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Drifting Satellite Interrupts Cable TV Signals, Again

The Galaxy 15 satellite continues to cause interference issues with other satellites that transmit cable TV programming signals.

Intelstat, the communications company which owns Galaxy 15, lost control of the satellite in early April due to a solar storm.

In May, Galaxy 15 crept toward the adjacent path of another TV communications satellite, AMC 11, and interrupted its signals.

Several cable TV networks informed AMU in July that Galaxy 15 was drifting near Galaxy 14 and Galaxy 18 and could interfere with their signals

again. The networks affected include A&E HD,



History HD, ESPN, Disney, and the MTV Networks.

Bob Jennings, Information Director for Algonia Municipal Utilities, said AMU is in the same situa-

tion as most U.S. Cable TV providers. The situation with the Galaxy 15 Satellite is out of AMU's control and there is a chance that AMU Cable TV customers could experience some reception problems.

Eventually, Galaxy 15 is expected to lose its Earth-pointing capability. Once that happens and the satellite's solar panels are no longer pointed toward the sun, Galaxy 15's battery power will eventually die. When the battery power decreases past a certain point, the payload will shutoff. Galaxy 15 will no longer receive or transmit and the batteries will continue to deplete.

Energy Savers To Reduce Electricity Use During Summer

It's not hard to save energy during the hottest part of summer.

Set your thermostat to 78 degrees or higher. For each degree that you make the air conditioner cooler, you increase the electric bill by 3% to 4%. Purchase a programmable thermostat and set it at 83 degrees while you're away from home and have it start cooling the house back to 78 degrees an hour before you get home. Replace air filters in the air

conditioner once a month.

The water heater, refrigerator and freezer are the second biggest energy users in a home. Water heaters should be set to no hotter than 120 degrees. The temperature in the refrigerator should be set between 36 and 38 degrees, and the freezer should be set between 0 and 5 degrees. Don't forget to vacuum the refrigerator's condenser coils every three months to avoid excessive dust build

up.

Turn off lights when you leave a room. Lighting accounts for about 10% of electricity use. Install compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). A CFL will save about \$50 in electricity over its lifetime.

Dry and wash clothes in the morning or evening to avoid bringing heat into the house during the hottest part of the day.

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Reduce Electricity During Summer

Save Water in the Kitchen

How much water goes down the drain in your home? The nationwide, 183 gallons of water is treated for each person every day. Here are some tips to decrease the amount of water used in the kitchen.

Wash your dishes in a dishwasher, but only run full loads. The American Council for an Energy Efficient economy says nearly 60 percent of the energy used by a dishwasher goes toward heating the water.

The average amount of water used to wash dishes by hand is 20 gallons.



A dishwasher uses on average about 10 gallons.

If you wash dishes by hand, wash them in two sinks. Fill one sink with

warm, soapy water for scrubbing and one with cold water for rinsing. Wash dishes right a way.

Wash your fruits and vegetables at once when you get home from the grocery store.

Thaw food in the refrigerator, not under water.

Designate a cup for each family member. If everyone uses his or her own glass, you can wash them less often than after each uses.

Iowa Football To Get Plenty of Air Time

If you're an Iowa Hawkeye football fan, your team will get plenty of airtime.

The Hawks kickoff the season when Eastern Illinois University comes to Kinnick Stadium on September 4th. The game will



be broadcast on the Big Ten Network starting at 11:05 a.m.

The Iowa vs. Iowa State game will be on September 11th at 2:35 p.m. on ABC.

ESPN will cover the Iowa vs. Arizona game on September 18th.

The Penn State vs. Iowa on October 2nd will be either on ABC or ESPN.

The Iowa vs. Michigan Game on October 16th will be on ABC.

Broadcasts of other Iowa games are to be determined.

Reduce Electricity use During Summer Heat

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Dry loads of clothes back to back to take advantage of the heat built up in the dryer. Clean the lint filter after each load to allow the dryer to run more efficiently. Close the door to

the dryer room to avoid heating up the home.

Use power strips to turn off appliances that continue to draw electricity in the standby mode. Standby power can account for 10 to 15 watts per device and can make

up as much as 10% of a home's electricity use.

Use fans with your air conditioning. It can make the room feel like its 4 degrees cooler.

Every kilowatt-hour saved means more money in your pocket.

Plant Trees in the Right Place

Selecting the right tree and the right place to plant it is an important decision; especially when it comes to placement near overhead utility lines.

Determine what you would like the tree to do for you. Is it shade, framing, accent color, energy conservation, screening or something else? Consider the height and spread of the tree once it reaches maturity. Never select a medium or large tree for planting near overhead utility lines.

Use the 20-20 rule. Only trees and shrubs up



to 20 feet tall at maturity should be planted within 20 feet of a power line. If the tree reaches 20 feet or more at maturity, it should not be planted under a power line or within 20 feet of the power line.

Choose the right place to plant your tree by sketching your yard. Account for all structures,

above and below ground, and existing plants. Call Iowa One Call 48 hours before you begin to dig to have your yard marked for underground utilities. You can call Iowa One Call by dialing 811.

When planting near AMU utility boxes, keep shrubs and structures 10 feet away from the access door and three feet from the other sides. Make sure you trim back plantings so they keep the minimum distance from the utility box.



*Community Owned For
Community Benefit!
That's Our
Commitment to You,
Our Customer and
Owner!*