



## RESULTS THAT MATTER

BY TOM WALCH CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Grand Valley Power team members are focused on delivering results for our cooperative members. You experience it with great hometown service. You benefit from reliability numbers that are typically among the best in the state of Colorado and across the nation. But there's one critical area where our team members are delivering great results that might not be so visible to you. A few weeks ago, Grand Valley Power marked the five-year anniversary of its last lost-time accident. In other words, it has been more than five years since the last time any of our team members missed a day of work due to an on-the-job incident.

Safety is our most important foundational principle. With the hazardous nature of the work that so many of our employees engage in on a daily basis, it has to be. Everything we do begins with safety at the top of mind. Electrical linework is one of the most dangerous occupations around. It requires a high level of technical knowledge to understand the physics of flowing electrons. It takes even more skill to route those electrons over and through the equipment necessary to bring it into your homes and businesses safely and efficiently. And GVP linemen do it so well that we all take for granted that any time we hit the switch, the lights will come on.

Technical expertise is just one part of the equation. Our linemen have to climb poles carrying heavy equipment. They must learn to use bulky personal protective gear

that limits their manual dexterity and makes a difficult job even tougher. They have to operate heavy, complex tools. In many instances, our linemen have to work high above the ground, in close proximity to energized high-voltage electric lines. When they're called to respond to a power outage, they don't have the luxury of saying that it's too cold or too wet or too dark. They don't say that they can't make it because the roads are too icy. They don't do any of that. They just answer the call.

As a career desk jockey who spends most of my time in meetings or in front of a computer screen, I really can't fully appreciate the hard work that our team members routinely perform. I can't comprehend what it's like to subject myself to the high degree of risk that our linemen accept every day. All I can do is express my gratitude to them for their willingness to do what they do for the members of Grand Valley Power. I can be proud of the way they answer the call.

You have all heard me brag about how the hometown service delivered by our Grand Valley Power team members is rightly branded as "Five-Star Customer Service." Having marked five years without a lost-time accident, and having seen all the things our linemen — and everyone who supports them — do to get the job done safely, we can stake a claim as having a "Five-Star Safety Program" as well.



TOM WALCH

Because at the end of the day, when all our linemen return home to their families to toss a ball with their kids or have dinner with their spouse, it's then that we realize what Five-Star Safety truly gets us. As much as anything else we do here at our cooperative, these are the results that matter.

### COMMENTS TO THE CEO

You are a member of a cooperative and your opinion does count. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please let Tom Walch know by writing to *Ask the CEO*, P.O. Box 190, Grand Junction, Colorado 81502, or send an email to me at [twalch@gvp.org](mailto:twalch@gvp.org). Check out our website at [gvp.org](http://gvp.org).

### BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Grand Valley Power board meetings are open to members, consumers and the public. Regularly scheduled board meetings are held at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the headquarters building located at 845 22 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado.

The monthly agenda is posted in the lobby of the headquarters building 10 days before each meeting and posted on the GVP website.

If anyone desires to address the Board of Directors, please let us know in advance and you will be placed on the agenda.

# HOME ENERGY



# MONEY SAVING TIPS



## CEILING FANS

Moving air creates a cooling or warming effect. Set your ceiling fan to rotate counterclockwise in summer; clockwise on low in winter.



## WATER

Turn off faucets, take shorter showers, and avoid unnecessary water use.

## LIGHTS

Switch to LEDs for a more efficient and brighter lighting solution.



## LAUNDRY

Wash and dry only full loads of laundry to conserve water and energy. Line dry clothes if possible.



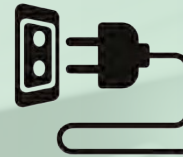
## THERMOSTAT

You can save as much as 10% a year on heating and cooling costs by setting your thermostat to 68° in the winter and 78° in the summer.



## APPLIANCES

Consider running your dishwasher, electric stove, and dryer during off-peak hours (9 p.m. to 4 p.m.).  
**PRO TIP:** Use a slow cooker to make delicious meals and save energy.



## UNPLUG

Unplug electronic devices and charging cords while not in use to reduce phantom energy loss.

## WATER HEATER

Set your water heater temperature to 120° to save energy and money.





**GVA**  
GRAND VALLEY POWER  
Empowering Lives with Hometown Service  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

# DAYLIGHT SAVING Spring Forward

Advance your clocks one hour at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 10, 2024.

## Employee Appreciation Day March 1



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE CO-OP

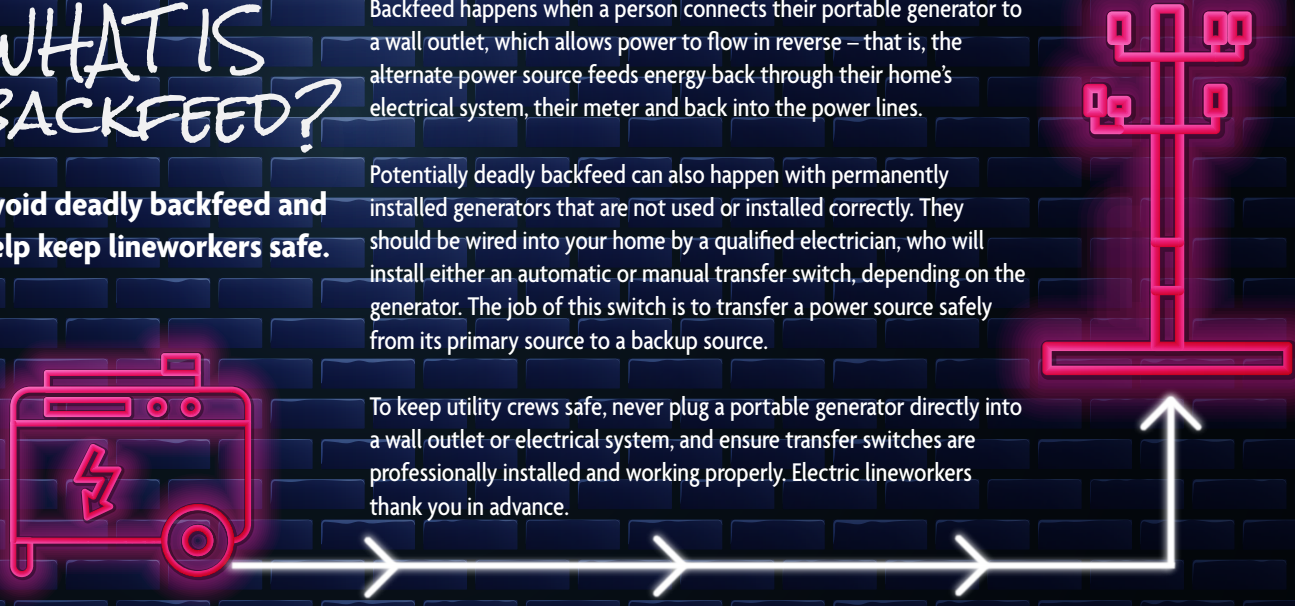
### WHAT IS BACKFEED?

Backfeed happens when a person connects their portable generator to a wall outlet, which allows power to flow in reverse – that is, the alternate power source feeds energy back through their home’s electrical system, their meter and back into the power lines.

Potentially deadly backfeed can also happen with permanently installed generators that are not used or installed correctly. They should be wired into your home by a qualified electrician, who will install either an automatic or manual transfer switch, depending on the generator. The job of this switch is to transfer a power source safely from its primary source to a backup source.

To keep utility crews safe, never plug a portable generator directly into a wall outlet or electrical system, and ensure transfer switches are professionally installed and working properly. Electric lineworkers thank you in advance.

**Avoid deadly backfeed and help keep lineworkers safe.**



### 2024 Board Meetings

Regularly scheduled board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. at 845 22 Road, Grand Junction. \*Meeting date changed due to conflicts/holidays.

- March 20
- April 17
- May 15
- June 26\*
- July 25\*
- August 21
- September 18
- October 16
- November 21\*
- December 18




# GVP Outages Shorter than Most

BY RITA-LYN SANDERS

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS | RSANDERS@GVP.ORG



RITA-LYN SANDERS

When I joined my elementary school’s guitar club in sixth grade, I learned John Denver songs because I could literally see the lyrics in my head. Phrases such as “I’ve seen it rainin’ fire in the sky” had me visualizing tendrils of lightning reaching down from the clouds to touch the tops of the rocky mountains.

Last summer, while watching one of these awesome displays crawl across the sky over my house, the lights flickered. And then I received a text notification that power had gone out for a significant number of Grand Valley Power members in the Clifton area.

Just a couple of minutes later I received another text, this time about an outage in the Orchard Mesa area impacting more than 300 members. Altogether, the lights went out for 2,891 members that August evening.

Power outages are most likely to occur during storms. Be it snow, wind, or lightning, weather can wreak havoc on lines, poles, and electrical devices. In 2023, weather was the top cause of power interruptions for Grand Valley Power members, followed by equipment failure, planned outages, trees, and animals. Regardless of the cause, though, Grand Valley Power members were without power for an average of 68.1 minutes in 2023. This is a stellar result. In the last five years, just one other year ended with a more impressive number.

Grand Valley Power’s System Average Interruption Duration Index, or SAIDI, is below the median for Colorado electric cooperatives, meaning that our members experience shorter outages than most Coloradans. The state median over the past five years is 179.9 minutes, while the national median during the same period is 212.4 minutes.

Over the last 10 years, weather has been one of the most common causes of outages for our members. In the case of the Clifton area outage last August, lightning struck a transformer. The surge caused a three-phase feeder circuit to open and the power to go out for 2,550 members connected to this main line.

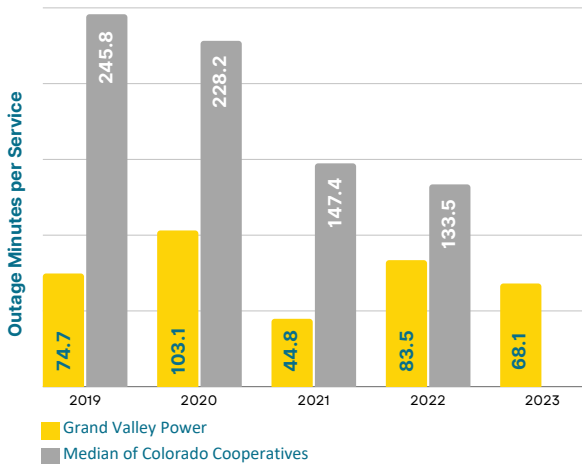
Almost immediately, Grand Valley Power’s substation technician, Leroy Lowary, went out on the job. In fact, the power went out at his house, too, practically negating the need for the call from dispatch. Dispatch also called on Lineman Trevor Lettman to respond with Leroy to the Clifton outage, and Serviceman Scott Bradley to head to Orchard Mesa, the location of the smaller outage.

Our linemen rolled out to inspect the system as tendrils of lightning relentlessly slapped the Valley floor. At the large outage in Clifton, Leroy and Trevor patrolled miles of line in the dark under flashing skies. Working safely and efficiently, it took 2.5 hours for them to confirm the lines were clear and to close the circuit to get the lights back on for 2,550 members.

Outages like this demonstrate how one severe weather event can have a big impact on Grand Valley Power’s SAIDI number. I know that I never really thought about what it means. Now, I think about it every time it rains fire in the sky.

## Grand Valley Power 5-Year SAIDI History

SAIDI (System Average Interruption Duration Index) represents the average interruption (in minutes) that each member experiences during the year.



## 5 Most Common Outages in 2023

- 1 Weather**  
 In our region, ice, snow, lightning, and wind make up the largest cause of outage minutes.
- 2 Equipment Damage/Failure**  
 Employees proactively maintain cooperative infrastructure, but sometimes damage or failure occurs.
- 3 Planned**  
 Grand Valley Power schedules planned outages to perform maintenance on the distribution system.
- 4 Trees**  
 Broken limbs and fallen trees can create issues when they hit power lines and poles.
- 5 Birds or Animals**  
 GVP uses construction practices that reduce risks to wildlife; however, animals and birds can cause outages when they climb or perch on equipment.