

COLUMBUS CURRENTS

Monsoon Storms bring Labor Day Power

Outages

For most people, Labor Day Weekend means a time of rest. For others, it's a time to catch up on outdoor projects before the season changes, but this year for our line crews, Mother Nature had other plans. On September 2nd a storm passing through brought rain, wind and lightning that caused damage to our system.



That evening, at approximately 8:30 P.M., our outage response center began receiving a significant number of calls. We immediately began mobilizing our line crews. The biggest of the problems was handled first, the breaker on our transmission line between Deming and Columbus had tripped leaving over 1,500 accounts without power. Our crews were able to isolate the problem area, separating the damage from the rest of the system, and bring the transmission line back in service by 9:30 P.M.

At this point most everyone's power was restored with the exception of the Hermanas area and a few accounts on the U.S./Mexico border. The isolated damage consisted of six downed poles, several broken cross arms and blown fuses.

The repair of the downed poles was complicated by the fact they were located in an area that either had pockets of standing water or the ground was saturated. Our line crews continued working diligently throughout the night and by 3:30 A.M. the following morning everyone had power. This same storm also caused a few small outages in the Rodeo and Antelope Wells area as it moved from west to east.



We often take power-and the people who provide it- for granted. Power restoration takes precedence on a line worker's do list. These brave people are always on call, standing by to serve you 24 hours a day, whether it be in the middle of the night or the wee hours of the morning, weekends or holidays. These highly skilled people light our homes and businesses every day. They endure harsh weather and long hours, all to make our lives better. Today (and every day), please take a moment to thank them.

ENERGY VAMPIRES ARE LURKING IN YOUR HOME



Save energy in your home by locating energy vampires!
These are the electronics and appliances that consume energy even when they are not being used. *Circle the energy vampires below, and use the key to check your answers.*



OVEN



CELL PHONE
CHARGER



CABLE/SET TOP BOX



LAPTOP
CHARGER



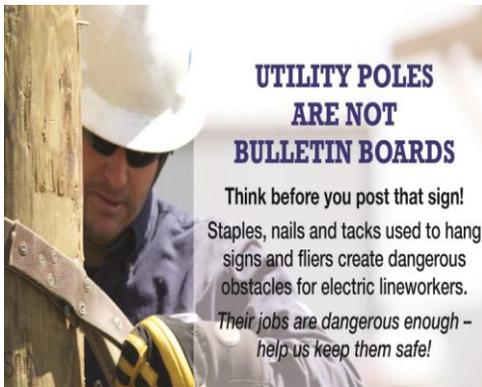
DISHWASHER



LAMP



Answer Key: Cell phone charger, Laptop charger, Cable box



UTILITY POLES ARE NOT BULLETIN BOARDS

Think before you post that sign!
Staples, nails and tacks used to hang signs and fliers create dangerous obstacles for electric lineworkers.
Their jobs are dangerous enough – help us keep them safe!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



An average household dedicates about 5% of its energy budget to lighting. Switching to energy-efficient lighting is one of the fastest ways to cut your energy bills. By replacing your home's five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with models that have earned the ENERGY STAR rating, you can save \$75 each year.

Source: energy.gov

Emergency Response Number
1-800-228-0579

Toll - free Office Number
1-800-950-COOP (2667)