

# Innovating To Serve



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

**Electric cooperatives have come a long way. In the mid-1930s, nine out of 10 rural homes were still using kerosene lamps, and knew very little about electricity. That has changed a lot!! A majority of us now depend on electric service to carry on our routine daily activities. Electricity is no longer a luxury; it has become a necessity. In order to meet our member's electrical needs, Lamar Electric is providing reliable power using some of the most advanced technologies available.**

In honor of National Co-op Month, we will take a moment to reflect on a few of the technological advances used at Lamar Electric to meet the needs of our member-owners, the most important part of our business.

### Equipped for reliability

When electric co-ops first formed, today's state-of-the-art equipment simply wasn't an option. Groups of men gathered their strength to raise utility poles, and spools of heavy electrical wire were unrolled and strung individually. Holes were made with a set of long handled snappers. Once the poles were set in place, these ambitious men climbed the poles to hang the wire.



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Now digger trucks are used to dig holes and place utility poles and electric lines. Bucket trucks have replaced the majority of the climbing. These advancements not only

improve the safety of our linemen, but they also make the process faster and less strenuous.

Much like setting poles and stringing electrical wire, clearing rights-of-way is no longer done by hand. Thanks to technological advances, power saws and tools have made clearing much easier. A lot of folks don't even know what a cross cut saw looks like, much less how to use one. Very few know the secret of using coal oil to make the saw cut cleaner and quicker. Clearing the right-of-way means more reliable electric service.

### Accountable metering

Even though homes come in different styles, they all have one thing in common: an electric meter. These small devices constantly keep a tally of electricity use. Although the older styles

of meters—ones that track kilowatts with small, spinning discs—are extremely efficient, many electric cooperatives have integrated a much more advanced design into their systems: automated meter reading. Lamar Electric started reading the meters through the electric wires almost 20 years ago. At that time a meter reading about every day was considered cutting edge technology. The modules inside these meters that send the reading to us are starting to die. (See: June Texas Co-op Power-The Turtles are Slowing Down) For this reason, we are in the process of replacing our Turtle system with the latest technology for reading meters through the electric lines. We will have the capability to get a reading every hour. After every large outage, we will be able to “ping” the entire system to make sure power has been restored to every meter. This helps make sure we did not drop the ball and overlook someone. A lot of the meters will be equipped with remote disconnect and reconnection. This will save linemen from making trips for non-paying customers and allow us to get your electricity turned on, without waiting for a lineman to respond. We will be able to monitor circuits for blinks and perhaps locate little problems before they become big. The new technology meters will play a major role in keeping reliable power flowing to your home.

### Securing the network

The Internet is one of the greatest technological advances known to humanity. But the online world can be a dangerous place if proper security measures are not taken. Lamar Electric has a secure site that can be used to pay your electric bill using your home computer, iPad or smart telephone. We are working to expand this ability to include reporting an outage using an app.

With help from the Cooperative Research Network—the research branch of our National Rural Electric Cooperative Association—electric cooperatives can arm themselves with technological advances in security to maintain a safe and secure site for our members to use.

A new project by the CRN and several partners is underway to ensure that co-ops are delivering power and service in the safest and securest way possible. Through this ambitious effort, our researchers are developing the next generation of automated cybersecurity for the electric industry.

These are just a few of the technological advances that Lamar Electric has made, and we remain focused on finding ways to improve our service to you. Technology is ever-changing—but we'll continue to stay ahead of the game, ensuring safe, reliable and affordable electric power for you, our member-consumers.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

# Don't Get Lost in the Shuffle

**Six hundred pages, plus another 1,000 of supporting documents—that's the length of the latest proposal from the Environmental Protection Agency that would amend the Clean Air Act to limit carbon dioxide emissions from the power plants on which we rely today.**

One issue lost in the shuffle of these thousands of pages is the impact on people. How much will electric bills increase? Will manufacturers relocate? How many jobs will be lost? Which power plants will be forced to shut down?

These are difficult questions, but they're important ones. At Lamar EC, we work hard to keep your electricity affordable and reliable. That's why we're asking the EPA for answers to these and many other questions.

We don't want you to get lost in the shuffle. We put you—our members—first. We advocate for you. We work with you. We often live next door to you. We know when times are tough.

That's why we keep reminding the bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., that the rules they write have an impact in the real world. That's why we're encouraging everyone to take 30 seconds to visit [Action.coop](http://Action.coop) and tell the EPA we cannot afford these regulations.

Please raise your voice. Don't get lost in the shuffle. Together we'll remind regulators and lawmakers that the impact of new rules and laws on real people should be their first thought, not their last.

.....  
**GENERAL MANAGER  
AND CEO**

**Jerry D. Williams**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Allen Branch**, President, *Sumner*

**Charles Dooley**, Vice President,  
*Annona*

**Mike Williams**, Secretary-Treasurer,  
*Detroit*

**Matthew Albus**, *Roxton*

**Billy Hines**, *Clarksville*

**Mark Jones**, *Paris*

**Ron E. Tippit**, *Clarksville*

**George M. Wood**, *Blossom*

**Lyle Yoder**, *Pattonville*  
.....

**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.

## Country Corner Events

### October 4

**Red River County Duck Races**  
Delaware Creek along the creek walk.  
Contact: Clarksville Rotary.

### October 4

**Fall Bazaar** 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Contact: Jim Clark at (903) 427-2266 or  
Donna Robinson at (903) 427-0689.

### October 11

**Paris Antique Fair** 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Historic Gibraltar Hotel. Come enjoy the  
food and vendors. Contact: [info@paristexasantiquefair.com](mailto:info@paristexasantiquefair.com).

### October 11

**Reach Rally** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Trail de Paris &  
Love Civic Center Pavilion, benefits the Red  
River Valley Down Syndrome Society. Annual  
awareness walk for individuals with disabili-  
ties. Bounce houses, games, food and fun.  
Contact: RRVDS at (903) 783-1922.

### October 18

**Mad Max Mud Run** 8 a.m.-1 p.m. U.S. 271  
North, Paris. Event: Over 15 engineered and  
natural obstacles on a 5K course with lots of  
mud. Contact: [madmaxmudrun.com](http://madmaxmudrun.com).

### October 18

**21st Annual Delta County Chiggerfest**  
Cooper Historic Square

### October 31

**Clarksville Trick or Treat** 3:30 p.m.  
Clarksville Square



© GETTY IMAGES

## CONTACT US

.....  
**CALL US**

**(903) 784-4303** local or  
**1-800-782-9010** toll-free

**FIND US ON THE WEB**  
**[lamarelectric.coop](http://lamarelectric.coop)**





# Seasonal Safety Reminders

Lamar EC reminds you to keep electrical safety in mind as the cooler fall weather moves many activities back indoors. The following safety tips will help you stay safe during the change of seasons.

## Outdoors

► Safely store warm-weather tools including lawn mowers and trimmers. Check cold-weather tools such as chainsaws and leaf blowers—and their power cords, if they're corded—for unusual wear and tear. Repair or replace worn tools or parts right away.

► Unplug and safely store battery chargers that won't be in use again until spring.

► Use only weatherproof electrical devices for outside activities. Protect outdoor electrical devices from moisture. Make sure electrical equipment that has been wet is inspected and reconditioned by a certified repair technician.

► Keep leaves, either dry or wet, swept away from outdoor lighting, outlets and power cords.

## Indoors

► Make sure electric blankets are in good repair and certified by an independent testing lab such as Underwriters Laboratories, Canadian Standards Association or Electrical Testing Laboratories. (The tags will appear with the logos UL, CSA or ETL.)



Power cords should not be frayed, cracked or cut.

► Do not tuck your electric blanket under mattresses or

children, and do not put anything, such as comforters or bedspreads, on top of the blanket while it is in use.

► Never allow pets to sleep on or underneath an electric blanket.

# Only Crackpots Take Potshots

It doesn't take a crack shot to hit an electric insulator or transformer, just a crackpot

During hunting season, careless shooters taking potshots at electric equipment can cause major problems for your electric cooperative. Here's why:

- You are inconveniencing your fellow member-customers whose electricity has been disrupted.
- It could even be a matter of life and death to someone on a life-support system or to someone who is hit by a stray shot.
- Damage to electrical equipment is very expensive to repair. Lines may be cut or weakened from a shot, and they may sag or break, becoming a severe hazard for anyone who comes in contact with the line.
- Broken insulators can cause power outages that are hard—and expensive—to find. An insulator cracked by a bullet can remain on line for a long time before it finally fails.

Enjoy your sport, but be a responsible hunter. Teach your children to respect power lines, electrical equipment and guns so that they, too, will be responsible hunters.



# Seal To Save

**Before you turn on the heat this fall, do a sweep of your home to learn where that heat might be leaking outside. The less heat that escapes, the less you waste—and the more comfortable your home will feel.**

Here's how to inspect and weatherproof your home:

**LOOK FOR AIR LEAKS.** Indoors, check for gaps between baseboards and floors and at the intersections of walls and ceilings. Find cracks and gaps around electrical, cable and phone outlets on the interior side of outdoor walls. Light a match or a stick of incense and hold it in front of each window in the house. If the smoke blows, the windows are leaking.

**PLUG THE LEAKS.** Sealing those little leaks and drafts can save you up to 30 percent on heating and cooling bills each year, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates. So caulk holes and penetrations wherever you see them: around faucets and pipes and wiring, inside cracks in your exterior siding, and around windows and doors.

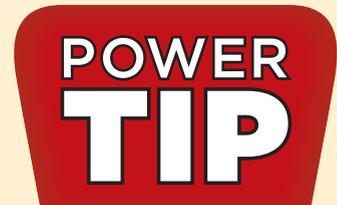
**ADD OR REPAIR INSULATION.** Especially if your home is older, it's likely that your attic has too little insulation or that the insulation in it has fallen away from the ceiling, walls and floor it is supposed to protect. Reattach or replace old insulation to reduce heat from escaping through the attic during the winter and from coming into the house during the summer.

**CALL A PROFESSIONAL TO CHECK YOUR HEATING SYSTEM.** The tech will look for damage, worn-out parts and other potential trouble. A do-it-yourself tip: Change your furnace filters every couple of months during heating season. And if your equipment is more than 10 years old, consider replacing it with a new, high-efficiency system that will almost certainly lower your heating bills and make your home more comfortable.

**CONSIDER HAVING A PROFESSIONAL ENERGY AUDIT.** An energy assessment company can find leaks in places where you can't: inside walls, under floors and in crawl-spaces, for instance. Using huge fans and infrared cameras, an energy auditor can find trouble spots and recommend ways to remove them.



© ISTOCK.COM | LEEZSNOW



Save **ENERGY** • Save **MONEY**

Fall is here, and that means colder months will be here before we know it. Is your home prepared for the drafts that may enter? Tight-fitting insulating drapes or shades are a perfect way to keep the heat in and the cold out.



## Did You Know?

ALEKSANDR-MANSUROV-RU | ISTOCK | THINKSTOCK

A leaky faucet not only wastes a precious resource but also can cost up to \$35 a year in electricity or natural gas. One drip per second can waste up to 1,661 gallons of water annually.

—Energy.gov