

## Blinking Lights— Understanding Why They Happen

A blink of your lights is a sign that your utility's protective equipment is working properly. Blinks usually indicate a momentary interruption of the flow of electricity on the lines and can be caused by small animals or birds, trees contacting the lines, high winds, snow or ice buildup and lightning.

In addition to these environmental causes, damaged equipment may be to blame. A loose connection, faulty equipment, damaged wire or broken jumper may also be the cause of blinks. In these instances, it may be near impossible for crews to find the issue with the naked eye alone, so they may opt for installing fault finders on the line in various locations to help narrow down the area in which the problem may lie.

If you begin to experience more frequent power interruptions at your home, it is a good idea to let your cooperative know. Reporting to OCEC the time, dates, and weather conditions when they occur can help us narrow down and find the issue causing the blinking.

While the blinks may be a nuisance, we want to assure members that we are proactively looking for the cause once we know they are occurring. Unfortunately, it may take time to find the root problem of the interruptions.

Here are a COUPLE suggestions to help minimize the inconvenience of the brief interruptions:

- Purchase surge protectors instead of power strips to help protect appliances.
- Use a backup power supply (UPS) for computers, printers, and TVs. A UPS system can provide extra time to save data and turn off sensitive electronic equipment.

## Scholarships Available

Each year the OCEC Education Foundation awards thousands of dollars in scholarships to high school seniors planning on attending a New Mexico college or university. Deadline to apply for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year is March 15, 2019. Applications are available from your school guidance counselor, your local OCEC office or on our website, [www.ocec-inc.com](http://www.ocec-inc.com). Complete your application today!



**Did you know? You can obtain your account balance, pay your bill or set up automatic payments by calling our interactive voice response system (IVR) at 844-846-2695. This is a simple, convenient way to access your electric account information 24 hours a day.**

### Board of Trustees



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### Board Meeting

The board of trustees meets the third Friday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at the cooperative.



**THE OCEC OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2019, FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY.**



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**Office Hours**  
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (M-F)