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Understanding power surges and blinks

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 be extremely damaging to your electronic equipment.

Surges can be caused by internal sources like HVAC systems with variable frequency drives, in addition to external sources with lightning being a major cause of power surges.

Jackson Energy encourages all members to install surge protective devices (such as surge protector power strips) to safeguard your



CARINA HOFMEISTER

In 2020, Jackson Energy had 3,430 members affected by an outage caused by a squirrel, for a total of 271 outages.

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 2020, squirrels were responsible

for 271 outages, affecting 3,430 of our members.

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, Jackson Energy crews will be on their way to inspect the damage and make necessary repairs after a power outage. Any time you experience repeated disruptions to your electric service, please let us know by calling us at (800) 262-7480.

SPOTLIGHT

Lisa Baker, Editor

Published by Jackson Energy

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Jackson Energy

Working for You

We are here for you

Why does Jackson Energy offer buckets, bulbs and promotional items to encourage members to attend our annual business meeting and member appreciation day?

I get that question from time to time, and several others about coop practices, especially from folks who are not served by an electric cooperative. The whole concept of a cooperative form of business can be difficult for some people to understand. Simply put, if you receive electric service from Jackson Energy, you are a member and an owner of Jackson Energy.

That's why Jackson Energy will publicize and encourage you to attend our annual business meeting and member appreciation day on September 23, 2021. That's why we share regular updates with you in *Kentucky Living*, on our website and on social media. We embrace the cooperative values that guide every decision we make. Our board is elected by you and is accountable to you. All of our board members receive training to make sure they are ready to represent your interests and prepared to understand the complex world of energy.

As a cooperative, Jackson Energy treats every member equally. Employees and board members pay the same rates as members, and each member has one vote. There are many opinions and critics in the world of electricity, but your voice is the one we want and need to hear.

Our members empower Jackson Energy to make necessary and strategic investments in infrastructure and people so that we can continue to fulfill the promises made when we were founded 83 years ago.

We know from your comments that our members expect Jackson Energy to deliver reliable electricity as inexpensively as possible. Members are also paying increased attention to how our energy is generated. While some prioritize the reliability and affordability of coal and natural gas, others want access to renewable energy sources, such as solar power.

With Cooperative Solar, members of Jackson Energy have access to affordable solar power. You can license solar panels at Cooperative Solar Farm One, a 60-acre solar array built for Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. You can harness the energy of the sun without the hassle, maintenance and expense of owning private solar panels.

As your cooperative, Jackson Energy encourages you to reach out to us with any questions about your service and our competitive rates. We are here for you—and look forward to seeing you soon at our annual business meeting and member appreciation day.



Carol Wright
President & CEO

Giving back to our communities by beautifying the Bluegrass

Concern for our community is one of the core principles that sets cooperatives apart from other types of utilities and businesses. We've always taken this mission and responsibility to heart. It's who we are as a co-op.

While our purpose is to provide safe and reliable energy to you, the members we serve, we also have a mission to be a catalyst for good.

You're probably aware of our Operation Round-Up program, where we take donations from generous members like you who have "rounded up" the amount due on their electric bill to fund grants for civic organizations, volunteer fire departments and many other groups. These small monthly contributions add up to have a huge impact when it goes back to our communities.

We also have a strong commitment to safety—not just for our

employees, but for our community as well. We look forward to being able to visit our schools once again to teach children of all ages how to stay safe around electricity and to hold safety demonstrations at community meetings and other gatherings. You'll continue to see our employees serving on local boards, coaching youth sports and volunteering at charitable events.

Because when you work at a co-op, you understand how important a strong community is—after all, without you, the co-op wouldn't exist.

Again this year, employees of Jackson Energy participated in Gov. Andy Beshear's Beautify the Bluegrass initiative. Over 45 employees volunteered over a two-day span to help restore the Beattyville City Park that was devastated with historic flooding earlier this year. After the flood

waters had receded, the park was left in total disarray and was not accessible to the families and children in the community. Jackson Energy was given the opportunity to give back to a community we serve and make a positive impact for the families we call neighbors.

We know that our core job is to keep the lights on; but our passion is our community. Because we live and work here, too, and we want to make it a better place for all.

If there's anything we can do to help you—whether providing energy-saving advice to help lower your monthly bill or discuss payment plan options during difficult times—please reach out to us at Jackson Energy.

Concern for community is the heart and soul of who we are. And no matter what the future brings, you can count on *your* electric co-op to care about you.



BEFORE

Right, Jackson Energy employees, along with several City of Beattyville employees, dedicated two days to reconstruct the fall-zones, shovel tons of sand and a truckload of mulch, pressure-wash the play equipment and revitalize the landscape. Photos: Tim Coyle



AFTER

Jackson Energy goes to school

The Laurel County Schools Center for Innovation (CFI) conducted a Career Discovery Camp in collaboration with the GEAR UP Program for local eighth and ninth grade students. The three-day camp provided instruction and various learning activities that spanned across technical programs such as media arts technology, computer science, allied health sciences, engineering technology and industrial maintenance technology — with an emphasis on STEM concepts. Students were able to learn specialized skills that are specific to their program of study.

The career path presentations included various professionals within the community speaking about their areas of expertise, training, credentials and on-the-job experiences. Senior Distribution Engineer Ben Jones and Service Technician Andy Bales represented Jackson Energy as they discussed engineering concepts and the day in the life of a lineman, respectively. Also presenting was Laurel County District 3 Director Brian Cooke who discussed the pharmaceutical industry.



LISA BAKER

Ben Jones



LISA BAKER

Andy Bales



LISA BAKER

Brian Cooke



TIM COYLE

As part of Governor Beshear's Beautify the Bluegrass initiative, employees of Jackson Energy volunteered 630 man-hours to restore the Beattyville City Park after February's historic flood devastated and impaired the park.



LISA BAKER



LISA BAKER



LISA BAKER



TIM COYLE