

Out of Power? Just Text Us!



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO JERRY D. WILLIAMS

When a big wind storm blows through or something happens that causes a major electric line outage, our telephones light up. When several hundred people all try calling at the same time, many will get a busy signal. We now have another way to report outages. Just Text us. Texting is faster and an easier way to report your power outage to. If many folks report their outage by text, those calling in their outage will have a better chance of getting through the first time. We know there are many members that do not Text. By reducing the phone calls, the non-texting folks will be able to communicate with us much quicker.

Here is how it works: You will need to complete a short registration process. Sorry, but we are required to comply with the laws governing Text. Your cell phone number must also be on file at Lamar Electric for the registration process to be completed successfully. If you have not provided your cell phone number to Lamar Electric in the past, please contact us at 903-784-4303 to do so.



The registration process to text reports of power outages to Lamar Electric is easy. Note, however, that your cell phone plan's standard text messaging and data rates apply. To sign up, all you need is a computer and a cell phone to follow these steps:

- ▶ Visit www.LamarElectric.coop and click on the button "Click here for Outage Texting" to access the Member Login page;
- ▶ On the Member Login page, enter your email address and a password and click on the Register button;
- ▶ Read and accept the website's terms and conditions; and
- ▶ On the Account Verification page, enter your cell phone number and click the Submit button.

After doing so, a text will be sent to your cell phone reveal-

ing an account verification code. Enter the verification code in the applicable web page field and click the Submit button. To confirm successful completion of registration process, you will receive a text message thanking you for joining the outage texting service. If Lamar Electric does not have your cell phone number on file, you will receive a message to contact us to provide the number.

You will then be directed to a screen listing the account number(s) associated with your cell phone number. On this screen, you'll find the number to which outages should be texted. Make sure to add this number to your cell phone's contacts list so it will be readily available when a power outage occurs. In the instance that you may have multiple accounts with Lamar Electric, you will be provided with instructions on how to set up key word indicators for each account (i.e., home, well, cabin, shop, barn, etc.). This process will increase the likelihood of reporting individual or full outages successfully. After entering/verifying your outage information and clicking the "Submit" button, you'll be all set to text your next power outage to us.

Texting an Outage

Texting your outage to Lamar Electric just requires a few simple steps:

- ▶ Open a new text message in your cell phone,
- ▶ Type "Outage" (without quotes, not case sensitive),
- ▶ Enter the outage number provided during the sign up process in the "Send To" field, and
- ▶ Send the message.

For multiple accounts, key word indicators (e.g., home, shop, well, barn, etc.) can be used in the outage report. For example, in the case of a power outage at your barn, you would type "Outage Barn." If all your accounts are without power, you would type "Outage All".

Once the text is received and verified by Lamar Electric's outage management system, you will receive an "Outage Reported Successfully" text message. Once the outage has been restored, a text confirming the restoral will be sent to you. If you find you are still without power, it will direct you to call the cooperative with the contact number provided.

As always, you can still report your outage to Lamar Electric by calling 903-784-4303. When you call our telephone number, you will still be given the option of using our "Automated Outage Reporting System", by pressing the number one and entering your outage using your phone key pad. Of course, if you don't press any number, we will always have a real live person available to take your phone call, but you may have to wait till he or she can get to your call.



Board President Allen Branch and General Manager Jerry Williams present Billy Hines with a plaque for his years of dedication and service.

Lamar Electric Board Member Resigns

Lamar Electric Cooperative Director Billy R. Hines announced his resignation, effective August 14. Hines had served on the LEC board since 2004. **“It has been a great experience, and I hope my time spent on the board was beneficial to the members, the management and the staff of Lamar Electric,” Hines said. He resigned for health reasons.**

Hines is a well-known community fixture around the Red River County area. After retiring from K&B Steel, which Hines and his brother owned, one of his favorite things to do was to visit each coffee shop every morning, catching up on the latest news. He would be seen riding his bicycle the 2-plus miles from his home north of town to his first stop for a cup of coffee and donuts.

Hines has a love for flying and was a pilot in the National Guard. He continued flying once he was discharged from the National Guard due to a punctured lung. He also had an ultralight plane, in which he loved taking two of his grandchildren flying. His grandchildren loved flying, too. However, after walking away from two crashes—one in which he was a passenger in a plane that crashed into a power line and one in which he crashed his ultralight into a cornfield—his wife said, “That is enough. No more.”

After that, he decided to just work on the planes. Another hobby he has is gardening. He had quite the garden. He always looked forward to canning with his late wife, bicycling, and spending time with his five children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

“I have enjoyed the many years that I have served on the Lamar Electric board of directors. I have made many friends, enjoyed and appreciated the meetings and the support of the communities,” Hines said.

Jerry Williams, general manager at Lamar EC, said “Mr. Hines has been a leader to this board and cooperative. His knowledge and contributions to Lamar Electric has certainly been appreciated. Mr. Hines always kept the members in mind with any decisions made, and his positive leadership has helped bring the cooperative to where it is today.” Hines served as board secretary for six years.

The remaining board members have appointed a committee to search for a member from Hines’ district to replace him. The bylaws allow the board to appoint a qualified member to serve the unexpired term of office. The committee has already begun the process by reviewing a complete list of members in Hines’ district.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Paris, TX 75461

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*

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.

CONTACT US

CALL US

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

FIND US ON THE WEB
lamarelectric.coop





Make sure your stovetop is clean and free of grease, dust and spilled food.

Notice of 2013 Capital Credit Allocations

Lamar Electric Cooperative recently allocated 2013 capital credits to each member's account.

As a nonprofit organization, at the end of each fiscal year, the cooperative must determine what margins were made during the year and allocate these margins to the members' equity accounts. The margin is the revenue received in excess of all operating costs.

These capital credits will be returned to members as approved by the board in the future when doing so will not weaken the financial condition of the cooperative. At this time, all margins from 1938 through 1969 have been returned to the members. Eventually, all capital credits will be paid to each member. In the meantime, the funds are used to construct new lines or make improvements to the electrical system even though the amount is credited to each member's capital credit account. The capital credits cannot be used to pay your electric bill.

These capital credits remain even if the member is no longer receiving service from Lamar EC. It is very important that departing members keep the cooperative informed of their current mailing addresses so they can receive capital credit refunds when they are paid.

Capital credits for each member in 2013 were calculated by multiplying each member's bill by 0.056111646. For example: If your total billing for 2013 from the cooperative (consisting of energy billing and power cost adjustment) was \$2,000, simply multiply that amount by 0.056111646. The product is \$112.22.

In calculating your total bill, include any security light charge but do not include any tax, service or miscellaneous charges.

If you have any question concerning these calculations, please contact the cooperative office.

(This article serves as an official notice of the capital credit allocations for 2013.)

Holiday Cooking Safety Tips

The kitchen is the heart of the home, and usually the place where everyone congregates during a gathering. Sadly, it's also the room where two out of every five home fires start. Many home fires occur during the time of year that is supposed to be the happiest—the holidays.

Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are traditionally celebrated with special meals. Safety should always be considered in the kitchen, but during the holidays when the kitchen produces more meals and receives more visitors, extra caution is advised.

As we embark on the holiday season, Lamar Electric Cooperative urges you to remember these simple safety tips to identify and correct potential kitchen hazards:

- ▶ Never leave cooking equipment unattended, and always remember to turn off burners if you leave the room.
- ▶ Supervise the little ones closely in the kitchen. Make sure children stay at least 3 feet away from all cooking appliances.
- ▶ To protect from spills and burns, use the back burners as often as possible, and turn the pot handles inward, away from reaching hands.
- ▶ Prevent potential fires by making sure your stovetop and oven are clean and free of grease, dust and spilled food.
- ▶ Remember to thoroughly clean the exhaust hood and duct over your stove on a regular basis.
- ▶ Keep the cooking area around the stove and oven clear of combustibles such as towels, napkins and potholders.
- ▶ Always wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can catch fire.
- ▶ Locate all appliances away from the sink.
- ▶ Plug countertop appliances into outlets protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters to avoid electric shocks caused by contact with water.
- ▶ Keep appliance cords away from hot surfaces like the range or toaster.
- ▶ Unplug the toaster and other countertop appliances when not in use.
- ▶ Be sure to turn off all appliances when cooking is completed.

For more important safety tips to keep yourself and your family safe this holiday season and throughout the year, visit esfi.org.

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Warm Up Your Water Heater

You're not the only one who stays warmer when you zip up a fluffy winter jacket. Your water heater does, too.

Adding insulation to the outside of a water heater can reduce the amount of heat it loses by more than 25 percent. And because it will direct that extra heat to warming up your home's water, you could see a savings of 5 percent or more on your water heating bill. That's substantial, considering that water heating accounts for about 18 percent of an average home's utility bill.

For \$30 or so, you can buy a water heater blanket made from an insulating material that's easy to wrap around your device.

Brand-new water heaters come with a lot of insulation, so you might not need a blanket if yours is new. The tank of an older water heater that could benefit from an insulating blanket will feel hot to the touch. Or, if your water heater is located in a spot that gets extra-cold during the winter, the blanket will help it operate more efficiently.



Happy
Thanksgiving!

We wish you and yours a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

Looking for a new way to report your outage?



Click here for outage texting.

Visit lamarelectric.coop and sign up today.

If you have any questions or concerns, give us a call at (903) 784-4303.

Don't Get Scammed

It's becoming more and more common for thieves to target people for scams over the telephone. Sometimes they call a co-op member and say they're collecting on an overdue bill from the "electric authority" or an electric company that doesn't even have customers nearby, and try to scare their target with threats of disconnecting their electric service.

These scammers are trying to get your bank account or credit card numbers so they can rob you.

Remember that if an authentic employee of your electric cooperative calls you on the phone, he or she will never ask you for a password, username or Social Security number. So if someone calls and claims to work for the cooperative and asks you for this information, you'll have a pretty good idea that the person is a fraud.

Never give out personal or account information over the phone unless you have initiated the call, or you're sure that the person on the line is legitimately who they say they are. If you suspect a caller is pretending to be an electric cooperative employee in an effort to scam you, hang up. Then call the cooperative to report what happened.