



Dawson Dynamo

An informed customer is our greatest asset

Short outages should be expected as repairs continue

Dawson PPD customers may be affected by short-term outages, lasting only a few hours, this spring and summer. As ice storm damage is repaired, crews may need to de-energize lines while they work on them. The storms also took their toll on some line

equipment, which may malfunction causing additional outages.

If your home will be affected by a planned outage that will last two or more hours, Dawson will try to contact you.

Your patience is appreciated while the system is being restored to its pre-storm condition.



Months after the ice storms, Dawson continues to work on power lines and equipment across the area. Some short outages will be needed so the linemen can complete their work.

DPPD on your caller ID

Has Dawson Public Power District called? If you see our name on your caller ID and you don't have a voice mail message, we'll call back another time or try to contact you by mail.

Basic energy conservation is painless

Conserving energy doesn't have to leave you sitting in the dark or sacrificing modern conveniences. There are many simple ways to reduce the amount of electricity you use in your home.

- **Turn it off when you're finished using it.** Whether it is lights, a radio, the television set or your computer, turn it off when you are finished using it. Teach your family and co-workers to do the same.
- **Wash full loads in your dishwasher or clothes washer.** Mini-loads require nearly the same amount of electricity as a full load, so get the most out of each kilowatt by washing full loads, following the manufacturer's directions. However, over stuffing the clothes washer or dishwasher may lead to poor cleaning results.
- **Replace standard light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.** They use much less electricity and they last much longer than traditional bulbs.
- **Use the microwave when possible.** The microwave oven uses less energy than heating food on your electric range.
- **Unplug the extra refrigerator.** If you have a second or third refrigerator, consider consolidating your food storage into just one. Older units use more electricity. Ask yourself if it is worth \$100 or more dollars per year to keep the second refrigerator running.



Conservation doesn't have to mean big sacrifices. Simple things, like using the microwave for heating vegetables, can help you save energy at home.

Ice storm questions are answered

During the winter ice storms, Dawson customers requested information about Dawson's policies and procedures. Three of the most frequently asked questions and the answers follow:

Why did you use the call center to answer the phones during the storm? I wanted to talk to someone local.

Dawson PPD uses Nebraska Public Power District's call center to answer the phones after hours and during major outages. The call cen-

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“Heeeee’s outa here...”

Photo courtesy of Scott Anderson.

Lineman Gary Moritz retires after 35 years of service to the district... his plans include continuing to umpire girls fast-pitch softball

Maintenance lineman Gary Moritz has always kept busy in the summers, but retirement will give him more time to devote to the activities he enjoys. He has umpired ASA and high school girls fast pitch softball for years. Moritz also enjoys golfing and travel, although he doesn't have any definite plans.

In his 35 years at Dawson, Gary has seen a lot of changes. He started on the construction crew without any previous experience working with power lines or electricity.

“I really learned from the ground up. The terminology was so different from anything else I'd done -- I didn't know what the guys were talking about at first,” he said of those first weeks and months on the job.

From the construction crew, Moritz moved to the tree crew and back again to the construction crew before taking a maintenance position. He served customers in the area south of Lexington. After a change in maintenance area boundaries, he served customers in the Johnson Lake and Eustis areas.

“There's been a lot of changes. We used to use A-frame trucks and pole pikes,” he explains. “Its different from the trucks we use today, there have been several advances.”

Moritz also notes changes at Dawson PPD over the years.

“Dawson has increased the emphasis on safety. We know that we are expected to take the time to do things the right way,” he says. “I also think there's more of a team approach where everyone is involved.”

When asked what he will not miss about working at Dawson



Gary Moritz

PPD, he quickly answered ‘ice storms, being on call and working on disconnect day.’

Over the years, Moritz worked to make repairs to the lines after storms and he will definitely remember the 1994 and the 2006 storms for a long time.

“I'll miss the working with the customers who were very understanding when we had major storms,” Moritz continues. “I want to thank them for being patient.”

“I also want to thank Dawson PPD for taking care of me all these years.”

Gary and Mary Ann Moritz live in Lexington. They have two children, Todd and Kristi. They also have two grandsons, Trever and Lane. Gary is the son of Sterling Moritz of Lexington.

Assistance and guidance are offered to Nebraskans

Nebraska Energy Assistance Network (NEAN), a statewide coalition of utilities, governmental agencies, regulators and community leaders was formed a little over one year ago. Energy utilities in the state of Nebraska recognized the need to help Nebraskans understand energy needs, weatherization, conservation and available assistance.

It was one of the first times that gas and electric utilities sat in

one room to develop a consistent message for all Nebraskans.

NEAN members believe it is important that Nebraskans:

- Know about energy needs and resources in Nebraska
- Can access funds to provide for their energy needs that is beyond their financial means; and
- Have the knowledge and resources to practice energy conservation.

Part of the NEAN discussions include the increasing costs of energy and those costs becoming a larger portion of income. The focus is also related to the importance of conservation to reduce bills, and particularly for people in need. Lower energy costs will help expand the reach of limited resources used for assistance by qualifying individuals.

Nebraska Energy Assistance Network was formed using a partnership approach with electric and gas utilities as well as service agencies. A grant was acquired from the University of Nebraska at Omaha to fund conservation kits that were used to educate senior citizen's on inexpensive ways to reduce energy consumption.

For more information about NEAN and its services, contact Dawson Public Power or visit www.nebraskaenergyassistance.com.

Employee spotlight

Dan Jones is celebrating his service anniversary in March. He has worked for Dawson PPD for 20 years. He is the Chief Area Serviceman at the Sumner Service Center.

Dan and his wife, Sheri, live near Eddyville. They have six children: Tara, Scott, Timmeree, Jeremy, Staci and Hallie. They also have two grandchildren, Brayden and Carson.



Dan Jones

Nominate a teen for Youth Energy Camp

July 16 - 20

We're looking for three outstanding teens who...

Are hard working

Have a positive attitude

Want to improve their leadership skills

Would like to learn more about utility careers

Would like an opportunity to win a trip to Washington, D.C.

Students must live in a home served by Dawson PPD. The service territory includes all of rural Dawson and Buffalo counties, parts of Lincoln, Gosper, Custer, Frontier, and Sherman counties. Towns included are Hershey, Maxwell, Brady, Eustis, Farnam, Elwood, Smithfield, Eddyville, Sumner, Miller, Amherst, Pleasanton, Riverdale, Odessa and Overton.

Student's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Year in school (2006-07 school year)

Freshman

Sophomore

Junior

Nominated by _____

Are you moving large equipment near power lines?

Check for clearance before you drive near or under a power line. The weight of ice on the lines has changed the height of some lines. Please be cautious.

If you need to have a line raised, call Dawson PPD at 800-752-8305. Do not attempt to move the line or drive through it.

Questions...

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ter is equipped to handle a large volume of calls and the operators are trained to handle customer questions and concerns.

During the first storm, the call center logged 12,131 calls in nine days, accounting for nearly 390 hours of phone time. During the second storm, the call center logged 21,114 calls in 17 days with just over 325 hours on the phone.

If Dawson would have taken calls during the outages, many customers would have gotten a busy signal.

Another important reason for using the call center is their outage tracking system. The call center logs customer information by customer, substation and circuit. This data appears on a master spread sheet, providing a valuable tool for dispatchers at Dawson PPD.

How do we find out how long an outage may last?

During smaller outages, defined as affecting 300 or less meters, the call center receives information from the linemen about the cause and the time when power restoration is expected.

However, during large-scale outages, it can be difficult to tell customers when they may have power restored. The call center does not have direct communication with the line workers. During the outage in January, Dawson improved the communication process by offering daily updates to the call center personnel, documenting the general restoration progress. However, due to the magnitude of the work, individual customer-by-customer updates are not feasible.

Call center personnel usually won't pinpoint the day or time power will be restored after a major outage, so you will be told to plan for an extended outage.

Does Dawson PPD check poles and lines to make sure they don't break in storms?

Yes, Dawson has an on-going pole testing program and continually performs maintenance on equipment to assure it is in working order.

Using a 15-inch piece of ice (measuring four inches in diameter) that fell from a power line in Buffalo County, it was calculated that a normal 300-foot span of wire was loaded with up to 1,480 pounds of ice.

Dawson's lines are engineered to hold up to a half-inch of ice. In a 300 foot span, that would calculate to a load of 185 pounds of ice.

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Kearney.....308-234-3111

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Website

www.dawsonpower.com