THE AMP

November 2026

YOUR MONTHLY CONNECTION

Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

OUR MISSION:
PROVIDING SAFE, RELIABLE ELECTRICITY

OFFICE:
22458 HIGHWAY 2, PO BOX 70
BLOOMFIELD, IA 52537
OFFICE HOURS: MON. - FRI. 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
OFFICE: 641-664-2277 / 800-607-2027
WEBSITE: WWW.SIE.COOP

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF TROUBLE:
*CHECK FOR BLOWN FUSES OR TRIPPED BREAKERS AT THE METER POLE.
*CHECK WITH NEIGHBORS AND ASK IF THEIR ELECTRICITY IS OFF AND IF THEY HAVE REPORTED THE OUTAGE. IF NOT, CALL SIEC AND REPORT THE PROBLEM 24 HOURS A DAY AT **641-664-2277 OR 800-607-2027**.

SERVICE CHARGES:

- BILL COLLECTION $ 50.00
- DISCONNECT $ 50.00
- POSTING $ 50.00
- RETURNED CHECK $ 30.00
- RECONNECT $ 75.00
- TRIP CHARGE $ 50.00
- METER TAMPERING $150.00

MANAGEMENT:
GREG PROCTOR, CEO/GM
ROSS HUNTER, COO/SYSTEMS ANALYST
LINDSAY SMITH, OFFICE/ACCOUNTING MGR
KELLY MOORE, HR MGR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
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Happy Thanksgiving



SIEC'S RECare Program

SIEC has always extended a helping hand to people in need. That's why we've established RECare, a program of members helping members. Through RECare you can help members in need pay their winter heating bills. If you are interested in helping, please complete and return this form to our office. We currently have a balance of $12,875.51 in the RECare fund. Disbursements are made to low-income members on a case-by-case basis by local community action agencies. Any amount given is appreciated!

RECare Member Authorization Form

YES, I want to contribute to RECare.
____I will make a one-time contribution to RECare.
My check is enclosed.
____I will contribute $____ per month for __ months.
I understand this amount will automatically be added to my monthly electric bill.

Name _____
Address_____
_____
City/State/Zip_____
Signature_____

PLEASE MAIL TO:
SIEC/RECare
PO Box 70
Bloomfield, IA 52537



"BLINKS"

Simply put, a "blink" is a brief power interruption in the electrical grid caused by a fault that activates protection devices in attempts to prevent an outage. Blinks are usually caused by something contacting the power line that affects the flow of electricity (fault), lasting only a few seconds to a minute. Blinks are evidence that something interfered with the normal flow of power and your electric grid is actively working to allow that interference to clear itself out to prevent a potential outage. When an interruption of power occurs on the power line, an electrical protection device called an "oil circuit recloser" (OCR) responds to the fault. This device is designed to enhance system reliability by temporarily disconnecting a faulted section of the grid and then attempting to restore service without the need for manual troubleshooting. Think of an OCR like the electrical breaker in your home, except it resets itself automatically.

FIVE COMMON CAUSES OF BLINKS:

- Birds and small animals
- Tree branches contacting power lines
- Weather
- Lightning strike
- Planned maintenance

Blinks are **not** outages - it is a sign that the protective equipment on the electric grid is actively working to prevent an outage when a fault occurs! Blinks **do not** damage home appliances. There is a misconception that surges, or voltage spikes are caused by blinks. This is simply not true. A blink itself won't damage home appliances. However, surges (voltage spikes) could occur if the fault is not stopped which can potentially harm sensitive electronics. To protect against this, it's recommended to use surge protectors for devices like computers, TVs and other valuable electronics.

HOW TO RESPOND TO A BLINK:

1) Wait to see if you're experiencing a blink or an actual outage. Try waiting a minute to see if the power restores automatically.

2) If you experience frequent blinks, contact SIEC to report the ongoing issue.

3) Stay informed with SIEC. Call our office or check our Facebook page or website (www.sie.coop).

Generator Safety

During a power outage, a generator can provide temporary electricity that, depending on type, can power a few appliances or an entire building. While convenient, generators used improperly can create safety hazards. Know the difference between standby and portable generators. Standby generators are permanently installed and wired into a building's electrical system, offering seamless power restoration. They require an approved transfer safety switch to prevent backfeed, which can endanger line workers as well as anyone who may be near downed power lines. Portable generators are more versatile but need manual setup and proper ventilation to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Installation should be done by a licensed electrician to avoid voltage feedback. Don't wait for a power outage to prepare for safety.

Engine Heaters and Your Electric Bill

Truck and tractors often have engine block heaters installed to help start the engines in cold weather. These heaters are often a necessity to get your vehicle going in frigid temperatures, but they can also add a wallop to your electric bill. Typical block heaters can use 600 to 1,000 watts of electricity, and usually don't have any type of thermostat control. So, when you plug in your heater, you're drawing a continuous flow of energy that may equal the light bulbs in your whole house! If used 6 hours a day (during off-peak hours) a heater can add up to 150 kilowatt hours a month, costing around $15 on your bill. If you need an engine heater, install a timer to start warming the engine an hour before you plan to drive it. If possible, stay completely out of the on-peak hours (7-8 AM and 4-8 PM, Monday through Friday) to avoid on-peak demand charges. That will save energy and help keep your electric bill under control.



MEET ELLA

Ella joined SIEC in May after graduating from the University of Iowa with a bachlor's degree in business. She is working as an accounting assistant and member service representative. Ella has lived in Davis County her whole life and is happy to now be working here as well.

