

THE VICTORY ELECTRIC CO-OP

electronews



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FROM THE CEO

Outage Technology Helps Reliability

“The only things certain in life are death and taxes,” as the old saying goes. Well, we can add another to the list: power outages. An outage can range from annoying to dangerous, depending upon its timing and length.

Victory Electric’s primary goal is to deliver the highest possible quality of electric service at the lowest possible price. Perhaps the key measure of quality in the eyes of members is the number of times your lights blink or go out.

Let’s talk a bit about how the grid is designed as a backdrop to how technology is improving reliability by reducing blinks and outages. Along the power lines that bring electricity to your home, Victory Electric installs protective devices in the form of fuses and reclosers (high-voltage circuit breakers). Fuses and reclosers serve the same purpose as the fuses and circuit breakers in your home.

A fuse is a one-shot device. When a fault occurs, the fuse blows and everyone downstream from it loses power. Reclosers are multi-shot devices, meaning they can operate a certain number of times before they stay open and an outage occurs. A common setting is what’s known as a

triple-shot. Here’s how that works. A tree limb contacts the power lines and creates a fault. The recloser senses it and opens, creating the first blink.

Here’s where a recloser differs from your home circuit breaker.

It waits a certain amount of a time (typically a few seconds), then recloses to try and complete the circuit. If the fault is still there, it opens again. This creates the second blink. Triple-shot settings allow the device to reclose a third time and if the fault is still there, it stays open and the members downstream experience a power outage.

Blinks are a nuisance, but they eliminate a lot of extended outages by protecting wires and equipment from serious damage.

So, what kind of technology is improving service reliability? There is an array of equipment and software already improving reliability. When combined with field construction practices, like building multiple ways to feed power loads and the deployment



Shane Laws



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Cooperation Among Cooperatives: Victory Electric Provi

Victory Electric had a chance to repay the favor of helping a sister cooperative after a late April snow.

"People came to help us after the ice storm," said Kyndell Penick, Victory Electric journeyman. "It was nice to help them."

Some western Kansas cooperatives were hit with more than a foot of snow on April 30, leaving their systems damaged. Victory Electric crews headed to help Pioneer Electric with restoration efforts the morning of May 2 after their CEO called Shane Laws, Victory Electric CEO.

"It has been a year of unfortunate weather for western Kansas," Laws said. "We know what it is like to be in need of help. We were happy we had guys who wanted to go."

Felix Strauss was hired in March and this was his first storm. He eagerly volunteered to help with restoration.

"I knew it was going to be a great learning experience," Strauss said. "We rolled in about the same time other co-ops did. There were a lot of people, but it was still more than I expected."

At first, there was an estimated 700 poles on the ground but as crews continued to patrol Pioneer Electric's system, that number rose to more than 2,000 poles.

"I was prepared for the long days but I wasn't for the mud," Strauss said. Snow, water and mud left line crews dependent upon area dozers and tractors to pull them from pole to pole. The muddy roads and ditches caused jobs to take two to three times longer than expected.

"It was a mess for the first two days," Penick said. "After that it got better. Their members were all understanding and offered to help any way possible."

Mud and snow weren't the only challenges for Victory Electric

crews. Penick explained the ice storm was easier in some ways because it was Victory Electric's service territory.

"Knowing the system and how to switch power around to get our member's power on is helpful. When we were at Pioneer, we didn't know the system. We just followed instructions from the leader and worked hard."

For Penick, being a part of the effort was a chance to help other cooperatives and work with other peers. "It was a good storm. A good group of guys to work with. I saw guys from Missouri I used to work with and from other Kansas cooperatives that we don't normally see unless it is like this."

Cooperation among cooperatives is a principle Victory Electric and other cooperatives follow, and that helps distinguish cooperatives from other utilities in a large way.

"When there are storms like this, there is no way a cooperative can do it alone," Penick said. "Other crews help make it all possible. Without mutual aid, some restorations may take months. When we help each other, that restoration time typically becomes just days."

When asked if they would go back, Strauss and Penick said they both would. "It was a great experience and Pioneer made us feel welcomed with meals and accommodations after 16 to 18-hour days," Strauss said.

Victory Electric linemen came home May 7, once all residential meters had power again. Victory Electric was glad to assist with restoration efforts at Pioneer Electric and give back to one of many electric cooperatives who helped during the January ice storm.



des Mutual Aid for Sister Co-op After April Snow Storm



From left: Joel Daniels, Nate Stormont, Jacob Ledford, Felix Strauss, Marlon Hernandez, Kyndell Penick, Jeremy Elling and Jason Rohr volunteer to help restoration efforts at Pioneer Electric.



A Victory Electric truck is pulled through mud to restore power.



Victory Electric linemen move a broken pole out of the road.

Outage Technology Helps Reliability

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of advanced metering infrastructure systems (AMI), the future of reliability is bright—pun intended.

Eventually, there will be a power outage despite the best efforts of Victory Electric. That is where AMI and outage management systems (OMS) earn their keep. The basic element of AMI is a meter that can communicate with your electric cooperative. The OMS maps system data and meter locations into a piece of software that models the electric grid. When a device on the grid reports loss of power, the OMS runs calculations to determine the exact location of the fault and the number of members impacted.

Now, the whole suite of systems Victory Electric

uses comes into play. The co-op dispatcher can call out or redirect a crew to the exact location of the problem. A map of the outage and number of impacted members is generated and member service representatives are notified an outage is in progress.

The end result of all this technology is the minimization of outages and their length, plus more availability of up-to-date information for the consumer.

Mother Nature is a tough opponent, and it's impossible to eliminate outages and blinks altogether. But with the way technology is advancing, we can expect to see some remarkable improvements.

Thanks, Shane

Area Fifth-Graders Visit for Career Day

Cimarron elementary students visited Victory Electric as part of the school's Career Camp.

Career Camp helps expose fifth-grade students to different types of jobs. "Victory Electric was chosen because students had an interest in the electrical department from our 'Day on the Farm' activity where Victory Electric showed the importance of line safety," said Ellen Henry, fifth grade teacher.

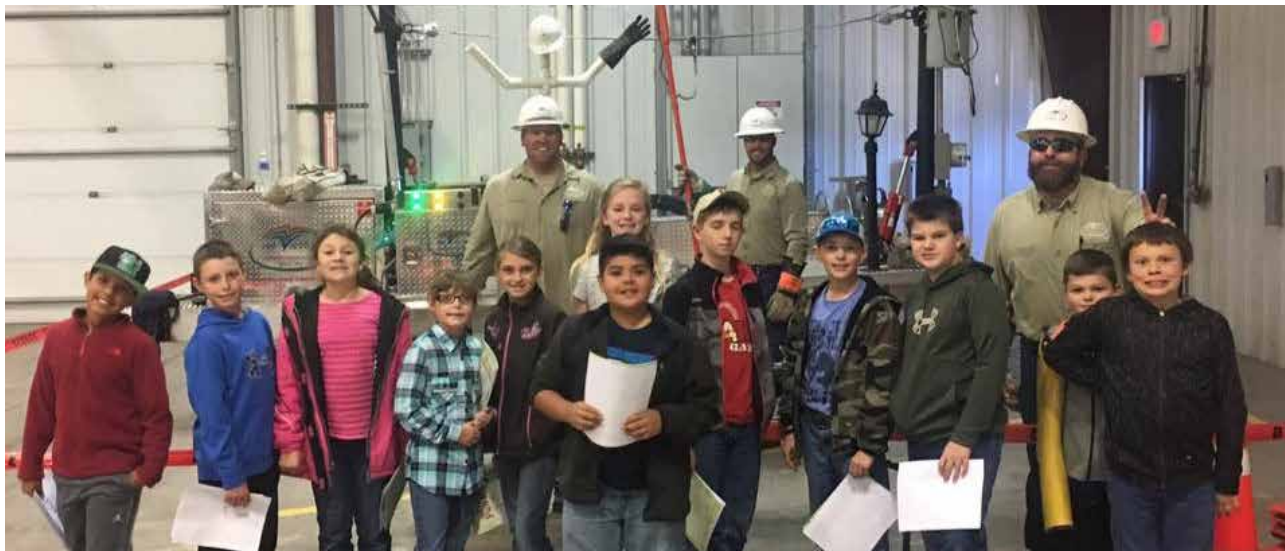
"We hope to spark interest to help students not only succeed in school, but to help them succeed in life and have passion and drive to always be a better person," Henry said. The teachers have helped expose the students to nearly 40 careers based on the students' interests in Cimarron and the neighboring communities.

The students watched a safety demonstration

and learned there is more to Victory Electric than just linemen. Students toured the office and met with the employees of member services, accounting, information technology and engineering.

"Exposing kids to what the cooperative is and how we operate is just as important as safety," said Mikey Goddard, manager of safety and plant. "As a community partner, knowing there are career options in the cooperative hopefully increases students' interest."

Victory Electric was glad to have had the Cimarron fifth-graders visit. The safety demonstration is available to any group or organization that may be interested year-round. For more information or to schedule a safety demonstration, call Mikey Goddard at 620-227-2139 during regular hours.



Kade Henry (left), Jacob Ledford and Mikey Goddard demonstrate safe electricity to Mrs. Henry's fifth-grade class at Cimarron Elementary.

Victory Electric Wins Gold Communication Award



Shane Laws, CEO and Kennedy St. George, communications specialist, receive gold Spotlight on excellence award.

KENNEDY ST. GEORGE recently accepted a “Gold” Spotlight on Excellence award. St. George received the gold award for “Best Large Special Publication” for the Victory Electric Program and Services Guide. The Spotlight on Excellence award program was created by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in 1987 to recognize the top-rated communication and marketing efforts by electric cooperatives. Nineteen categories are recognized, including writing, design, overall publication and digital media.

Victory Electric competed with other cooperatives our size for the award. More than 640 entries were submitted for the program’s 30th year.

Avoid Peak Time and Save Energy

Using energy when fewer people are pulling power out of the electric grid generally saves you money.

There’s a certain amount of energy we all use, regardless of whether we are at home or away. Refrigerators, air conditioning and heating systems, and other steady appliances create base load power requirements—the minimum amount of power Victory Electric needs to reliably supply power to you.

Victory Electric’s price for power rises and falls depending on the time of day when power is used. Between June and September, Victory Electric hits “peak” periods between 4 p.m.

to 7 p.m. These peak periods happen when you are home and begin power-draining activities. A lot of us have energy use patterns like watching TV, washing dishes and running the air conditioner, that cause peak demand on the electrical system.

To save on your energy bill, take advantage of the delay setting and run your dishwasher at night or hang your clothes to dry to avoid peak times of use during 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The average home has 25 electrical devices. We think of the obvious things first, like one to two refrigerators, one or two freezers, a washer and dryer, maybe an electric water heater, air conditioning and heat, and the list goes on. Everything adds up. Even those one to two televisions, satellite boxes, clocks, radios, and those little chargers for your cell phones and computers all add to your monthly use.

Using your energy efficiently during summer hours will help save Victory Electric the cost of purchased power and save you money on your monthly bill. For more energy efficiency tips, visit victoryelectric.net and visit us on social media.



Running the dishwasher on delay settings after peak hours will help save money on your monthly bill.

Victory Electric Bill Payment Options



Pay your bill online at victoryelectric.net, at our office, by mail or at any of our pay stations.

Victory Electric has several convenient options for you, the member, to pay your bill.

In addition to paying in our office or by mail, options include online bill pay at victoryelectric.net, via phone at 866-999-8494, auto bank deduction, drop boxes at Victory Electric and City of Dodge City.

Come Get Your Free CFL!

This month’s lucky winners

are... CODY FELBER, KAY FERGUSON, BILL GARRISON, TROY JANTZEN, FELIX JOHNSON, and JIM REIMER.

Come by Victory Electric’s office to get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). Every month Victory Electric will randomly choose members for free CFL light bulbs. Congratulations winners!



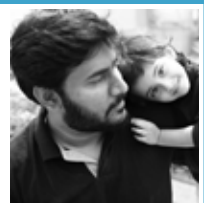
Efficiency Tip of the Month

Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will save energy and prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using rigid venting material for dryer vents.



Happy Father’s Day, Dads!

Don’t forget dad on Father’s Day, Sunday, June 18. Victory Electric wishes all dads a great day.



Victory Electric Joins Forces with Fort Dodge for Third Year

Nearly 200 members call Fort Dodge their home, and for the third year Victory Electric members will help stock the food pantry.

Founded in 1864, Fort Dodge's primary purpose was to protect the Santa Fe Trail travelers between Fort Larned and Fort Lyon until January 1980. Since then, Fort Dodge has helped veterans by serving as the Kansas State Soldiers Home.

To help stock the pantry, Victory Electric is hosting the "Vittles for Vets" food drive for the third year.

"Our veterans have given so much of themselves for our country. Now it is time again to give back to them," said Shane Laws, CEO of Victory Electric.

"We hope our members will again embrace the program and donate to the cause."

The idea was brought to Victory Electric in 2015 by Dodge City VFW quartermaster Jim Massey. "I was a nurse at Fort Dodge for four years and since then have seen a growing need for a food pantry. Victory Electric was a community partner who I thought could help." The food pantry has small items aimed at primarily helping the veterans living in the cottages of Fort Dodge.

For every three items a member brings to Victory Electric's office, you will be entered to win a \$100 bill credit. Three drawings will be held between June and

August. Each drawing date, two individual \$100 bill credits will be drawn.

"For veterans to get the things they need to make simple meals or have a snack is big. Small cans provide the veterans with meals without the food going waste," Massey said. "These veterans have dedicated their lives for this country. We want to help them anyway we can."

Massey is a 20-year Army veteran who served the country from 1958-1978. "I have been in combat and worked on these men," Massey said. He worked as a nurse inside of the Iron Curtain of Berlin and as a combat nurse in Vietnam. "They don't need much, just the necessities and some company."

The Dodge City VFW helps veterans with things they need financially, mentally and physically.

"All veterans are my brothers and sisters no matter when or where they served," Massey said. "That's why I like the food pantry. It provides for my brothers and sisters."

The food pantry is located in the clothing store at Nimitz Hall and provides canned items, sugar free gelatins and pudding cups, and other non-perishable food. The pantry helps veterans who are unable to get out and grocery shop or those who need something quick.

One of the seven cooperative principles is the concern for community. The "Vittles for Vets" food drive is a great way to stay engaged in our community and help those who fought for our freedom.



The food pantry of Nimitz Hall serves as a quick stop for veterans at Fort Dodge Soldiers Home.



Victory Electric member Ashley Ewy donates items after extreme coupon shopping for veterans.

Evitar la Ahora Pico al Máximo y Ahorre Electricidad

El uso de electricidad cuando menos personas están sacando electricidad de la red eléctrica generalmente le ahorra dinero.

Hay una cierta cantidad de electricidad que todos usamos, sin importar si estamos en casa o lejos. Los refrigeradores, los sistemas de aire acondicionado y calefacción y otros aparatos fijos crean requisitos de energía de carga base, la cantidad mínima de potencia que Victory Electric necesita para suministrar electricidad de forma fiable.

El precio de la electricidad de Victory Electric sube y baja dependiendo de la hora del día cuando se usa la electricidad. Entre junio y septiembre, Victory Electric alcanza períodos de "pico" entre las 4 p.m. y las 7 p.m. Estos períodos máximos ocurren cuando usted está en casa y comienza las actividades de drenaje de electricidad. Muchos de nosotros tenemos patrones de uso de energía como programas de televisión para ver, platos para lavar y aire acondicionado para mantener el refrigerador de casa

causando la demanda de pico en el sistema eléctrico.

Para ahorrar en su factura de electricidad, aproveche el ajuste de retardo y haga funcionar su lavavajillas por la noche o colgar su ropa para secar para evitar las horas pico de uso durante 4 p.m. y 7 p.m.

La casa promedio tiene 25 aparatos eléctricos. Pensamos en las cosas obvias en primer lugar, como uno a dos refrigeradores, uno o dos congeladores, una lavadora y secadora, tal vez un calentador de agua eléctrico, aire acondicionado y calefacción, y la lista continúa. Todo suma. Incluso aquellos de uno a dos televisores, cajas de satélite, relojes, radios, y los pequeños cargadores para sus teléfonos celulares y ordenadores de todo añadir a su uso mensual.

El uso eficiente de su electricidad durante las horas de verano ayudará a ahorrar a Victory Electric el costo de la electricidad comprada y le ahorrará dinero en su factura mensual. Para obtener más consejos sobre eficiencia energética, visite la página web de victoryelectric.net y visítenos en las redes sociales.



El uso de electricidad cuando menos personas están sacando electricidad de la red eléctrica generalmente le ahorra dinero.

Visite Sitio Web y Únase a Nosotros en Facebook

Visite nuestro sitio web www.victoryelectric.net. En nuestro sitio Web, usted encontrará un calendario de eventos, con frecuencia pregunta, pago de factura y energía calculadora sólo por nombrar algunas herramientas!

También puede ser una fan de Victory Electric en Facebook buscando Victory Electric Cooperative Assn, Inc. Consulte nuestra página en Facebook para actualizaciones, información de interrupción y consejos de eficiencia de energía. Facebook es una excelente forma de mantenerse en contacto con nuestros miembros.





COOPERATIVE Energy Explorers

Swimming Pool Electrical Safety

Water and electricity never mix! Remember to practice electrical safety when you're cooling off in the pool. Fill in the blanks in the electrical safety tips below. Use the word bank for help, and check your answers in the key below.

Swimming Pool Safety Tips:

1. If you hear _____, immediately exit the swimming pool. Storms may be near.
2. Never bring _____ devices near a swimming pool. If they come in contact with water, electric shock could occur. Devices should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources.
3. Outdoor electrical outlets should be covered to keep them _____.
4. When possible, use _____-operated electrical devices when outside near a swimming pool.



Word Bank:

electrical
battery
thunder
dry

Answer Key:
1. thunder 2. electrical 3. dry 4. battery