



# HOT LINES

Member Driven • Service Focused • It's What We Do Everyday

September // October 2021 CECC Newsletter

## “Blinks” can signal a properly working electrical system

We often hear the question from members “What causes my lights to blink?” The power grid is subject to certain short-term losses of power, and Craighead Electric Cooperative takes all possible measures to prevent these occurrences and minimize their impact on our members. Blinking lights are the result of momentary outages that occur when some type of disturbance exists on the line. This could be a lightning strike, an automobile striking a pole, or a critter or tree branch coming into contact with an energized power line.

When lights blink, it is an indication that the cooperative’s equipment is operating properly. If a fault or short circuit happens on a power line, a device called and “oil circuit recloser” (OCR) opens to stop it, then quickly closes back. Although the process is quick, it may cause your lights to blink making it necessary to reset digital clocks and appliances with digital displays. An OCR is essentially a breaker, functioning much like a breaker in the electrical panel in your home, except that it can reset itself automatically.



Resetting clocks are an indication of a blink

Have you ever noticed that blinks

often come in sets of three before an outage? If the short circuit continues, the OCR will operate or “trip” two more times giving the fault a chance to clear itself. If it does, it saves the Cooperative from taking an outage and having to roll a truck. If it does not, it stops the flow

of electricity, protecting the lines from damage until the problem can be fixed.

Although the weather and nature’s creatures are beyond our control, cooperative members can lessen the effect and inconvenience of “blinks” when they occur.

- When purchasing small appliances and digital clocks, consider models with battery backup or smart devices that can reset themselves.
- Lease a meter-base surge protector from Craighead Electric to help protect major appliances in your home.
- Invest in surge-protector-power-strips with built-in uninterruptable power supply (UPS) for your computer or other electronic devices whose “memory” would be lost with a power interruption.



Oil Circuit Recloser sitting on the ground

## Labor Day Closing

The offices of Craighead Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup> to let our employees enjoy the Labor Day holiday. The automated phone line, outage line, and online portal will be available.





## ARE HOME ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCES DRAINING YOUR ENERGY?

If you collect your spare change in a jar, all those coins add up over time, usually to a larger amount than you expect.

Small amounts of consumed energy throughout your home add up as well, so plug "energy vampires" into a smart power strip that detects dormant devices or unplug items when not in use, especially those with illuminated controls.

# TOP NINE ENERGY VAMPIRES



Count the energy vampires in your home a take measures to stop them from sucking your wallet dry. Plug these devices into smart power outlets, enable your electronics' power saving mode, or simply unplug them when not in use.



Keep yourself, and utility workers safe. Move over when you see crews working along the side of the road.

### Lucky Member wins internet for life

The Brannen family got the surprise of a lifetime when we told them they are our 10,000<sup>th</sup> install of **empower** broadband service and will receive free internet for LIFE!

We are so happy for this beautiful family and thankful for the 9,999 other customers we have the honor of serving.

On to the next 10,000. Learn more about internet service from **empower**, delivered by Craighead Electric Cooperative by visiting [empowerbroadband.com](http://empowerbroadband.com) or call us today at 870-336-0999.



Brannen family receiving internet for life for being lucky number 10,000

### Sign up for Text-Message Outage Notifications

Outage notification via SMS text message is the most convenient way to report and receive updates about outages at your account location.

Scan this QR code or text CECC to 85700 to get started. Text OUT to report an outage. Text STATUS to check on the status of an outage. Text HELP for more info.

