

# We Have a Lot To Be Thankful For



## MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO JERRY D. WILLIAMS

**November, as you undoubtedly know, is a month in which Americans give thanks.**

As we gather around the table on Thanksgiving we naturally think about all the blessing that God has bestowed on each of us and this nation. I can think of many reasons to be thankful, including the fact that I am a member and employee of Lamar Electric Cooperative, a business that exists to serve others.

We should not forget to give thanks for those who sacrificed on our behalf to protect the freedoms we all enjoy in America. A special day, November 11, has been designated Veterans Day. This Veterans Day, I encourage you to thank the people you know—family members, friends or acquaintances who have worn the uniform and served this country in the military. No matter the branch of service or the conflicts, we all owe these people our gratitude for preserving and defending our great nation.

Being in the military is often a hazardous job and is some of the lowest paid folks around. They sacrifice family time and family activities in order to accomplish the assigned task. Our military men and women currently serving did not have to sign up, they did so voluntarily. They accepted the challenge of protecting our freedoms, even though it cost them dearly and sometimes the ultimate sacrifice. It is a debt that we cannot repay, but one that we can honor by

sharing with them our thanks.

At Lamar Electric I am proud to work alongside some fine men who have served in the military and now continue serving you at the Co-op. In honor of Veterans Day, I ask that you join me in saluting all those who have served the U.S. armed forces and those who continue to serve.

We should show our appreciation to those serving in the military, but not forget those who stayed home to deliver vital electric service. In the July 2013 issue of Texas Co-op Power we related how rural electric cooperatives powered the American dream for farmers and rural folk who received the tool of electricity which helped them achieve the kind of prosperity their city countrymen had enjoyed for years. The investor owned power companies sent the message that rural folks should move to town if they wanted electricity.

Rural farmers in Lamar County Texas responded to the challenge and banded together to form their own Electric Cooperative. Employees of Rural Electric Cooperative have supported the military efforts in a way that many have overlooked. After the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the entire United States got behind the war effort. Local folks had to help local folks. By 1941 not many electric wires had been strung in this area, but every wire was vital. If entering a new war did not provide enough challenges to the new fledgling Lamar Electric Cooperative; on

March 8, 1942, an ice and snowstorm hit our area and damaged the entire electric system. Linemen from electric cooperatives in Wood County, Fannin County and Choctaw Electric Cooperative in Hugo, Oklahoma, came to our aid. Metal was scarce but our neighbors helped out.

By July 1942 linemen from Lamar Electric were leaving to fight the war. Charles Julian, a lineman's helper got a pay raise to 46 cents per hour because he had to step up to fill in for those leaving. The War Production Board had tight regulations about extending new electric lines. On October 6, 1942, the Lamar Electric office was closed and the cooperative trucks and employees were used to collect pooled scrap metal.

During the war, construction of electric lines almost came to a complete stop. As soon as the war ended in September 1945, activity in the rural areas of Lamar, Red River and Delta Counties took off at a fast clip. By April 1946 our co-op had four GI's training on the job and paid 22 ¼ cents per hour. The men returning from the military needed jobs and miles of electric line needed constructed. Board minutes indicate construction of electric lines was progressing on a "mass production" schedule, despite a very wet and rainy spring in 1946.

Your Cooperative was here to help when the United States struggled with a World War and group of dedicated employees continue working to improve the way of life in your community.

**Gratitude is a quality similar to electricity: It must be produced and discharged and used up in order to exist at all.** —WILLIAM FAULKNER

**The management, staff and directors of Lamar Electric Cooperative wish all of our members a happy and safe Thanksgiving.** The offices of Lamar EC will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29, for the holiday. As always, crews will be available to respond to any outages. Call our outage hotline at 1-800-782-9010 for help.





A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1485 N. Main St. • P.O. Box 580  
Paris, TX 75461

## Scammers Target Electric Cooperatives

**Scammers have been contacting electric cooperative customers throughout Texas. These thieves have been posing as cooperative employees and are trying to steal your money and personal information.**

The scams target primarily elderly people but have been known to target businesses as well. The caller tells the customer the account is delinquent and that the customer needs to pay immediately or the electricity will be disconnected. The customer is asked to pay over the phone with a credit or debit card, or the scammer asks the customer to call a toll-free number to pay their electric bill.

Lamar Electric Cooperative requests that any member who receives a suspicious call ask the name of the caller and a phone number to call back. Then hang up and immediately report it to the sheriff's department. Asking the caller for any information, such as a name and phone number, may help authorities locate the source of this scam.

At this time, no reports of this type of scam have been reported within the area. However, we want our members to be aware of the scam so they can be prepared should they receive a phone call.

Please remember Lamar Electric has an automated system that contacts customers after 5 p.m. The automated system calls delinquent accounts as a reminder. The recording will not ask for a payment nor does it have the ability to take payments over the phone.

### GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO

Jerry D. Williams

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Allen Branch, President, *Sumner*

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### Member Benefits

- Level billing
- Automated meter reading
- Free bank draft service
- E-Bill
- Visa and MasterCard accepted

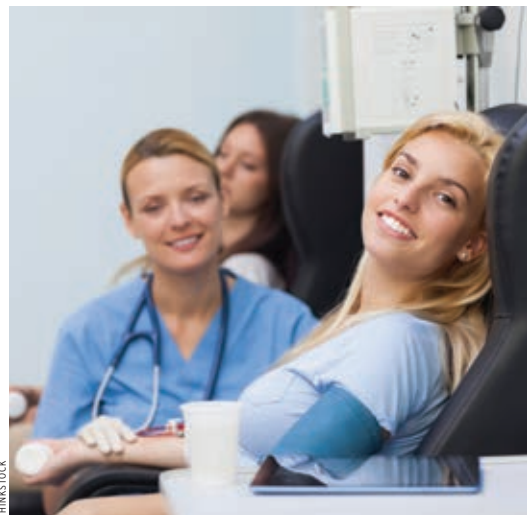
### Your "Local Pages"

This section of Texas Co-op Power 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.

## Upgrades Continue in the Noble Community

**Contract crews will be performing line maintenance along Lamar Electric Cooperative lines running south along CR 26100 in the Noble community. Contractors will be upgrading the line from single-phase to double-phase. Their work will continue throughout the months of November and December, depending on weather.**

The contractors will perform the line maintenance while the lines remain energized. Members in that area may receive minor interruptions as work progresses, but if you experience an outage, please contact the office at (903) 784-4303.



## Blood Drive

**November 5  
Noon-4 p.m.**

*Lamar Electric  
Cooperative*

### CONTACT US

#### CALL US

**(903) 784-4303** local or

**1-800-782-9010** toll-free

#### FIND US ON THE WEB

**lamarelectric.coop**



# Portable Generators

**Portable generators offer a reliable backup source of power during electrical power outages and can provide relief during times of severe weather, such as ice or windstorms. However, these helpful devices must be used and maintained properly to avoid serious health and safety risks. The best way to ensure that you and co-op line crews stay safe when you are using a generator is to educate yourself and plan ahead.**

## What Are the Safety Risks?

The main risks to be aware of when using a portable generator are electrocution, carbon monoxide poisoning, electrical accidents and fire.

## When Should Portable Generators Be Used?

A portable generator should be used only when necessary and only to power essential equipment or appliances. Do not overload the generator by operating more appliances and equipment than the generator can handle.

## Proper Installation Is Critical

Properly connecting the generator is a critical step for your safety. Improper installation or use could be deadly. A licensed electrician should be consulted to determine the best equipment for your needs.

Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring without having an appropriate transfer switch installed. The transfer switch breaks the path of electricity between the power lines and your main electrical panel. This is the best way to protect you, your neighbors, and co-op crews from backfeed. Backfeed occurs when an improperly connected generator begins feeding electricity "back" through the power lines.

## Generators Must Be Kept Outdoors

Always place your generator outdoors and away from open windows and secure it from moving while in operation. When used in a confined space, generators can rapidly produce deadly levels of carbon monoxide. Never use a generator indoors or in partially enclosed spaces, including homes, garages, basements and crawl spaces. Never run a generator in areas where people or animals are present. Opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent carbon monoxide buildup in the home. You cannot see or smell this potentially deadly gas, so be sure to install carbon monoxide detectors in your home and test them frequently to be sure they are working.

## Avoid Electrical Accidents and Fire

To prevent electric shock, make sure your generator is properly grounded and always kept dry. The operation manual should provide correct grounding procedures. Individual appliances should be plugged directly into the receptacle outlet of the generator using appropriately sized extension cords to carry the electric load. Make sure the cords are rated for outdoor use, have a grounded, three-pronged plug, and are in good condition. Do not run extension cords under rugs.

## Powering Down and Safe Storage

Turn off all appliances powered by the generator before shutting it down, and before refueling the generator always turn it off and let it cool down. Make sure you store the fuel for your generator away from living areas in properly labeled child-proof containers and away from fuel-burning appliances. Be sure to keep children away from portable generators at all times and educate them about potential dangers.

## Critical Facts To Remember

- ▶ Never run a generator indoors.
- ▶ Do not overload a generator.
- ▶ Consult a professional to install or help install your generator.
- ▶ Never connect generators to household wiring without installing a proper transfer switch.
- ▶ Keep a working carbon monoxide detector and check it monthly.
- ▶ Always keep your generator dry.

# PREPARE AN EMERGENCY KIT FOR SEVERE WEATHER

Lamar Electric works hard to keep the power on for its customers, but severe weather can sometimes put us in the dark. You'll be safer and less inconvenienced if you have the following emergency supplies on hand:

- |                                 |  |                    |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Flashlight with fresh batteries | Battery-operated clock                   | Nonperishable food |
| Radio with fresh batteries      | Firewood and kindling                    | Manual can opener  |
| Candles and holders             | Charcoal grill with charcoal and lighter | Extra batteries    |
| Blankets                        | Paper plates and plastic utensils        | Generator fuel     |
| Matches                         | Bottled water                            |                    |



# Kitchen Tips for an Energy-Wise Holiday

**Traditionally, the winter holidays are a time for delicious food shared with family and friends. This year, as you count your blessings, you might give a thought to the reliable energy sources that enable you to prepare those delicious meals.**

Today's new kitchen appliances use nearly 50 percent less energy than those built just a decade ago. Still, when holiday time rolls around, your energy bills can rise considerably.

## Oven Tips

The turkey is traditionally stuffed early in the morning and roasted for hours. Because it's a long, slow cook, there's no need to preheat your oven. This is also true for a holiday ham.

Don't open the oven door to take a peek at what's cooking inside. Instead, turn on the oven light and check the cooking status through the oven window. Opening the oven door lowers the temperature inside (by as much as 25 degrees), which increases cooking time and wastes energy.

Cook several items at the same time. Just remember to leave enough room for the heat to circulate around each casserole and pie plate.

In an electric oven, you can turn the heat off several minutes before your food is fully cooked. As long as the oven door remains closed, enough heat will be stored inside to finish cooking your meal. The same principle applies to your electric range-top—the heating elements stay hot even after the electricity is turned off.

If you use glass or ceramic pans, you can turn your oven temperature down 25 degrees, and foods will cook just as quickly.

Self-cleaning ovens use less energy for normal cooking because of the higher insulation levels built into them. Consider using the self-cleaning feature immediately after using your oven, to take advantage of the residual heat.

## Stovetop Tips

When cooking on top of your range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Believe it or not, a 6-inch pan on an 8-inch burner will waste more than 40 percent of the energy!

Clean burners and reflectors provide better heating, while saving energy. If you need new reflectors, buy quality ones. The best on the market can save as much as one-third of the energy used when cooking on top of the stove.

## Other Ways To Cook

Don't overlook the other cooking appliances at Thanksgiving. Fast and efficient microwave ovens use about 50 percent less energy than conventional ovens, and they don't heat up your kitchen. Consider using them to bake yams, steam your favorite fresh vegetables, or heat up leftover turkey and gravy for a midnight snack.

Remember your small appliances ... they are great energy

savers! Crock-Pots are perfect for busy families. On average, they cook a whole meal for about 17 cents worth of electricity. Electric skillet can steam, fry, sauté, stew, bake or roast a variety of food items—and some can double as serving dishes. If you're baking or broiling small food items, a toaster oven is ideal because it uses one-third the energy of a bigger oven.

If you haven't tried roasting your Thanksgiving turkey on a charcoal grill, you're in for a treat.



THINKSTOCK

**Opening the door to peek inside your oven while cooking lowers the temperature, increasing cooking time and wasting energy.**

## Refrigerator Tips

In addition to your stove, your refrigerator and freezer also get a real workout over the holidays. While newer refrigerators are much more energy efficient than older ones, they remain one of the largest energy consumers in your house, often accounting for as much as 15 percent of your home's total energy usage.

Help your refrigerator and freezer operate efficiently and economically by keeping the doors closed as much as possible so the cold air doesn't escape. However, leaving the door open for a longer period of time is more efficient than opening and closing it several times.

It's easy to keep your refrigerator and freezer full at Thanksgiving. It's also energy efficient, because the mass of cold items inside will help your refrigerator recover each time the door is opened. Remember the cool air needs to circulate around your food, so don't cram it too full.

## Dishwasher Tips

A load of dishes cleaned in a dishwasher requires 37 percent less water than washing dishes by hand.

If you opt to use the dishwasher, wash full loads only. If you must rinse your dishes before loading them, use only cold water so you're not running up your energy bill by heating water unnecessarily.