

Use Generators Safely

Our Linemen's Lives Are on the Line



**MESSAGE
FROM
MANAGER
JERRY D.
WILLIAMS**

June 1 marks the beginning of the hurricane season in the Gulf of Mexico. When one of those huge storms hits the Texas coast, the effects are widespread. Hundreds of thousands of people, stretching well inland, can lose power for an extended period. This can also happen on a smaller but just as destructive scale if

severe summer thunderstorms were to roll through our area.

Some folks in an extended outage rely on portable generators while power is being restored. If you use a generator, do you know enough about it to operate it safely?

The safety of our members and our employees is a top priority at Lamar Electric Cooperative, especially during dangerous times. When storms hit our area, we rush to restore power as soon as conditions allow.

Our line crews take necessary precautions before they work on downed power lines, taking care to ensure that a line is de-energized before working on it. But even after these measures, an improperly connected generator can put our workers' lives at risk.

Lamar Electric is proud of our outstanding safety record, but sometimes, no matter how many steps we take to keep everyone safe, the very people we are there to help unknowingly put our lives—and their own—in danger.

Portable generators can prove fatal to linemen when used improperly.

Of course, no one would ever purposely cause the death of a lineman. Nevertheless, a generator connected to a home's wiring or plugged into a regular household outlet can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone who comes in contact with them—even if the line seems dead.

Lamar Electric employees are not the only ones in danger when a portable generator is used improperly. Those who operate generators improperly can risk being electrocuted, starting fires, damaging property or being poisoned by carbon monoxide. Portable generators can be very helpful during outages. But it is imperative that you follow

these safety guidelines when using one:

- Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring unless your home has been wired for generator use, which includes having a transfer switch installed by a qualified electrical contractor. The transfer switch will disconnect your home from the power grid. Connecting the generator to a house's wiring without such a switch can cause current to flow out of your home's circuitry and along power lines. This situation can hurt or kill anyone coming in contact with the lines.

- Always plug appliances directly into generators or use only heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords. Make sure extension cords are free of cuts or tears and the plug has three prongs. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage.

- Ensure that your generator is properly grounded.

- Never overload a generator. A portable generator should only be used when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances.

- Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.

- Only operate a generator on a dry surface under an open structure.

- Always have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby.

- Never fuel a generator while it is operating.

- Read and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation. Never cut corners when it comes to safety.

We encourage you to protect the well-being and safety of your family during outages and safeguard those who come to your aid during emergency situations. When we work together for safety and the good of our communities, we all benefit.



Using a generator without the proper safety precautions can cause injury—or even death—to co-op linemen working to repair an outage.



From left: Back row—Andrew Thrasher and Tyler Ashton; Front row—Kyler Bramhall.

Ag Projects Bring Success to Lamar County Teens

Lamar Electric Cooperative likes to recognize successful students in our community. Recently, three North Lamar High School students were recognized for their achievements in several competitions. Kyler Bramhall is a junior and Andrew Thrasher and Tyler Ashton are both seniors at North Lamar.

Ashton and fellow student Bramhall constructed an arena drag for their FFA welding project at school. The drag is used to smooth the dirt before, during and after events that have a tendency to tear up the surface of an arena. They entered their project at the Lamar County Junior Livestock Show in April and earned the Grand Champion Banner. They also entered the project at the Houston Livestock Show and won fourth place.

Andrew Thrasher chose a 24-foot gooseneck trailer as his FFA welding project. Ashton and Bramhall teamed up with Thrasher to use his trailer to haul their drag to the various events. When they arrived at the Houston Livestock Show, Ashton was asked to write an essay to go along with his arena drag entry.

His essay detailed the hardships he had to overcome while working on his project. The essay was entered in the HOOF (Houstonians Offering Our Friendship) essay contest, and he won a \$2,000 check.

Ashton and Bramhall are also two of a four-student state FFA horse-judging team that placed seventh out of 48 teams during competition at Marshall in April.

By staying busy with agricultural-related projects, these young men have demonstrated their maturity and have obviously learned a great deal about the real world they will face as our future leaders in the rural areas of North Texas. Our hats are off to this fine group of young men who have proven that a lot can be accomplished with determination and dedication.

Ashton is the son of Bret and Sandra Ashton of Reno and Dennis and Jennifer Taylor of Harrodsburg, Kentucky. He is also the grandson of Lamar Electric employee Gretta Ashford.

Bramhall is the son of Larry and Sandra Bramhall of the Caviness Community. Thrasher is the son of Russell and Cheryl Thrasher of Powderly.



1485 North Main St.
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

GENERAL MANAGER
Jerry D. Williams

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CHAIRMAN

Allen Branch Sumner

VICE CHAIRMAN

Charles Dooley Annona

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Billy Hines Clarksville

James Sam Cooper Roxton

Mark Jones Paris

Ron E. Tippit Clarksville

Mike Williams Detroit

George M. Wood Blossom

Lyle Yoder Pattonville

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 and MasterCard accepted



VETERANS MEMORIAL UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Red River Valley Veterans Memorial is being built in Paris, Texas, to honor those who have served in the military.

The memorial will be next to the Eiffel Tower at The Love Civic Center. Its centerpiece will be the Ring of Honor, an elevated circle of granite walls containing the names of men and women with a connection with the Texas and Oklahoma Red River Valley area who died from injuries sustained while in the service of their country. Surrounding the Ring of Honor will be granite walls etched on both sides with information and graphic depictions of each war or conflict from the Texas Revolution to the present-day conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

There will also be space reserved on these walls for representation of future conflicts, as well on the walls of the Ring of Honor for the addition of names of persons who lose their lives in current service as well as in future conflicts.

There will be walkways consisting of 2,500 granite paving stones. Sponsorships of the pavers are being sold to individuals who wish to recognize a particular person who served in the military, and/or who are currently in military service. Information regarding the purchase of these pavers may be obtained by contacting Shannon Barrentine at the Lamar County Chamber of Commerce at (903) 784-6964.

The Red River Valley Veterans Memorial will provide a place for reflection, remembrance and gratitude. It will also be a place which can be used to help educate present and future generations about the service and sacrifice of these men and women to secure the freedoms we all enjoy, and to serve as a constant reminder that freedom is not free.



Northeast Texas Classic Car Show & Motorcycles

Friday and Saturday, June 11-12

Love Civic Center, Paris • 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

HOSTED BY RED RIVER VALLEY HONKERS ANTIQUE CAR CLUB

All proceeds will benefit the Red River Valley Veterans Memorial, which will be built at the Love Civic Center. This memorial will honor all veterans—past, present and future—and educate present and future generations that freedom is not free!

For more information call (903) 783-6338 or go to http://www.rrvhonkers.com/classic_car_show.htm.

CFL Facts

One of the benefits of using compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs)—other than significant energy savings—is that each bulb can last up to 10,000 hours, if used correctly. But while CFLs can fit into nearly any light fixture, they aren't always a perfect choice. Here are some helpful facts to consider.

Can I use a compact fluorescent light bulb in an enclosed light fixture? Compact fluorescent light bulbs may generally be used in enclosed fixtures as long as the enclosed fixture is not recessed. Totally enclosed recessed fixtures (for example, a ceiling can light with a cover over the bulb) create temperatures that are too high to allow the use of a compact fluorescent bulb.

Can I use a CFL bulb outside? Many CFL bulbs can be used outdoors if used in an enclosed fixture. To be certain, look for the package or bulb to say that it can be used outdoors and verify the lowest operating temperature for the area where the product is being used.

Can I use a CFL in any position? Most all CFL bulbs can be used in any operating position unless there is text printed on the lamp or packaging that indicates a required operating position.

Can I use a CFL in applications involving vibration such as a ceiling fan or garage door opener? Generally it is not recommended to use CFLs in vibrating environments. Vibration can cause the electronics in the CFL to fail. There are CFL bulbs that are designed for use in ceiling fans. Check the package for this application.

Can I use a compact fluorescent light bulb with a dimmer switch? To use a compact fluorescent bulb on a dimmer switch, you must buy a bulb that's specifically made to work with dimmers (check the package). We don't recommend using regular compact fluorescent bulbs with dimming switches since this can shorten bulb life. (Using a regular compact fluorescent bulb with a dimmer will also nullify the bulb's warranty.)

Can I use a compact fluorescent light bulb on a 3-way lamp? Some CFL bulbs are made for use in 3-way lamps. Check the package for this application. If a regular CFL is used in a 3-way switch, it will work on the middle (medium) setting and it would not damage the bulb. The 3-way switch does not alter the performance of the bulb.



E-BILL

NOW AVAILABLE AT LAMAR EC

Take advantage of paying your bill online at www.lamarelectric.coop with electronic e-check, Visa or Mastercard. It's as easy as logging on to our website, creating your password and completing your transaction.

You can view:

- Your bill
- Payments made
- Monthly usage chart

More features will be coming in the near future. If you have any questions, please contact our office at (903) 784-4303.



SAVE ENERGY ■ SAVE MONEY

To squeeze the most efficiency out of your air-conditioning system, change the filter monthly. If you have a washable filter on a window unit, clean it once a month or more often if it gets clogged with dust.

COUNTRY CORNER EVENTS

JUNE

4

Cruisin on the Plaza – 6-8 p.m. in downtown Paris. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy cars, fellowship and music.

4-5

Highway 82/287 Yard Sale in cities along Highways 82 and 287 from Clarksville to Seymour and Vernon to Bowie. For more information visit www.redrivervalley.info

11-12

Northeast Texas Classic Car Show – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Car Show, Swap Meet, Arts/Crafts, Food) at Love Civic Center in Paris

12-14

Paris Two-Lady Scramble Golf Tournament. Paris Golf and Country Club at 10 a.m. Registration 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Paris Community Theatre presents “Secret Affairs of Mildred Wild”

June 18 at 7:30 p.m.

June 19 at 7:30 p.m.

June 20 at 2:30 p.m.

June 24 at 7:30 p.m.

June 25 at 7:30 p.m.

June 26 at 7:30 p.m.

June 27 at 2:30 p.m.

19

Dancing with the Stars—Paris Style. Doors open at 6 p.m. at Love Civic Center in Paris. Tickets \$50 per person Contact: Sally Wright (903) 784-9299 or (903) 782-1794.

25

Relay for Life at R.L. Maddox Stadium at North Lamar High School. 6 p.m.-6 a.m.

If you have any events that you would like listed for Delta, Lamar or Red River counties, please contact Marci Thompson. Information must be submitted two months in advance for the magazine. E-mail marci@lamarelectric.coop or call (903) 783-4911.