

Why do my lights sometimes “blink”?

Blinks can signal a properly working electrical system.

We often hear the question from members, “What causes my lights to blink?” The utility network is subject to certain short-term losses of power. Mohave Electric Cooperative takes all possible measures to prevent these occurrences and minimize the affects to our members. Blinking lights are a result of momentary outages that occur when some type of disturbance exists on the line. Common causes may include a lightning strike, an automobile striking a pole, or a pigeon or tree branch coming into contact with an energized power line. It may also be caused by a system fuse operating, which helps protect the electrical system and isolates the problem to a smaller area. At times, blinks can come from within a home or business. Some causes are easy to detect and repair while some are more difficult.

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 an “oil circuit recloser” (OCR) opens to stop it, then quickly closes back in. Although the process is quick – and usually temporary, it may cause your lights to blink, sometimes making it necessary to reset digital clocks and appliances with digital displays.

If the short circuit continues, the OCR will operate or “trip” three times before eventually stopping the flow of electricity and causing a power outage. This process protects the lines from damage, cutting off power to the affected section of the line and isolating the problem until it can be repaired.



While Mohave Electric Cooperative takes steps to reduce the number of blinks across its power system, the most common and easiest way for you to help is to keep trees trimmed. Mohave operates an active system maintenance program, including ongoing tree trimming, and works hard to identify and fix sources of service interruptions however, if you know of any trees or limbs located close to a power line, call Mohave and the situation will be assessed for appropriate action.

Although the weather and nature’s creatures are beyond our control, Mohave members can lessen the affects and inconvenience of “blinks” when they occur. When purchasing small appliances and digital clocks, consider a model with battery backup. You may also want to install surge protection with built-in uninterrupted power supply (UPS) for your computer or other electronic devices.

If you experience frequent blinking or dimming lights, call Mohave Electric at 928-763-1100 for a checkup.



CURRENTS

Connecting our Community! MAY 2011

Straight Talk About Hoover Dam Power Allocation

*Legislative change is needed
to give Co-op members
access to green, low-cost power.*

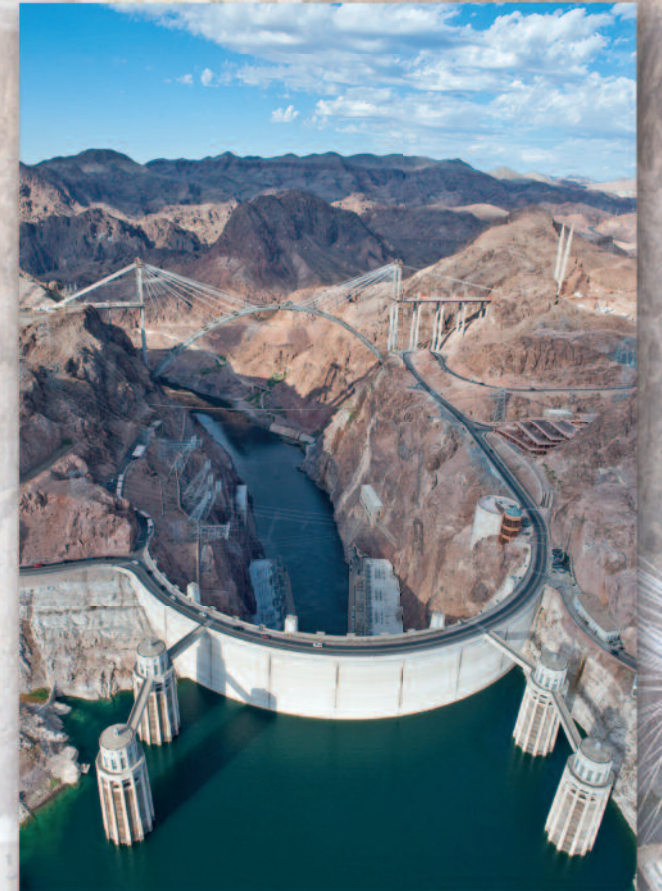
The facts:

- For more than 70 years, federal legislation has allowed the State of Arizona the use of discriminatory laws denying cooperatives equal and equitable access to an allocation of power generated at Hoover Dam.
- This discrimination will continue for another 50 years if the law is not changed before new federal contracts are awarded in 2017.
- HR470 (the Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2011) and its discriminatory provision are currently in the hands of the U.S. House of Representatives, and a similar bill has been introduced in the U.S. Senate.
- HR470 is critically flawed in its detrimental impact on Rural Electric Cooperative members.
- HR470 must be revised to give equal access to power generated from Hoover Dam, a Federal hydroelectric facility, to Rural Electric Cooperative members. Federal legislation needs to compel the State of Arizona to eliminate any discriminatory provisions.

The bottom line:

- Lawmakers will be deciding our future on this issue when they vote on HR470. Without a change to the Hoover legislation, MEC members will continue to be denied a share of low-cost, green power from Hoover Dam for 50 more years.

Mohave Electric Cooperative is located within Federal District 2.
The U.S. House of Representative for Federal District 2 is Trent Franks.





MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Is your home up to the Challenge?

Electricity is a convenience in our modern lives but many people take it for granted. As a part of Mohave Electric's commitment to safety, we want to remind members of the importance of respecting electricity at home, at work, at school, and at play. Education, awareness and a basic knowledge of electrical safety practices can help keep your family and home safe from electrical hazards. It is the key to preventing unnecessary accidents and fires.

National Electrical Safety Month is a good time to reacquaint ourselves with some basics, such as checking for loose-fitting plugs, making sure cords are not frayed or cracked or placed under carpets or rugs and checking wattage on light bulbs to match fixture requirements. Simply removing electrical cords from under rugs or using the correct light bulb could help prevent many house fires.

Regular maintenance and safety checks around your home, like testing ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) outlets and smoke alarms, vacuuming coils and changing furnace or air conditioning filters should be done regularly. These are easy things to do, but are crucial for the safety of you and your family.

Mohave Electric encourages you to take the electrical safety challenge to determine if your home is safe. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) offers the 2011 National Electrical Safety Month Toolkit with a Home Electrical Safety Challenge designed to teach people of all ages to identify and correct potential electrical hazards before a more serious situation results. You will also find a Home Safety Calendar that is a useful reminder for ongoing maintenance that will help keep your home safe year round.

Visit www.mohaveelectric.com.
Click on **ESFI TOOLKIT** to learn more.



16th Annual MEC Track & Field Invitational Attracts Four States

Twelve teams from four states participated in the annual track and field invitational at Mohave High School, hosted by Mohave Electric. Schools from as far away as Palo Verde High School in Blythe, California, White Pines High School in Ely, Nevada and Chino Valley High School in Chino Valley, Arizona traveled great distances to compete. Local schools from Mohave Valley, Lake Havasu, Kingman, Seligman and Laughlin also participated.

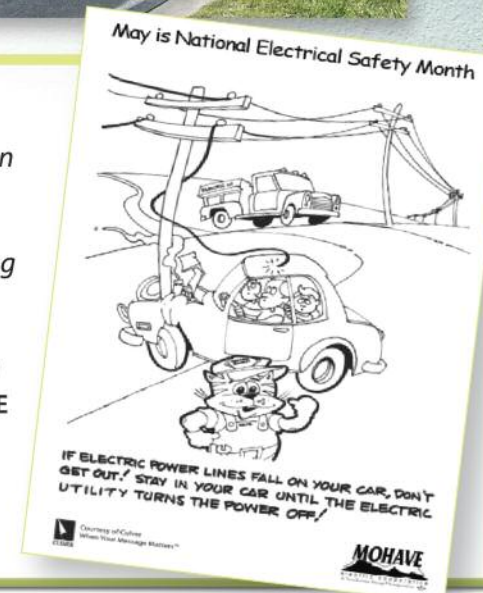
The growing competition created a challenging and exciting event.



Kids Korner

It's never too early for children to learn about staying safe around electricity. Have fun with your child while teaching the importance of electrical safety. Go to ...

www.mohaveelectric.com
click on **KIDS COLORING PAGE** in the Quick Links menu, or stop by our Member Service Office at 928 Hancock Road.



Member Meetings Coming In June District and Annual Meeting Information

The cooperative business model involves all the customers in the ownership and governance of the cooperative. Members elect the Board of Directors from the membership and get to participate in the business of the cooperative at the District and Annual meetings every year.

This year's District meetings will be held June 20th – June 22nd. The Annual meeting will be held June 24th at River Valley High School. An Official Meeting & Election Notice will be mailed with important information prior to the meetings.

It's important for you to know as an eligible voting member, your name must be on the account in order to vote. If there is more than one name on the membership, only one vote is allowed. Member status will be verified prior to voting. If you have any questions about your voting eligibility, contact our Member Service Office at 928-763-1100. No provisions for changes will be allowed at the meetings.

Local ownership and governance are what sets Mohave Electric Cooperative apart from other electric utilities.