



# WATTS UP



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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2023

### Human Error:

Accidents happen. Car accidents can damage equipment and poles, construction workers can dig into a line, tree trimmers can accidentally drop a limb on the lines or contact the lines with their trucks, and mylar balloons that have been released make contact with the lines.. There are some precautions that help in these accident situations. ALWAYS call 811 before you dig! This is a nationwide service that notifies all utilities in the area. They will all come out and mark their underground lines to avoid dig ins. Be mindful of disposing of tarps and mylar balloons. Make sure that items like tarps, trampolines, plastic kiddie pools or any other light weight items that might take flight during high winds are secured properly.

Power outages can happen, due to various reasons. It is important to have a plan in place for extended outages. Evaluate your needs and the needs of your family and loved ones and have a plan in place. Follow OPD5's social media platforms and website for important updates. Call and report any downed power lines, loud noises or flashes that you see when the outage occurs, this can help our crews locate the problem. Do not approach crews in the field, for your safety and theirs, please contact our offices for questions or concerns. Sign up for OPD5's alerts & notifications.

### Power Outage Tips:

- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed.
- Have alternate plans for refrigerating medicines or using power dependent medical devices.
- Have flashlights and batteries or candles.
- Have a corded phone or an external rechargeable battery pack for charging cell phones.
- Prepare nonperishable foods that do not require electric appliances.
- Have a manual can opener.
- Use a portable or permanent standby generator. Most backup systems are designed to operate independently from OPD5's electric system by using a manual transfer switch or an automatic transfer switch to sense the loss of power from OPD5 and initiate power use from the generator. Once OPD5's electric service is restored, the generator's automatic transfer switch will shift the customer's usage back to OPD5 and will signal the back up generator to shut-off.

### **SAFETY, ABOVE ALL ELSE**

Regardless of the type of generator you use, consult with a licensed electric contractor for proper installation and setup. If you install or use your generator incorrectly, you risk damaging your property and endangering lives. (see generator installation and safety tips on page 3).

### LIKE US ON FACEBOOK, FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM @OPD5

Our Facebook page and Twitter feed are valuable resources to provide our customers with news and updates whenever an unplanned power outage occurs.

You can access both thru our website, they are setup in a way that does not require you to have a Facebook or Twitter account to view the information.

We also post great tips on energy conservation, safety & emergency preparedness on Instagram.

Please remember, in the event of a power outage, **do not** report it through our social media accounts, we do not monitor messages received via social media.

In case of an unexpected power outage, please call us at (702)397-2512 or (702)346-5710. OPD5 has personnel on standby 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, Including weekends & holidays to respond as quickly as possible in the event of an emergency.

### Follow us on:



### OVERTON OFFICE

615 N. Moapa Valley Blvd.  
PO Box 395  
Overton, NV 89040  
Telephone: (702) 397-2512  
Fax: (702) 397-2583

### MESQUITE OFFICE

731 Turtleback Rd  
Mesquite, NV 89027  
Telephone: (702) 346-5710  
Fax: (702) 346-5880

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Closed 12:00 pm—1:00 pm  
Visit us online at  
[www.opd5.com](http://www.opd5.com)

### UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

July 2023  
N/A  
Summer Break

August 16, 2023  
3:00 pm  
Mesquite Office  
Engineering Building  
Board Room

September 20, 2023  
3:00 pm  
Overton Office  
Board Room

Board meetings are subject to change. Please check our website, Facebook, Instagram or Twitter prior to the meeting for a copy of the agenda.

### **Power Outages, Causes and Preparedness**

*By: Kristi Eames, Customer Service Supervisor/Public Relations*

Let's talk about power outages. Power outages or blackouts can happen at any time and can be frustrating. Due to the dependency on electricity, disruptions in power supply may cause inconvenience to many individuals and businesses. Understanding the reasons for power outages is essential in mitigating the effects of the outages.

### Weather or Natural Disasters:

Weather phenomena like hurricanes, tornadoes, ice storms, and even excessive heat can cause power outages. Here in the Nevada desert our biggest threats are high winds, lightning strikes, floods, and wildfires. Any of these factors can cause damage to power facilities and cause interruptions to the power supply.

### Equipment Failure:

Electrical equipment like transformers, breakers, and switches can undergo mechanical failures leading to outages. Equipment failures may arise due to age, corrosion, and wear and tear. Additionally, animals like rodents and birds can chew cables and damage equipment leading to faults and outages. OPD5 has a scheduled maintenance plan in place and when planned outages are required to complete maintenance you will be notified.

### Overload:

An overload occurs when the demand for electricity surpasses the capacity of the electrical grid to transmit and supply the energy. Overloading conditions occur on a regional level. The grid becomes overloaded when multiple cities and states see increased demand at the same time. As we approach the hot summer months, we may ask our customers to conserve energy. We only ask when the capacity of the grid has the potential to be overloaded and cause blackouts. When we ask you to conserve energy, we are essentially asking you to cut all non-essential electrical use. Avoid charging electric vehicles, doing laundry, close your blinds or simply adjust your thermostat by a couple of degrees. If we all do just a little bit to save during peak times, then we can all avoid blackouts. OPD5 asks customers to conserve to avoid the implementation of rolling blackouts in our territory.

# Watt About Solar

## HOW SOLAR PANELS WORK WORD SEARCH



Did you know energy from the sun can be used to create electricity? Read the following information about how solar panels work, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.

Solar panels contain **photovoltaic** cells that convert sunlight into **electricity**. Sunlight hits the **solar** panels and generates a direct current. The direct **current** flows to an inverter, which converts it to an alternating current. (This is the kind of electricity we use in our homes.) The alternating current flows from the **inverter** to the home's breaker box, where it's used to **power** appliances and electrical devices in your home. If the solar **panels** generate more **electricity** than the home needs, the unused electricity is sent back to the power lines.

T	N	B	S	T	T	G	Z	O	V	S	U	Y	V	K
P	H	Y	I	C	T	N	H	Z	O	V	K	W	Z	A
P	B	N	G	E	O	Z	E	L	P	L	K	K	B	R
G	H	T	Q	Y	N	P	A	R	F	N	R	C	A	E
R	X	O	D	W	G	R	Q	W	R	B	Z	S	U	T
S	P	K	T	X	D	S	T	O	Y	U	T	U	Q	R
V	O	U	U	O	S	L	E	N	A	P	C	Y	S	E
F	F	S	W	R	V	X	E	H	Z	P	D	W	U	V
H	F	B	E	X	I	O	B	Q	G	F	P	Y	N	N
I	V	W	I	W	O	N	L	E	F	P	X	V	L	I
X	O	Y	C	Z	J	K	Z	T	A	J	F	F	I	F
P	R	X	S	F	Z	K	E	U	A	D	P	Q	G	V
B	K	E	L	E	C	T	R	I	C	I	T	Y	H	G
V	S	B	F	U	E	I	U	E	J	N	C	C	T	Z
J	M	T	V	H	W	S	M	V	O	K	E	L	R	N



# Watt to Know

## TIPS FOR THE PROPER INSTALLATION AND USE OF GENERATORS

	<b>NEVER</b> operate a generator <b>INSIDE</b> your home or in other enclosed or partially-enclosed spaces, including <b>GARAGES</b> .		Make sure your generator is properly grounded and used with a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter ( <b>GFCI</b> ).		Install battery-operated <b>CO ALARMS</b> or plug-in CO alarms with a battery backup inside the home.
	A generator is a <b>TEMPORARY</b> power source and should <b>NEVER</b> be used as a permanent solution.		Use only extension cords that have a <b>THREE-PRONGED</b> plug and are rated for the intended load.		<b>Do NOT OVERLOAD</b> the generator.
	<b>NEVER</b> connect generators directly to household wiring without first installing a <b>TRANSFER SWITCH</b> . This prevents backfeeding which could electrocute utility workers making repairs.		Your home generator should be installed by a <b>QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN</b> and bear the mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as UL, Intertek or CSA.		The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends generators be positioned at least <b>20 FEET</b> from doors, windows and vents to prevent CO from entering the home.

Our offices will be closed on  
 September 4, 2023—Labor Day  
 October 27, 2023—Nevada Day  
 November 10, 2023—Veterans Day  
 November 23, 2023—Thanksgiving Day  
 November 24, 2023—Family Day  
 Regular office hours will resume the following business day