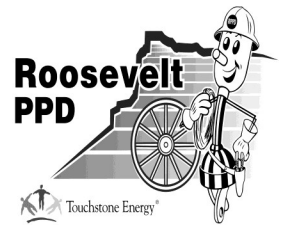


# Roosevelt Public Power District

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## SMART TIPS FOR SPACE HEATERS & ELECTRIC BLANKETS

Many people turn to space heaters or electric blankets for added warmth in the winter. When buying a space heater or electric blanket, check for approved safety certification marks to verify that the product has been tested for safety. Look for a space heaters and electric blankets with safety features, including an automatic shut off. Be very cautious about buying used space heaters or electric blankets. They may not have up-to-date safety mechanisms. Your safety is worth the investment in a new heater or blanket.

Safe Electricity shares the following tips for using space heaters and electric blankets:

- Review and follow all manufacturer directions.
- Plug space heaters and electric blankets directly into outlets; avoid using an extension cord.
- Always remember to turn off space heaters and electric blankets when not in use. Never leave one of these devices on unattended or after going to bed.
- Many fires start when flammable products are placed too close to heating devices, such as space heaters. Space heaters should be kept at least 3 feet from blankets, clothing, paper, and other flammables.
- Place space heaters out of high-traffic areas and on a level, hard, non-flammable floor surface — NOT on carpets, furniture, or countertops.
- Be aware of pets and children near heating appliances. Pets should never be allowed to sleep on top of electric blankets.
- Keep space heaters and electric blankets away from water. If they become wet, do not turn them on to dry.

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## WHAT IS THE CUSTOMER CHARGE?

The customer charge is a fixed monthly amount which is the basic fee for your electric service. It does not fluctuate with usage and does not include any consumption. This charge is intended to cover our costs of maintaining our electrical system, and covers everything required to deliver the electricity to you; for example, the poles, the wire, the transformers, the meters, the trucks, etc. Due to rising costs, the Board has voted to raise the customer charge this year by 5%, which will come out to \$30.45, and will take effect January 1, 2019. The Board works diligently to keep costs to a minimum, and the last increase in the customer charge was January of 2017. You will not see this reflected on your bill until the January 31, 2019 statement.

### What Are Power "Blinks"

Power supply occurrences that were unnoticed years ago are reported today by the many electronic devices all around us. Before digital clocks, we never noticed these "blinks." Now these events seem to happen all the time; they are not more frequent, but we are more aware of them.

It might surprise you to know that most power quality problems begin right in the home or business. A spike (a.k.a. transient surge) may occur in the building's wiring when electric motors, like those on the refrigerator or air conditioner, start up. Other problems may come from faulty wiring, loose connections, poor grounding and inadequate wire size. These conditions can cause voltage drops, momentary outages (blinks), or electrical noise.

Many times, having the power blink is better than the alternative—having it go out completely. Blinks are sometimes caused by devices designed to protect the electrical system. These devices are called "reclosers." Reclosers essentially act like the circuit breakers in your home, with one major difference—they reset themselves after "breaking" the circuit. The intent is that a tree touching the line, or other problem, such as small animals, will cause the recloser to open. The device will reset itself, and power will once again flow down the line.

If the problem has cleared the line, power will stay on. If the problem still exists, the recloser will operate again. After trying three times, most reclosers are designed to stay open until the problem is fixed and the device is manually reset. The opening and closing of the recloser is almost instantaneous and is often not even noticed. Before the linemen can reset

### BAKED POTATOES WITH MUSHROOM RAGU

8 baking potatoes	1/4 c. plus 2 tbsps. Canola oil	2 tbsps. Butter
4 lbs mixed mushrooms	1 white onion, chopped	Salt & pepper
4 garlic cloves, minced	1 c. dry white wine	1 c. beef broth
1 tbsp. tarragon, chopped	2 tsps. thyme, chopped	

Heat the oven to 425. Pierce the potatoes with a fork, and rub with oil. Bake for 1 hour, or until tender when

pierced. Meanwhile, in a large, deep skillet, melt the butter in the oil. Add the mushrooms, season with salt and pepper, and cook over high heat, stirring occasionally, for about 20 minutes. Add the onion and garlic and cook until the mushrooms are deeply browned (about 8 minutes). Add the wine and cook until evaporated. Stir in the stock, tarragon, and