Mexicans by supplying information about local co-ops, safe, reliable, and affordable electricity, as well as New Mexico's rural lifestyle. To learn more, visit www.enchantment.coop

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good defense.” This is also true when it comes to protecting sensitive electronic equipment. Don’t wait until you experience problems to begin searching for solutions. There are currently devices available which are designed to be used on only one appliance or computer. Others are designed to be installed on your home’s electric service entrance, providing protection for all equipment supplied from that power source. The best of protection is at the service entrance and on each separate appliance. For those who are very dependent on power quality in regards to your computer, APC makes a unit, (Line R 600), that regulates the voltage on an “as needed” basis. It also becomes a universal power source (UPS) when there is a power outage. This back-up power generally last up to 15 minutes and will allow you the time to save any program that had been running at the time of the interruption. This neat little gadget can be purchased for around \$50.

Other suggestions include:

- Appliance attachment plugs that wobble or pull out of the wall outlet easily should be replaced.
- Never remove the grounding pin from a 3-prong plug.
- Consider a home wiring checkup. Have a qualified licensed electrician check for loose connections and overloaded circuits.
- Have a qualified licensed electrician verify that the home’s electrical system is properly grounded.
- Make certain that any surge protection device you purchase has been tested by UL and carries a UL 1449 listing.

Tailgate Special!

Charbroil Patio Bistro Electric Grill

\$159

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***While supplies last**



Ask The Energy Guys

Q. Hey Energy Guys, I was wondering what kind of maintenance I should do on my wood-burning fireplace. Wood is expensive, so I want to get the most for my money. My wife and I really enjoy the fire, but we realize it’s not the most energy efficient way to heat. Any suggestions?

A. Great question! Now that crisp fall days are upon us, it is a good time to check your fireplace for safety and efficiency.

Even if you’re still using an energy-inefficient wood fireplace, you can minimize the heat loss it causes by taking a few precautions:



- Close the fireplace damper until you are ready to burn a fire. Open it only while the fire is burning, and close it again once you have put the fire out or it has burned out. An open damper in an unused fireplace sucks heated air right out of your house and sends it out through the chimney.
- Prevent air from your room from going up the chimney by installing tempered glass doors on the front of the fireplace. You can also direct the heat that the fire produces into your room by installing a heat-air exchange to blow the warm air into the house.
- Reinforce the seals around your fireplace flue damper. Tight seals prevent heated air from escaping through the fireplace and chimney.
- Insulate your chimney with liners to prevent creosote – a byproduct of exhaust from the fire – from building up in it. That buildup can make your fireplace less efficient and create a hazard for an unintended fire in the chimney.
- Call a chimney sweep certified by the Chimney Safety Institute of America to clean your fireplace and chimney every year before the eating season begins. The chimney sweep can advise you about safety issues and malfunctioning parts.
- If you don’t use your fireplace, have a chimney expert plug and seal it so it won’t rob your home of its comfortable, heated air.

Online Auction...

Two Service Trucks On The Auction Block

1.) 2010 Ford F350 Utility Truck with 120,095 miles. Super Duty with 6.8 liter V10 Triton engine, and automatic transmission. Has Lift Moore 2000 lb. crane and front bumper winch. 4 x 4 with lock-out hubs and electronic control switch in cab. AM/FM radio, heat, A/C, cruise control, tilt wheel, electric windows, and trailer control. The utility bed has several cabinets with trays and storage.



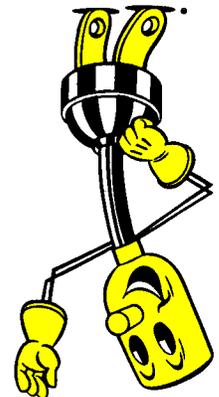
2.) 2008 Ford F350 4 x 4 and chassis with 124,562 miles. Super Duty with 6.8 liter V10 Triton engine, automatic transmission, heavy duty front bumper, and two spotlights. Has lock-out hubs and electronic control switch in cab, brake controller, power windows, electric mirrors, cruise control, AM/FM radio, heat, and A/C.



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