

Our Strength Comes from Working Together



MESSAGE FROM MANAGER BILLY KULWICKI

Cooperation: That's a key word for electric cooperatives and a concept vital to the success of our form of business.

If you've heard the old saying that there is power in numbers, then you understand why Cooperative Principle No. 6, Cooperation Among Cooperatives, is a key one for us.

That principle states that cooperatives serve their members best and strengthen the cooperative movement when working together.

Lamar Electric Cooperative does that in numerous ways. At the most basic level, electric cooperatives support one another in times of crisis. If a

storm or other disaster were to hit one of our sister cooperatives, we would offer whatever help we could in restoring service as quickly as possible. And we know that if we needed help, our neighbors would be there for us.

The electric co-ops in Texas combine forces through Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC), the statewide association, and the results prove that when small organizations use the power of aggregation, they grow in clout, efficiency and economy. When we work together, good things happen.

The power of numbers gives us a louder voice at the state Capitol when legislators make decisions about utilities. We share safety training resources and expertise through the association's Loss Control Division.

We also save money through our TEC membership on purchases of poles and equipment and even the printing and production costs of this magazine because of the economy of scale.

Nationally, we have joined with

more than 900 electric cooperatives in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). That organization not only has the ears of Washington decision-makers, it also helps represent cooperative interests before regulatory bodies. Through its Cooperative Research Network, we receive information about new technologies that can help us control costs, improve productivity and deliver superior service.

We also belong to Touchstone Energy®, a national marketing and trade group for electric cooperatives that provides us with communications and advertising support programs. Our participation in Touchstone Energy is just another way to extend the benefits of cooperation and bring greater value to you, the member.

Even if we were in this alone, your cooperative would still provide you with the very best service at the lowest price possible. But when we add our voice to a grand chorus of our fellows, the message gets heard.

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE



Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

**Cooperatives—
Owned by Our Members
Committed to Our Communities**

WHAT TO DO IF THE LIGHTS GO OUT

When severe weather causes power outages, employees of your electric cooperative begin working immediately to restore service as quickly as possible. Primary lines serving hundreds of customers are serviced first, and then the secondary lines serving just a few customers are serviced. Medical facilities and individuals on life-support systems are given top priority.

When your lights go out, look outside and see whether your neighbors are also in the dark. If they're not, check your fuse box or circuit breaker to see if you can locate the problem.

If the outage has affected your neighbors, call Lamar EC at (903) 784-4303. Don't assume that others have reported the outage.

Outages that occur in severe weather, or that last for an extended period of time, can place a heavy burden on the system at the moment power is restored. To prevent an overload and possibly another outage, take these steps:

- Leave only one inside light on.
- Turn off your thermostat.
- In cold weather, close windows and drapes to save heat. Gather your family in one room on the warm side of the house. Close the doors to the rest of the house and use blankets to insulate the windows.
- Make sure your kitchen range is off, both the surface and the oven.



Never use it for heat.

- Turn off all unnecessary appliances.
- Avoid opening the freezer door. A full, freestanding freezer will keep food at freezing temperatures about two days; a half-full freezer about one day.
- If you see a downed power line, **STAY AWAY!** And call your electric cooperative at once!

Leave your front porch light switched on so co-op employees will know when your power has been restored.

When power comes back on, slowly switch your appliances and lights back on and gradually return your thermostat to its normal setting.



**LAMAR
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**

1485 North Main Street
P.O. Box 580 • Paris, TX 75461
Phone (903) 784-4303

For general information and outages after hours, call **(903) 784-4303** local, or **1-800-782-9010** toll-free

Operating in Lamar, Red River, Delta and Fannin counties

Find us on the web at www.lamarelectric.coop

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YOUR "LOCAL PAGES"

This section of *Texas Co-op Power* magazine is produced by LEC each month to provide you with information about current events, safety, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the local office.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

- Level billing
- Automated meter reading
- Free bank draft service
- Visa, Discover and MasterCard accepted
- Security lighting available



ANNUAL MEETING

SET FOR MAY 3

Make plans to attend Lamar Electric Cooperative's annual meeting to be held Saturday, May 3, at Love Civic Center in Paris.



**A Free Think Child Safety Fair for Children
Ages 0-12 and their parents**



Free Balloons

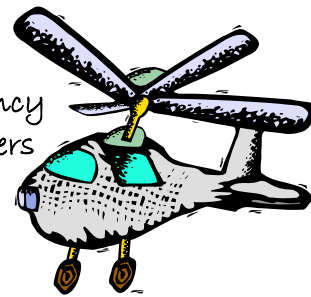
**Saturday, March 29, 2008
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Love Civic Center
2025 S. Collegiate Drive
Paris, TX**

Free Hot dogs and Coca-cola

- Games and Activities
- Electrical Safety
- Animal Safety
- Water Safety
- Internet Safety
- Gun Safety
- Farm Safety
- Bicycle Safety
- Home Safety
- Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Safety
- Auto Safety
- Traffic Safety
- First Aid



Emergency Helicopters



Special Appearances by:

- McGruff the Crime Dog
- Zigster
- Andy Ambulance
- Daisy the Do Right Dawg
- Crash Dummies Vince & Larry
- Sparky and Pumper
- Trauma Roo
- Reddy Teddy
- Beat the Heat, and others
- Fun drug-free activities for the whole family



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I have

**an amazing wife who's
always by my side**

**two kids who always
keep me on my toes**

**a family that gives me
endless strength**

an electric cooperative that's always looking out for my family.

At Lamar Electric Cooperative, we get our strength from a family as well. It's a family of over 600 cooperatives—who all work together. And together, we have strength. We have a greater ability to provide a reliable source of electricity. We also have greater purchasing power, which enables us to keep costs in check. Together, we'll always be looking out for you, your family and your community.



LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 