

Surge protection 101

A power surge is an unexpected increase in voltage, and it can occur from a variety of sources. Regardless of the cause, power surges can damage electronic devices and equipment in your home.

Lightning (one of the most common causes): When lightning strikes an electrical system, the excess current must be channeled somewhere ... unfortunately in many cases, it's sent through a home. Your best bet is to unplug all unused devices and electronics during severe thunderstorms.

Electrical overload: This happens when devices or appliances are plugged into an outlet that can't handle the required amount of voltage, or if multiple devices are plugged into one outlet through an extension cord. If you're experiencing this it's time to call an electrician to evaluate your home's circuits and electrical needs.

Faulty wiring: Damaged or exposed wires can create a potentially dangerous situation. If you notice signs of faulty wiring, like visible burns on outlets, buzzing sounds from outlets or frequently tripped circuit breakers, your home may be due for electrical wiring repairs and updates.

After a power outage: Sometimes, when electricity is being restored and reconnected, you can experience a quick surge in current. Like advice for a surge caused by lightning, it's best to unplug sensitive electronics during the outage – then wait to plug them back in after power is fully restored.

Two additional ways to take precautions

Point-of-use surge protection devices (like power strips): Remember, not all power strips include surge protection, so read the packaging label carefully before you buy, and don't overload the strip with too many devices. You can also install specialized electrical outlets that offer surge protection.



Whole-home surge protector: In most cases, whole-home suppressors are connected to your home's service panel and include features like thermal fuses and notification capabilities that indicate when a device has been impacted by a surge. They should always be connected by a licensed electrician.

Lineworker's Scholarship



The Lavern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Memorial Scholarship offers a \$2,000 scholarship to the lineworker school at Lincoln Land Community College. Applicants must be sons or daughters of IL electric co-op members, relatives of co-op employees or directors, individuals already enrolled in the school, or those who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard.

Details at menard.com/scholarships. Deadline is April 30.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest.

A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can impact the efficiency of your system.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Considering Solar?

Have you considered adding solar panels to your home? We encourage you to contact us early in your decision-making process. We can ensure you are well informed about our policies and procedures and our Net Billing vs Net Metering options, as well as your home's energy needs, all before you contact an installer.

Call System Engineer Dustin Crosier at our office at 800-872-1203 or email info@menard.com. Also visit our website at menard.com/distributedgeneration where we have broken down the process of installing solar with us into five steps.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Kilo Watt Korner

Some of you may remember when Atari brought *Pong*, *Asteroids* and *Frogger* into your home. Today the market is dominated by far more advanced and realistic games played with Nintendo, Sony PlayStation and Microsoft Xbox systems.

Video game playing has surged in popularity among all ages and if you have a device in your home you likely noticed an increase in its use in 2020 and 2021 as other activities waned.



We look closely at one popular system, Sony PlayStation 4 Slim (PS4), to see what our teen gamer might be adding to the electric bill. Throughout our test month, use of the device varied based on social scenes, televised football games, after school activities and homework loads. At the end of the 30-day test period, it used just 3,100 watt-hours, costing just 38 cents. Based on our data breakdown we predict that if time, and his mother, had allowed him to play 5 hours a day every day of the month it would still have cost under \$2.

Here's how some of that usage broke down. Instantaneous demand varied depending on how the device was being used. Flipping through the menu consumed 45 watts and powering up games ticked usage up to 49-51 watts. Playing games demanded different power levels. For example, exploring boxy worlds and destroying creepers in *Minecraft* used just 53-58.5 watts versus the 73-80 watts used to navigate the realistic wilderness and hunt machines in *Horizon Zero Dawn*.

The PS4 Slim can also be used for Blu-ray and streaming. Playing a Blu-ray disc used 46-49 watts, while stand-alone players are rated at 14-35 watts. Our user did not have streaming set up, but online stats show that watching Netflix would consume about 89 watts, versus just 2-3 watts from a Roku or Fire TV Stick device.

Game systems have power savings features that may not be automatically set. The PS4 Slim menu item is called Power Save Settings and it gives multiple options for when the device is not in use. Among them users can designate the amount of time the unit remains idle before automatically switching to rest mode, select how long remotes are charged before power to them is stopped, and choose if the unit remains connected to the Internet while in rest mode (to complete automatic device and game updates).

It's worth noting that users of other systems will see energy use differences. Online information provides average energy use per hour as follows: PS5 50-220 watts, Xbox One X 65-180 watts, and Nintendo Switch 8-16 watts. Each device features different energy savings options.

Korner Recommendation: Game on! Considering the costs of the system, its games, expansion packs and online subscription, the monthly energy usage cost was quite minimal. Still, enabling the Power Save Settings is worth the minimal effort. And stick to forming *Madden* teams, building new worlds and battling bad guys on this device, using a separate device to stream.





Help us find these inactive members

In 2021, your Board of Directors authorized a \$809,000 general retirement of Capital Credits earned by members who had active service with us in 1996, 1997 and 1998. Active members received a June bill credit. Members who no longer receive service from us were mailed a check. The names listed here represent checks that were returned to us for incorrect addresses. (This list can also be found on our website at menard.com/capitalcredits.) If you know any of these members, or if applicable, the executors of their estate, please ask them to email info@menard.com with their name, address at time of service and current mailing address; or call 800-872-1203. Remember to keep your address with us updated even if you move off our lines and include a note in your estate information to contact us regarding capital credits.

Abbott, Richard, Riverton	Carls, Ronald, Arenzville	Frank, Vicki & Anthony Sr, Albany, MO	Howard, Gitana, Lincoln
Abernathy, Martin, Manito	Carpenter, Colleen, Conway Springs, KS	Frawley, Jason, New Holland	Howell, Billy, Havana
Adloff, Karen, Cantrall	Carter, Patricia, Salem, MO	Freligh, Fred & Barbara, Springfield	Huffman, Randall, New Holland
Agra Tech Seeds Inc, Mason City	Casey, Lawrence, Beardstown	Fricke, Esther, Petersburg	Illini Bank %Robbins, Kilbourne
Alltell, Little Rock, AR	CFS - Westlake, Claremont	Frye, Toby, Topeka	Jacobsen, David & Pat, Athens
Alt, Charles, Mount Pulaski	Chapman, Donjell, South Pekin	Fulscher, Sibyl, New Holland	Jadaway, Jamie, Havana
Ambs, Eugene & Kathleen, Madison, WI	Chapman, Joseph, Manito	Geheber, Aaron, Manito	Jefferies, Albert & Joyce, Glenarm
Anderson, Denise, Oakford	Clark, James Jr & Lucille, Springfield	Genseal, Robert Jr, Beardstown	Johnson, F Wayne, Latham
Anzaldua, Jose & Maria, Mission, TX	Cloney, Rebecca, Springfield	Gibbs, Angela, Green Valley	Johnson, Jennifer, Athens
Arnold, David, Kilbourne	Cook, Rebecca, Pekin	Gintzig, Gary, Petersburg	Johnson, Nicon, San Jose
Aures, Ronald & Michele, Chicago	Copeland, Michael, Kenney	Glick, Rebecca, Oakford	Johnson, Robert & Florabelle, Sherman
Banning, Christopher, Galesburg	Creek, Stacey, Petersburg	Green, Opal, Cantrall	Jump, Roderick & Cynthia, Havana
Barksdale, Cathy, Greenview	Crum, Alvin, Washington	Green, Peggie, Manito	Kalusa, Frank & Phyllis, Green Valley, AZ
Barnard, Dean & Christine, Dublin, OH	Crum, Curtis, Smithshire	Griffith, Betsy, Havana	Keith, Gerald, El Paso, TX
Barnett, Larry, Mechanicsburg	Curless, Jackie, Winter Haven, FL	Grigski, Carole, Springfield	Kelsey, Danielle, Greenview
Barnett, John, Greenview	Curtiss, Carolyn, Springfield	Grootens, Anthony, Anchorage, AK	Kern, Sarah, Springfield
Bartolazzi, Larry, Riverton	Curtsinger, Rex, Springfield	Grover, Angela, Springfield	Key Outdoor Inc, Kankakee
Barton, Richard, Springfield	Davidsmeyer, Paul & Kirsten, Beardstown	Hacker, Gregory, Jacksonville	Klopfert, Gerald & Lisa, Jacksonville
Basso, Susan, Springfield	Davis, Christopher, Eagle Mountain, UT	Hackman, J David, Rochester	Klusman, Marcia, Jacksonville
Beavers, Frieda, Jacksonville	Davis, Margaret, Springfield	Hall, Crystal, Manito	Knee, Connie, Topeka
Beebe, Lori, Manito	Davis, Victor, Virginia	Hallberg, April, Manito	Kohl, Brett, Kincaid
Behrends, David, Mason City	Deal, Tammy & Art, Washington	Haley, Kimberlee, Jacksonville	Kohlbecker, Pati, Springfield
Bell, Randall, Springfield	Dearing, Wm Alen, Havana	Hammon, Clifton, Sherman	Kolis, Kathy, Springfield
Benedict, Chad, Mason City	Defend, Lois, Buffalo	Harbauer, Rebecca, Springfield	Koshinski, Bambi & Robert, Illiopolis
Bennett, Rodona, Manito	Denney, Leslie, Canton	Harris, Larry & Neva, Morton	Kramer, Harold & Sylvia, Chandlerlerville
Berg, Kent, Havana	DeVon, James & Mary, Virden	Harris, Suzanne, Springfield	Kramer, Sylvia, Fairbanks, AK
Berry, Lyndel, Topeka	Devos, Peter & Lashawn, Mechanicsburg	Harrison, Rose, Dawson	Labonte, Wendy, Arenzville
Berry, Paula, Dawson	Dhom, Keith & Heather, Petersburg	Hart, Douglas, Marana, AZ	Larson, Michael, Petersburg
Bierbaum, Charles & Carolyn, Marshall	Dierks, Steven & Sandra, Petersburg	Harter, Susan, Mount Auburn	Larson, Roger, Havana
Birdsell, Gary, Chandlerlerville	Digiovanna, John Jr, Athens	Hartley Farm Mgmt, Chatham	Lasanska, Melissa, Athens
Blakeman, John, Forsyth	Donaldson, M Nicole, Jacksonville	Hezlett, Randall, Manito	Layden, Michael, Riverton
Blankenhorn, Kathryn, Springfield	Dozert, Jerry & Patsy, Beardstown	Hea, Joseph, Beardstown	Leatherman, Robert, Manito
Blanks, Faith, Auburn	Drone, Robert & Lucille, Springfield	Heflin, Darrel, Topeka	Lee, Samantha, Topeka
Bloomfield, Raymond & Antoinette, Ashland	Drone, Thomas & Linda, Paducah, KY	Helms, Kenneth, Atlanta, GA	Lehman, Steven & Michelle, Peoria, AZ
Bohanan, Rita, Ashland	Dunlap, Donald, Athens	Hermes, Roger, Springfield	Leming, Tara, Havana
Bollensen, Linda, Meadville, PA	Dunn, Kathryn & Paul, Decatur	Heyen, Elsie, Petersburg	Libera, Joseph & Dawn, Springfield
Bowman, Stephanie, Franklin	Durkin, James & Barbara, Springfield	Hiatt, James & Helen, Chatham	Lippert, Angela, Havana
Boyer, Raymond & Diane, Lincoln	Dyson, Samuel & Patsy, Chandlerlerville	Hickey, Betty, Elkhart	Livezey, Norma & William, Tallula
Bradley, Catherine, Sherman	Ebert, Patrick, Oakford	Hickey, Michael, Springfield	Loughary, Thomas, Arenzville
Brady, Rita, Springfield	Eckard, Carl, Topeka	Hiler, Angelo, Petersburg	Lowe, Wm R, West Des Moines, IA
Brecher, Marilyn, Morton	Emery, Baron, Sullivan	Hill, David, Beardstown	Luna, Nora, Buffalo
Bell, Roger & Margaret, Illiopolis	Equilon Pipeline Co LLC, Louisville, KY	Hillyer Inc, Macomb	Lund, Clara, Chandlerlerville
Bremer, Ronald, Oak Lawn	Fain, Raymond & Anita, Surprise, AZ	Hilmes, Ashlie, Manito	Mackenzie, Kevin, Pleasant Plains
Briggs, Greg, Delavan	Ferguson, James & Constance, Gulf Shores, AL	Hilst, Christopher, Brookfield, WI	Manker, Isabel, Springfield
Brockman, Michael & Chloe, Petersburg	Fletcher, Christopher & Dee, Topeka	Hinks, Glen, Petersburg	Markee, Adam, Greenview
Brown, Rodney, Springfield	Flowers, Rodney & Tiffany, Jacksonville	Hinds, Joan, Mount Pulaski	Martin, Helen, Springfield
Bruno, Hartzel & Dawn, Mechanicsburg	Fogle, Greg, Havana	Hobson, Michael & Wanda, Niantic	Martin, Kent & Colleen, Ashland
Bryles, John, Havana	Ford, Steven & Kathy, Manito	Hohenstein, Leslie, Dawson	Marion, Carl & Junia, Athens
Burch, Daniel, Vinton, IA	Foster, Jeanne, Green Valley	Holthaus, Cheryl, Sherman	Martines, Antonio, San Jose
Byrd, Randy, Havana	Fralick, Brad, Jacksonville	Hollinshead, Tammy, Springfield	Massey, Kimberly, Springfield
Carlin, Thomas, Middletown	Francis, Donald, Lincoln	Honn, Brandon, Greenview	McGlasson, Paul Jr, Jacksonville
Carlock, Holly & James, Havana	Frank, Dan, Mt Sterling	Honn, William, Petersburg	McGrane, Bradley & Beth, Manito

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Board highlights

For full minutes visit menard.com
or contact the office.

December 28, 2021

- All Directors present, exception Jodie Tate. Also present Manager Alisha Anker, Director of Accounting & Finance Brian Hartsock, Controller/Accountant Julie Atwater, Prairie Power VP Crystal Riney, & Attorney Charles K. Smith. Dennis Ryan appointed Acting Secretary as Michael Patrick present via Zoom.
- Riney presented information & Board adopted Resolution to approve Reaffirmation of PPI Member Guarantees to support PPI initiative to secure mortgage indenture.
- Atwater presented 2021 Inventory Adjustment.
- Resolutions approved; Rural Development Utilities Program Form 674 & Rural Utilities Service Form 675 approved.
- Anker reviewed monthly & YTD financial operating report, balance sheet & financial trends. Operating margins YTD as of 11/30 were \$2,034,639 compared to \$1,782,221 last year; equity at 44,63%; 12-mo TIER 3.35 & DSC 1.89.
- Anker presented 2021 EOY Financial Summary & final 2021 Deferred Revenue revision. Anker presented Member Svcs report w/225 cutoff tickets generated; \$1,268.46 in write-offs.
- Reviewed Operations Report w/47 incidents, longest outage 277 minutes from accident affected 1 member, largest outage 197 members due to pole down from wind storm.
- Anker presented annual review of Fixed Expenses; increase in Block Heater Load compensation approved.
- Board entered executive session; reconvened.
- Next mtg 1/25/22.

"Inactive members" continued from page 18C

McGregor, Dawn, Franklin
McKinney, Jeffory, Manito
McLaughlin, Kenneth & Patricia, Petersburg
McLaughlin, Scott, Petersburg
McMasters, Charles, Dawson
Merriman, Stacey, Virginia
Miller, Brian & Amy, Springfield
Miller, Leonard & Marion, Lincoln
Milliron, Patricia, Springfield
Mills, Glen & Allison, Mount Pulaski
Monroe, Bryce & Roszetta, Athens
Monroe, Harold & Juanita, Springfield
Monroe, John & Sandra, Topeka
Montes, Amelia & Manuel, San Diego, CA
Montgomery, Dale Jr & Kim, Manito
Moomey, Gerald & Roberta, Hillview
Moore, Willie & Annbell, Kiefer, OK
Moos, Patrick, Elkhart
Moran, Frederick & Emma, Pekin
Morris, Scott, St Petersburg, FL
Morrison, Robert & Ava, Tallula
Morlock, Daniel, Athens
Mosier, Mary & Jesse, Lincoln
Moss, Glenn & Joan, Tallula
Mullen, Linda, Beardstown
Murphy, James & Kristie, Dawson
Neal, James & Shirley, Havana
Nelson, Scott, Athens
Nelson, Thomas, Manito
Noreuil, Timothy, Saint Louis, MO
Noltensmeier, Lois, Chandlerville
Olivio, Raymond Sr, Springfield
Omer, Ronald, Pleasant Plains
Otey, Kimmari, Pekin
Otto, Dennis, Quincy
Overby, Gerald Jr & Corrina, Springfield
Overturf, Richard, Mahomet
Payne, Loyd, Ridgedale, MO
Peak, Danny, Springfield
Perfetti, Michael, Havana
Peters, Mary, Jacksonville
Pherigo, Jason, Chandlerville
Phillips, Tracy, Trivoli
Pickel, Shirley, Illiopolis
Pile, John, Springfield
Plattner, Bennette & Lynn, Petersburg
Post, Harold & Grace, Peoria
Pottorf, Lyle, Greenview
Powell, Ada, Petersburg
Powell, Mary, Springfield
Prior, Cheryl, Illiopolis
Pritchard, Patricia, Athens
Prizm Construction, Dawson
Przykopanski, Patrick, Mount Pulaski
Puckett, Douglas & Bonnie, Manito
Purdy, Brad, Petersburg
Ramey, Penny, Riverton
Ray, Teresa, Davenport, IA
Reagan, Ronald, Peoria
Redpath, Thomas & Lisa, Petersburg
Reichart, Bernard & Marilyn, Springfield
Rexroad, Randy, Cantrall
Rhodes, Roy & Gladys, Pleasant Plains
Rich, Christopher, Chandlerville
Richardson, William, Lewistown
Rice, Julian, Springfield
Ridley, William, Springfield
Rilea, Marty, Forest City
Ripka, Thomas & Sue, Williamsville
Robertson, Larry, Lincoln
Robinson, Christa, Manito
Robinson, John & Jennifer, Frederick
Robinson, Michael & Susan, Murrayville
Robinson, Velma, Jacksonville
Rogers, Ronald, Virginia
Rohlfing, Eldon, Springfield
Rohlfing, Ronald Jr & Angie, Beardstown
Ross, Judith, Springfield
Roth, Neva, Huron, OH
Runyon, Michael & Liz, Pekin
Sabo, Chet, Edinburg
Salrin, Aimee, Sherman
Salzman, Virginia, Lincoln
Sanders, Melinda, Springfield
Sandoval, Angel, Beardstown
Sarver, David, Colfax, IA
Sarver, William & Susan, Manito
Savage, Leo, Beardstown
Scaduto, Dominic, Springfield
Schaal, Kellie, Blue Mound
Schafer, Gregory & Stacey, Petersburg
Schinzler, Becky, Buffalo
Schnirring, Dorian & Paul, Springfield
Schoonover, Teresa, Petersburg
Schuh, Kurt, Springfield
Schurman, Steve & Elizabeth, Athens
Self, Charles, Beardstown
Shane, Theodore & Alberta, Tucson, AZ
Shay, Sandra, Havana
Shelby, Alfred & Cynthia, Havana
Short, Dola, Springfield
Shoup, Stephen & Debra, Dawson
Showalter, Melanie, Havana
Shymansky, Sean & Amy, Washington
Simmons, James & Pamela, Greenview
Simpson, Rodney, Denver, IA
Smith, Howard & Karen, Rushville
Smith, Jeffrey, Beardstown
Smith, Melva, Easton
Smith, Nicole, Elkhart
Smith, Scott & Regina, Springfield
Smith, Travis & Heather, Athens
Sorrrells, Amy & Mike, Petersburg
Sorrrells, Kevin & Susan, Rushville
Spangler, Brian, Springfield
Springfield Investment Co, Springfield
Squires, Jan & Jeffrey, Pleasant Plains
Stahr, Gene, Taylorville
Steele, Jack & Edna, Havana
Steindl, Martin, Pleasant Plains
Steller, Robert & Shirley, Chatham
Stenerson, David, Phoenix, AZ
Stone, Edna, Petersburg
Stone, Randy & Kelly, Henry
Strandberg, Dan & Nancy, Havana
Strope, Daryl, Petersburg
Strube, Daniel & Patricia, Topeka
Swearingen, Albert & Joan, North Pekin
Swenson, James, Springfield
Taylor, David, Petersburg
Taylor, Joshua, Tallula
Teran, Estuardo & Linda, Washington
Thompson, Joretta & Billy, Finley, KY
Thompson, Michael, Lincoln
Thompson, Teresa, Havana
Tinkham, Scott & Shannon, Buffalo
Tone, Yancey & Diana, Concord
Treadway Duck Club Ltd, Forest Park
Troxell, Debra, Topeka
Trussell, Harold, Lincoln
Turley, Terri, Athens
Turner, Dawn & Michael, Springfield
Turner, Joshua, Oakford
Ungrund, Lee & Linda, Illiopolis
Walkenbach, William, New Berlin
Wallace, Amelia, Topeka
Wanless, Jodi, Athens
Warren, Richard & Kathryn, Mechanicsburg
Wasson, Helen, Havana
Watson, Randy & Gail, Topeka
Watson, Shane, Mason City
Watters, Tony, New Berlin
Weemer, Stephen, Petersburg
Wegman, Starla, Springfield
Weicherding, David & Patricia, Peoria
West, Steven & Deborah, Lincoln
Wheat, William, Havana
White, Margaret & Ray, Vermont
Wiley, Jeff, Springfield
Wilham, Margaret, Mount Pulaski
Williams, Charles & Patti, Topeka
Willis, David & Alisa, New Holland
Willson, Nancy, Springfield
Wise, Shirley, Havana
Wood, Patricia & Scott, Warrensburg
Wooding, Allen, Forest City
Wright, Bonnie, Springfield
Yager, Patricia, East Peoria
Yost, Janice, Springfield
Yunker, Frank & Hedwig, Lincoln
Zeisler, Loren, Bluff Springs



Popular weather folklore states that if March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb. It's impossible to predict the weather any time of year, and this month can be particularly tricky. We can have bitter cold temperatures and late season snowstorms, harsh lightning storms and strong winds, or spring-like warm days with gentle rains.

Remember, no matter the weather our linemen are always prepared to restore outages as quickly and safely as possible. Perhaps a bright spot to recall is another popular folklore: March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers. In the meantime, here are some tips to be ready for lion-like weather.

- 💧 **Stay away from downed lines**
Lines can be hidden in storm debris so stay alert. They may be energized even if the power is out.
- 💧 **Do not enter flooded basements**
Standing water could be energized. Do not turn off electric to your home unless it is dry and safe to do so.

- 💧 **When thunder roars, go indoors!**
Seek shelter indoors or in a hard topped vehicle. If you can't get to shelter, avoid open fields and hilltops, stay away from tall, isolated trees and objects, spread out if you are in a group.

Stay connected with the MyMEC App.

Download the app now for your mobile device to report outages, view a map, receive notifications and also access your account. Search for Menard Outage in the Google Play or iOS app store and input your account number (found on a recent bill) or your meter number (located under the digital digits and above the barcode). Outages can also be reported at menard.com/outage-center or at 800-872-1203.

