

Blinking Lights and Outages

By Rick Nelson

Nebraska ranks as **THE BEST STATE** for power grid reliability



#1 Nebraska
#2 Arizona
#3 North Dakota
#4 Rhode Island
#5 Nevada

USNews
BEST STATE RANKINGS

#PublicPower

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POWERING THE GOOD LIFE

Wow! What a year for weather - snow, ice, rain, fog and most of all the cold spell that was well below freezing.

With the weather we have had, some of you may have seen blinks or longer outages. With the electronics everybody has plugged into about every outlet, you notice even the smallest of blinks. It may have been so bad you quit resetting your clocks because it would need to be reset again. So, what is causing this problem?

There are several things about blinks that are both good and bad. The bad part is that you need to reset clocks, turn computers back on, reset the time on a timer, and reprogram the tv.

The good part is that blinking lights actually means the protective equipment we have installed on the line is doing what it's supposed to do.

Now, what does that mean? When there is ice on the line, a tree in the line or the wind is blowing 60 mph, the wires move. Sometimes when they move, they get together. We don't want them getting together without us breaking that fault. If we did not break that fault, then the wires would more than likely burn down. You would be out of power for sure, and we would have to repair the problem.

The same thing happens when trees get into the wires. I've had many customers lately thanking Custer Power for trimming or cutting down the trees over the last several years. They could see a difference in the reliability of their power.

So, when you have blinking lights that's what is going on. Our protective devices are doing their job and keeping your lights on. I know it's a pain to reset clocks, electronics, and your television.

Nebraska ranks as number one for "The Best State for Power Grid Reliability". Custer Public Power works hard to keep your power on and do our part for grid reliability.

So, what are we doing to stop the blinks and outages? We are continually changing rotten poles after we have tested them. We continue to cut trees. We are going through all of our protective devices to make sure they are doing their job. Lastly, we continue to patrol the line looking for problems in the daylight, so we don't have to do that at night.

Custer Public Power is looking out for you and helping power the good life. We are proud Nebraska is ranked #1 for power grid reliability.

With each electrical service Custer Public Power District serves, there is an easement for the path of the utility line. These easements allow Custer Public Power District access to do maintenance to utility lines on property which includes tree trimming. Vegetation management plays a major role in maintaining power reliability.

Space Heaters Need There Space

Space Heater Safety Tips www.esfi.org

Heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires in the United States. More than 65,000 home fires are attributed to heating equipment each year. These fire result in hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries and millions of dollars in property damage.

Portable electric space heaters can be a convenient source of supplemental heat for your home in cold weather. Unfortunately, they can pose significant fire and electric shock hazards if not used properly. Fire and electrical hazards can be caused by space heaters without adequate safety features, space heaters placed near combustibles, or space heaters that are improperly plugged in.



- Safety should always be a top consideration when using space heaters. Here are some tips for keeping your home safe and warm when it's cold outside:
- Make sure your space heater has the label showing that it is listed by a recognized testing laboratory.
- Before using any space heater, read the manufacturer's instructions and warning labels carefully.
- Inspect heaters for cracked or broken plugs or loose connections before each use. If frayed, worn or damaged, do not use the heater.
- Never leave a space heater unattended. Turn it off when you're leaving a room or going to sleep, and don't let pets or children play too close to a space heater.
- Space heaters are only meant to provide supplemental heat and should never be used to warm bedding, cook food, dry clothing or thaw pipes.
- Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home and outside all sleeping areas and test them once a month.
- Proper placement of space heaters is critical. Heaters must be kept at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including papers, clothing and rugs.
- Locate space heaters out of high traffic areas and doorways where they may pose a tripping hazard.
- Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which could overheat and result in a fire. Do not plug any other electrical devices into the same outlet as the heater.
- Place space heaters on level, flat surfaces. Never place heaters on cabinets, tables, furniture, or carpet, which can overheat and start a fire.
- Always unplug and safely store the heater when it is not in use.

BAKED PUMPKIN CREAM CHEESE FRENCH TOAST

INGREDIENTS:

3/4 cup milk
1/2 cup pumpkin puree
3 large eggs
2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 (12-count) package KING'S HAWAIIAN Original Hawaiian Sweet Dinner Rolls, cubed

FOR THE CRUMB TOPPING:

1/4 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 cup brown sugar, packed
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 cup unsalted butter, cut into cubes
1/4 cup chopped pecans
2 tablespoons confectioners' sugar

FOR THE CREAM CHEESE FILLING:

8 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
1/3 cup confectioners' sugar
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon



DIRECTIONS:

In bowl of an electric mixer fitted with paddle attachment, beat cream cheese, sugar and cinnamon on medium speed until light and fluffy, approximately 2-3 minutes; set aside.

In a large glass measuring cup or another bowl, whisk together milk, pumpkin puree, eggs, pumpkin pie spice and vanilla.

Lightly coat a 9×13 baking dish with nonstick spray. Place a layer of bread cubes evenly into the baking dish. Pour half of the pumpkin puree mixture evenly over the top.

Spread cream cheese filling in an even layer. Top with remaining bread cubes and pumpkin puree mixture to completely cover the filling.

Cover and place in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours or overnight.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

To make the crumb topping, combine flour, sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl. Add cold butter and toss to coat, using your fingers to work the butter into the dry ingredients until it resembles coarse crumbs.

Sprinkle the crumb topping evenly over the bread cubes.

Place into oven and bake for 35-45 minutes, or until golden brown. Serve immediately, sprinkled with pecans and confectioners' sugar, if desired.

www.damndelicious.net/2014/09/15/baked-pumpkin-cream-cheese-french-toast/

Custer Public Power will be closed
December 25th to observe Christmas
and January 1st to celebrate the New Year.

Call 1-888-749-2453 to
report outages.





CUSTER CURRENTS

Newsletter of the CUSTER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

Broken Bow, NE - Phone 872-2451
www.custerpower.com

Serving Custer, Loup, Blaine, Thomas,
Hooker, McPherson, Logan and parts of
Sherman, Garfield, Brown, Cherry,
Lincoln, and Dawson Counties

*Custer Public Power District wishes you a
very merry Christmas!
We hope this holiday season brings you peace,
relaxation, and joyful times with your
friends and family!*

Photo Credits Sandy Bieber

Officers & Directors

- Brad Bartak, Merna.....President
- John Blakeman, Merna.....Vice President
- Greg Smith, Milburn.....Secretary
- Brad Howard, Litchfield.....Treasurer
- Tom Roberts, Loup City.....Asst. Treasurer
- Lloyd Ramsey, Broken Bow.....Director
- Wayne V. Licking, Thedford.....Director

Staff

- Rick Nelson.....General Manager
- Tom Knott.....Director of Operations
and Loss Control
- Cheryl Taylor.....Director of Finance and
Administration

Board Meetings

The regular monthly meeting of the Custer Public Power District Board of Directors is on the last Thursday of each month, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the main office in Broken Bow on Hwy. 2.

An agenda for each regular meeting of the board is available for public inspection during business hours.

In the event of matters of an emergency nature or conflicts with other meeting dates, the Board of Directors will set changes. Any change in the monthly meeting date will be posted in the legal notice at the main headquarters building at Broken Bow and at each of the District's area service centers located in Callaway, Sargent, Stapleton and Thedford, Nebraska.



Employee Recognition

On December 1st, Custer Public Power District had it's annual Employee Recognition Celebration. Employees recognized for years of service were:

- Allen Neth - 41 years(retired)
- Mick Clark - 30 year
- David Linn - 25 years
- Jamie Wells - 15 years
- Jason Chaplin - 15 years
- Bob Denny - 10 years
- Dustin Wycoff - 10 years
- Jamie Hurlburt - 10 year
- Chancy Boeser- 5 years

*Custer Public Power Districts success is because of our
employees and their dedication to our
neighbors, friends, & family*