

Weathering a Winter Power Outage

Winter storms can cause prolonged power outages by weighing down power lines with ice and snow, causing trees to fall into lines, or creating hazardous road conditions resulting in vehicle accidents with power poles. Being prepared can help you and your family safely weather a winter outage.

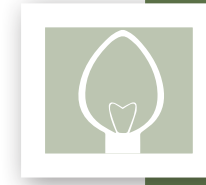
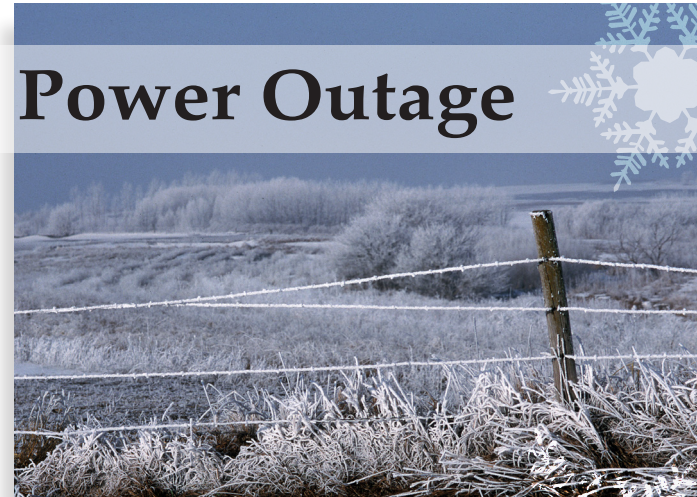
When the lights go out, contact DMEA first at 1-877-687-3632. We will immediately begin the assessment and restoration process. How long it takes to get your power restored depends on multiple factors: the extent of the storm's destruction, the number of members out, and when it becomes safe for our crews to work in the affected areas.

A storm preparedness kit can help keep your family safe and warm during an outage. It should include bottled water, non-perishable food, blankets, warm clothing, first aid kit/medicine, flashlight, radio, extra batteries, and toiletries. In the event of an extended outage, you may want to stay with friends or relatives or go to a shelter if you cannot keep your home warm. Never attempt to heat your home with gas-powered appliances, such as generators, grills, or camp stoves. They give off carbon monoxide, an invisible, odorless, and deadly gas.

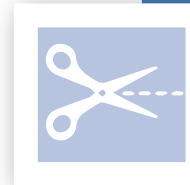
Stay warm during a winter outage by dressing warmly and using layers of blankets. Close off unneeded rooms and place draft blocks at the bottom of doors to minimize cold air entering the house. If necessary, cover the windows at night to keep the cold air out. Finally, avoid going outside. Opening doors lets cold air in and going outside makes you more vulnerable to the cold.

Home generators are a good solution for backup power, but they must be installed correctly. Never plug a generator into a wall outlet. Doing so puts the safety of our linemen in jeopardy, because the electricity from the generator can backfeed onto the power lines. Contact a licensed electrician if you are planning to install a home generator.

For more information on weathering a winter outage, visit safeelectricity.com



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Costs with LEDs



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DMEA Powerlines

Your Delta-Montrose Electric Association Member Newsletter | November 2015

Tri-State Rate Structure Changes

How will these changes affect your bottom line?

Chief Executive Officer's Message to the Members



Jasen Bronec, CEO

With a Tri-State rate restructuring just around the corner, we at DMEA are working to determine how these new rates will affect you, our members.

Tri-State, DMEA's wholesale power provider, has announced it is not planning a rate increase for its member cooperatives in 2016. With wholesale power costs accounting for nearly 70% of our operating expenses, Tri-State's rates heavily influence our ability to hold your rates steady.



While Tri-State will not have a rate increase in 2016, there will be changes for DMEA and its members. The most significant change is the reintroduction of a demand component. Several years ago, Tri-State transitioned to an energy-only rate. This made it hard for DMEA to continue with load shaping programs, like our time-of-use rate or electric thermal storage.

DMEA will be implementing new rates in April of 2016 to reflect the Tri-State rate changes mentioned above. With the new rates comes the potential for DMEA's time-of-use rate to once again benefit the cooperative and our members. For those of you not familiar with our time-of-use rate, this program helps maximize the efficiency of our existing energy resources and distribution system. For more information about our time-of-use rate or energy efficiency programs, please stop by our offices or give us a call at 1-877-687-3632.

As we move into the future, we know that legislation, greater demand, alternative resources, and inflation will all play increasingly significant roles in our rates. Unfortunately, most projections show rates moving upward. This is why DMEA provides programs and services to help you improve the energy efficiency of your homes and businesses today. Changing your consumption behavior and employing efficient technologies can help both you and DMEA manage future costs.

Contact:

1-877-OUR-DMEA

P.O. Box 910
Montrose, CO 81402

www.dmea.com

Locations:

11925 6300 Road, Montrose
21191 H75 Road, Delta

DMEA Board Of Directors:

Bill Patterson, *District 1*
Kyle Martinez, *District 2*
Olen Lund, *District 3*
Jim Elder, *District 4*
Marshall Collins, *District 5*
Terry Brown, *District 6*
Mark Eckhart, *District 7*
Tony Prendergast, *South Region*
John Gavan, *North Region*

DMEA board meetings are open to all members. They are generally held on the 4th Tuesday of each month beginning at 3pm with the public comment period at 5pm. Call 240-1212 to confirm specific dates, times, and locations.

DMEA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

POWERLINES POP QUIZ

Submit your answers, including your name, address, and phone number to: DMEA Newsletter, PO Box 910, Montrose, CO 81402 or communications@dmea.com. Winners are announced randomly at the bottom of the pop quiz activity. Winners must claim prize by calling (970) 240-1273 within 60 days.

1. What makes up nearly 70% of DMEA's operating expenses?
2. What is the estimated annual savings for Murdoch's?
3. Name the deadly, odorless gas put off by gas-powered appliances.
4. How many people attended last year's Garden of Lights?

Congratulations to September's winner: Ginfer Cabrera, Delta

2015

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP
PROGRAM APPLICATIONS
ARE STILL BEING ACCEPTED.**

Download your application at
www.dmea.com or visit your high
school guidance counselor. Complete
and return your application by
Friday, December 4, 2015.

Montrose Garden of LIGHTS

Elaborate light displays, hot chocolate, horse-drawn wagon rides, live caroling, and Mr. and Mrs. Clause: it doesn't get much more festive than that. You'll find all of this and more at the second annual Garden of Lights. This year's event will be held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings, December 11-13 and December 18-20, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Montrose Botanical Gardens. Minimal entry fees will be charged.

"The Garden of Lights is a one-of-a-kind event in our region. We bring in visitors from across the Western Slope to enjoy a fun, family-friendly, and affordable holiday activity," said Lorraine Shide, Montrose Botanical Garden committee member.


Last year, more than 2,300 visitors enjoyed the wonder of the Garden of Lights. Driven by that success, this year, the event will feature additional music-activated animated light shows, 3-D light displays, and custom sculptures. For the second year in a row, DMEA is partnering with the Montrose Botanical Society to brighten the holiday season in the most efficient way possible: by using only LED lights.

"The LEDs help us keep the cost to operate the event low and stay environmentally responsible by using electricity as efficiently as possible. The committee has estimated that last year, we used just \$1 of electricity per night to illuminate the garden. This also allows us to keep admission fees low and hold an event that all families are able to attend," said Shide.

DMEA's partnership will also include a special appearance of Power, the robot, on opening night of the event. Power will be present to celebrate efficiency and hand out candy canes to attendees. Complimentary hot cocoa, coffee, and snacks will be served for all to enjoy while warming up around a fire pit.

For more information about the 2015 Garden of Lights visit www.montrosegardens.org.



 Like the Montrose Botanical Gardens for more information

LEDs Boost Lighting, Cut Costs for Local Business

Murdoch's Ranch and Home Supply in Montrose recently underwent an intensive store remodel, which included overhauling their lighting system. The hard work was well worth it when DMEA presented the store with a \$7,105 check for their efficiency efforts.

During the remodel, DMEA's energy services supervisor, Phil Zimmer, worked with store manager Melanie Hannafious to find ways for the store to become more efficient. The first on the list: swapping out the traditional fluorescent lighting for LEDs.

Murdoch's indoor lighting area is approximately 47,000 square feet. The lights are on for a minimum of twelve hours a day. The outdoor and parking lot lights are on day and night. Melanie and her team made the decision to switch to LED lighting in both areas. It is estimated this change will cut their energy consumption for lighting by 50%, saving them more than \$10,000 annually.

Energy-savings aside, Hannafious also says there are so many positive aspects of the lighting change she doesn't know where to begin. "In my opinion, I think the new lighting boosts the marketing edge of all our products and how they are observed. The all-around visual in our store is 150% better than before!"

The improved quality of light was most noticeable in the clothing department. "The colors of our products and advertisements are more true. Our customers and our employees can more clearly depict that brown is brown, and grey is grey. That was a problem with the old lights," said Hannafious. Melanie also explained how the lighting has improved visibility in dark areas and corners for safety purposes.

The savings, coupled the DMEA's rebates, has also opened the possibility for Hannafious to add alternative energy in the future. To learn more about DMEA's rebate and other efficiency programs, visit www.dmea.com.



Holiday Office Closures

Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 26 & Friday, November 27

Christmas

Thursday, December 24 & Friday, December 25

New Years

Friday, January 1

DMEA wishes you and yours a happy, safe, and bright holiday season.

