

If You Wrap the Package, Don't Forget To Deliver It



MESSAGE FROM
GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO JERRY D. WILLIAMS

MOST THANKSGIVINGS, OUR FAMILY WILL gather around the table while I try my hand with the electric knife and carve up the beautiful golden brown whole turkey. As the family has grown we are now surrounded by two folding side tables for the grandchildren. Usually I will add to the usual “bless this food” to include the many other blessings we have received. Over the years, three young ladies have joined our three sons, and now nine grandchildren have been added. The noise level has risen considerably, but often the chatter revolves around some of the things we are thankful for. Some things seem trivial, some humorous, and some are quiet emotional.

With the lingering odor of fresh baked yeast rolls still in the air we finishing eating more than we should and agree to hold



the pumpkin pie till later, I usually get a bit of exercise (three or four steps) as I move to my recliner. My thoughts drift to the question of why we do this only once a year. Are we really only appreciative when the calendar tells us we should be?

I suspect we let the hustle and bustle of day-to-day living get in the way of taking time to appreciate how blessed we are and letting the people responsible for those blessings know how much we appreciate them.

Like most of you, if asked what I'm grateful for, I'd say something like, “I'm grateful for my God, family, friends, good health, a comfortable recliner, deer season and a home to shelter my family.”

But, goodness, that's an awfully short list for someone who has so much.

I'm also fortunate to have a job that I love –being General

Manager of Lamar Electric. While some days aren't easy, knowing the work we do here at your electric cooperative makes our members' lives better is richly satisfying. Nowhere in the business world will you find a more dedicated and hardworking group of employees.

Our linemen literally risk life and limb every single day in their efforts to keep power flowing to each and every home and business on our system. Other employees provide critical behind-the-scenes support to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Working in this business, I learned quickly not to take a constant supply of electricity for granted and to be grateful when it is available. Most do not realize the continuous around the clock work that must take place to make sure electricity continues to flow, while most folks are asleep in bed. Throughout the night and day, adjustments must be made to make sure the electricity flows at the right voltage and at exactly 60 cycles per second, with the electrical load constantly changing every time someone turns a light switch on or off.

While it's never convenient to be without power, it does give us a moment to reflect on just how much we rely on this invisible servant. Sometimes it's a convenience we miss, like hot popcorn in 3 minutes from a microwave oven. Other times the absence of electricity can be life-threatening, such as when it's not available to power a breathing machine or other health-related equipment.

I will always remember the lady who called me on Thanksgiving Day, with a most unusual situation; apparently, there are some electric ovens that have some sort of a safety latch that will not open if the power goes out, and she sat watching the rolls and turkey overcook while the family waited patiently for power so they could eat.

When the power does go out, I'm grateful we have skilled crews available 24/7 who will immediately get up from their dinner table and fix the problem. I am equally thankful for members who patiently await completion of the needed repairs.

William Arthur Ward is credited with saying, “Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.”

I'm going to do my best throughout the year to make sure every gift I wrap gets delivered.

I wish you and your family a richly blessed Thanksgiving.



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AND CEO**

Jerry D. Williams

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What To Do if the Power Cuts Out

THE HOUSE GOES DARK, AND EVERYTHING INSIDE IS SILENT. NO FANS WHIRRING, microwaves beeping or TVs displaying the news. Your power has just gone out, perhaps because of a raging storm outside.

What do you do? During a power outage, stick to the following safety procedures:

- ▶ Use flashlights, not candles, which can start a fire if you drop one in the dark.
- ▶ Keep your refrigerator door closed, and it will keep food cold for four hours.

A closed freezer will stay cold for up to two days without electricity.

- ▶ Dress in layers indoors when it's cold outside and your heater has stopped.
- ▶ Never, ever heat your house with the oven or a charcoal grill, which could cause carbon monoxide poisoning. Instead, see if a family member or friend with electricity can take you in temporarily.

▶ Unplug appliances and electronics in case of a sudden power surge, which can damage your equipment.

▶ Your backup generator belongs outdoors, not in your house or garage. The carbon monoxide in the exhaust could be hazardous.

Once the power comes back on:

▶ Toss out food that has been exposed to temperatures warmer than 40 degrees for more than two hours and restock any emergency supplies you used.

Member Benefits

- Level billing
- Automated meter reading
- Free bank draft service
- E-Bill
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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.



Happy Thanksgiving

from Lamar Electric

Our offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 23-24, to celebrate the holiday.

CONTACT US

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Winter Is Coming



BY KATIE MORRIS

I AM A TEXAS GAL THROUGH AND THROUGH. I love the hot summers and mild winters. If it could be summer all year long, I would be OK with that. We squeaked by last year with a mild winter season. However, this year, the outlook is not so good.

The *Farmer's Almanac* is calling for colder than normal temperatures for southern states this winter. Cold tempera-

tures do not cause outages. However, the almanac also forecasts that precipitation will be at above-normal levels throughout the country. This is where we begin to think about outages.

Freezing rain is the most concerning type of winter precipitation for us at Lamar Electric. Freezing rain is snow that has melted on its way to the ground and refreezes once it hits the ground, a tree limb or electric wire, causing an unwelcome layer of ice.

Once ice accumulates on our lines, it can increase the weight of a line by 30 times, according to The Weather Channel. A half-inch accumulation on power lines can add 500 pounds of extra weight per span. Subsequently, the added weight can cause tree branches, power lines and utility poles to fall. Remember that the added weight doesn't go away once the above-mentioned items fall to the ground.

Our linemen must remove the broken wires, poles or trees that have fallen on the lines and replace the broken equipment, which takes a significant amount of time and manpower. Making repairs in freezing rain doesn't speed things up, either! We have contractors that we call if we have widespread outages. In severe cases, we even call in other cooperatives to help us restore power quickly.

Needless to say, the weight of the ice causes wires to sag. Sagging wires can be snagged by a truck driving underneath, pulling down the poles at the ends of the span. This can cause a domino effect in which one pole snaps and forcefully pulls on the wires, causing the next pole in line to snap, which can initiate a long line of poles snapping. Then, as the ice begins to melt and fall off the sagging wires, they can spring back up and may be damaged further as they hit overhanging branches or other wires. This is called "ice shedding" or "sleet jumping."

Speaking of sleet, you may be keeping an eye on the news and looking out for menacing winter storm words. Please note that freezing rain and sleet are two different things. *Sleet* is a snowflake that has melted partially and refrozen before it hits the ground. *Freezing rain* is a snowflake that has melted completely and freezes after hitting the ground or another object. While accumulations of sleet can make roads treacherous, sleet does not accumulate on power lines, so ice events with

more freezing rain than sleet pose a greater threat for power outages.

Stay prepared this coming winter season. Winter storms could strike at any time.

The following are a few key items that you may need if a winter storm hits and you find yourself without power:

A battery-powered radio with extra batteries so you can hear the latest local weather updates

A couple of oil lamps with extra odorless oil, for light

A cellphone and portable charger to help you stay in touch with friends and family and to use in case of emergencies

Dry firewood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove, if you have one

A smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector that operate on batteries

Battery-powered flashlights

Blankets or sleeping bags

Drinking water

Canned/no-cook food (bread, crackers, nuts, etc.)

Manual can opener

First-aid kit

Fire extinguisher

These are just a few suggested items. To find a full list of suggested winter preparedness items, please visit the web-site of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [cdc.gov/disasters](https://www.cdc.gov/disasters) and select the Winter Weather tab.

We are constantly on the lookout for major storms that may affect our service area. We do our best to remain prepared for any storm that could head our way. We encourage you also to stay prepared and be patient with us if your lights go out during a storm. Our linemen work hard in harsh weather conditions to restore your power as quickly and safely as possible.

Winter is coming. We will be prepared. Will you?

Sources:

Dolce, Chris. 2014. *What ice storm accumulations mean and how to stay safe.* The Weather Channel. <https://weather.com/news/news/ice-storm-damage-impacts-20121123>

Lam, Linda. 2017. *Five things to know about ice storms.* The Weather Channel. <https://weather.com/science/weather-explainers/news/what-to-know-about-ice-storms-impacts-damage-explainer>

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. *Damaging ice storm GIS.* <http://www.ercd.usace.army.mil/Media/Fact-Sheets/Fact-Sheet-Article-View/Article/490684/damaging-ice-storm-gis>

Veterans Day November 11

Lamar Electric salutes veterans for their service.



MIPPV | ISTOCK.COM

RECIPE OF THE MONTH



MSHELDRAKE | ISTOCK.COM

Baked Mashed Sweet Potatoes

- 1¾ pounds russet potatoes
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- 1 can (14.5 ounces) sweet potatoes, drained and mashed
- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 3 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
- ½ cup light sour cream
- ½ cup chicken broth
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9-inch square baking dish.
2. Boil potatoes with garlic until tender, then drain.
3. Add remaining ingredients and beat with mixer until blended.
4. Pour into baking dish. Bake uncovered for 20 minutes.

This recipe was a winner in the January 2011 *All Eyes on Potatoes* recipe contest. Submit your best pastry recipes to *Texas Co-op Power* by November 10 for a chance to win the *Breakfast Pastries* recipe contest. Visit texascooppower.com/contests for rules and details.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at
TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM

MARTIN WAHLBORG | ISTOCK.COM

TIME TO FALL BACK! DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

ends at 2 a.m., Sunday, November 5.
Remember to set your clocks back one hour.

