

What's Current

NOVEC

The Powerful Choice

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LED fault indicators to be installed on NOVEC lines

NOVEC is in the process of installing new fault indicators on overhead power lines, with the goal of improving outage response time. These fault indicators, with high-intensity LED lights, are being strategically placed on our distribution lines.



New LED fault indicators will eventually be installed throughout our service territory, with the goal of improving outage response time.

The new indicators are more reliable and more intelligent than fault indicators used in the past. If the device detects a fault (or failure) on the line, it will immediately begin flashing. The fault indicators flash 30 times per minute and NOVEC staff patrolling the area can easily see the light from the ground, directing them to the damaged part of the line. The LED indicators are so bright that they're even visible in the daytime.

There may be instances where the fault indicators will continue to flash even after power is restored. This feature of the fault indicator will help NOVEC staff look for causes of momentary outages (blinks) such as tree limbs that are coming in contact with the power line.

If you ever see a blinking red or yellow light on NOVEC's overhead power lines, don't worry, simply contact us at (703) 335-0500 or (888) 335-0500.

What's an LED?

LEDs (light emitting diodes) are tiny light bulbs that have no filament, so they don't burn out and don't get very hot. A common example is the illuminated numbers on a digital alarm clock. LEDs give the new indicators an especially long life span up to 20 years.

Little known energy savers

Everybody knows they're supposed to turn off the lights when they leave a room. But did you know about these energy savers?

- ✓ Compact fluorescent light bulbs use 75 percent less electricity than traditional incandescent light bulbs and last up to 13 times longer. Every time you replace an incandescent light bulb with a fluorescent one, you'll save about \$67 over the life of the bulb.
- ✓ Installing windows with low-emissivity (low-e) glaze keeps the heat in during winter and out during summer.
- ✓ Leaky heating and cooling ductwork wastes energy and can drive your utility bills through the roof. Use duct tape or sealant to tighten ducting and save money.
- ✓ Small appliances (such as toasters, microwave ovens, hair dryers, etc.) account for 39 percent of the energy used in your home. When it's time to replace these appliances, opt for the most energy-efficient models and be sure to look for the Energy Star label.
- ✓ Double-pane windows are more energy-efficient than single-pane models, and they're safer, too. According to the Alliance to Save Energy, double-pane windows resist fire, wind damage and would-be burglars better than single-pane windows.
- ✓ Insulating your home cuts down on drafts and wasted heating and air conditioning. It has another benefit as well: it makes you home quieter. Insulation serves as a sound barrier, so you hear less outside noise.

Save the Date

Annual Meeting
Wednesday,
September 21

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All customers
invited to attend
& learn more
about NOVEC!

Congratulations to Mr. Otis Carter of Manassas! He was the lucky winners of our quarterly customer survey drawing & received a \$25 Lowe's gift certificate.



Your refrigerator uses the most electricity of all your kitchen appliances and can account for nearly 15% of a home's total energy usage. Be sure yours is operating at peak efficiency!

Energy-efficient appliances: Refrigerators

In most cases a refrigerator is running 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, using more electricity than most appliances in your house. And the older the model, the more electricity it's using. If your present refrigerator is more than 15 years old, you'll save money on your electric bills if you replace it with a new, more efficient unit. New models can be as much as 50 percent more energy efficient than older refrigerators.

When considering the purchase of a refrigerator, or any appliance, look for the Energy Star and Energy Guide labels. Energy Star is a program of the U.S. Department of Energy designed to help consumers identify energy-efficient

appliances and products. The Energy Guide label will tell you how much electricity in kilowatt-hours (kwh) a particular model uses in one year. The smaller the number, the less energy the refrigerator uses and the less it will cost you to operate.

A new Energy Star refrigerator will save you between \$35 and \$70 a year compared to the models designed 15 years ago. Over a 15-year span that can save you up to \$1,050.

Energy-efficient refrigerators have:

- ▶ Better insulation, meaning the compressor doesn't have to run as long to keep cold.
- ▶ More efficient compressors.
- ▶ Improved heat transfer surfaces.
- ▶ More accurate temperature and defrost components.

Refrigerator/freezer energy-saving tips

▶ Don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures are 37° - 40°F for the refrigerator and 5°F for the freezer. A stand-alone freezer should be kept at 0° F.

▶ If you have an older refrigerator make sure the door seals are airtight. A simple test is to close the door over a dollar bill so it is half in and half out of the refrigerator. You should have a snug fit; the dollar bill should not pull out easily. Do this test at different locations around the door.

▶ Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in the refrigerator. Uncovered liquids release moisture and make the compressor work harder.

▶ Periodically vacuum the condenser coils located on the back or under the front door grill to help the refrigerator run more efficiently.

▶ Refrigerators with the freezer on the top are more efficient than those with freezers on the side.

For more information, visit the U.S. Department of Energy's online Energy Savers Booklet at www.eere.energy.gov/consumerinfo/energy_savers/index.html.

Transformer maintenance underway in Manassas/Clifton areas

NOVEC's underground electrical system operates through a system of underground cables that feed pad mounted transformers and other equipment. These transformers are inspected for damage, graffiti and rust on a system-wide, 10-year cycle. Crews began inspecting and repainting transformers in the Dale City area in 1999 and are moving through Manassas towards the Henderson Road area of Clifton now.

Transformers are inspected for safety, sanded, repainted and re-decaled by crews from Transformer Maintenance and Services, Inc. (TMS). As TMS crews work throughout NOVEC's territory, older weathered transformers will be restored to like-new condition. This process is essential both for aesthetic reasons as well as to keep rust from destroying the units. Proper landscaping around these boxes is also checked during these inspections and randomly if



Proper planting instructions are located on a warning decal posted on every pad mounted transformer. NOVEC reserves the right through easement to remove and/or trim plants, trees or any structure which does not adhere to these specifications.

problems arise. A decal on the door of the transformers illustrates proper planting instructions. NOVEC crews work in conjunction with TMS to insure each transformer has an adequate safe workspace around its perimeter. Each transformer should be free from any obstructions for at least five feet on each side and 10 feet at each door. If you receive a notice requesting that plants be removed or trimmed, please understand that this is necessary to maintain safe and reliable electric service to you and your neighbors. NOVEC crews must have an unobstructed work area to maintain this high voltage equipment.

For more information, contact our right-of-way department at call (703)-392-1661 or (888) 335-0500, extension 1661, or send e-mail to rightofway@novec.com. You can also visit www.novec.com/rightofway.cfm.



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