

Disasters Don't Plan Ahead, But You Should



MESSAGE FROM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ROBERT A. LOTH III

BE PREPARED. IT'S A SCOUT'S TIMELESS MOTTO AND SAGE ADVICE for all of us. September is National Preparedness Month, a good opportunity to stress the importance of planning for the unexpected, particularly harsh storms, while affirming Central Texas Electric Cooperative's commitment to doing the same in our own backyard.

A critical component of preparedness is having an emergency communication plan for your family. Something as simple as a list of names and phone numbers tucked away in a wallet or purse could make all the difference if the power goes out and your cellphone battery dies.

Emergency



Co-ops have their own detailed communication plans for crises, when staying in touch becomes particularly important and our employees have to be able to reach one another and our members.

While a written contact list is vital, using technology to stay updated in the event of a rapidly unfolding situation is wise, also. Electronic notifications are available for everything from weather changes to voice messages from local law enforcement. Check with your county's office of emergency management or sheriff to sign up for alerts for your area. It makes sense to take advantage of all available tools in an emergency.

Finally, assemble an emergency supply kit to see you through a few days, with or without electricity.

The kit should include essential items such as water, nonperishable food, a battery- or hand-powered radio, flashlight, batteries, a first-aid kit, medications and copies of important personal documents.

Keeping your vehicle's gas tank full and some cash on hand are also prudent steps. Maps of the area, pet supplies and activities to keep kids occupied could be important as well.

A few moments spent rounding up most or all of these things into a bag or container and informing everyone in your home of its location could make a potentially dangerous situation merely unpleasant or, hopefully, just inconvenient.

Just as Central Texas EC takes steps to be ready for whatever disasters may come our way, we encourage you to prepare now for your safety and that of your family.

CENTRAL TEXAS EC
 JULY 10

Regular Board Meeting Recap

Meeting called to order and prayer offered.

Approved: Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held June 12, 2018

Approved: June 5–July 2, 2018, Membership List and Membership Conversions

Reviewed: Safety Report for five months ended May 31, 2018

Reviewed: Financial and Statistical Reports for five months ended May 31, 2018

Approved: Execution of Restated Mortgage and Security Agreement with CFC

Appointed: Voting Delegate for 2018 NRECA Regional Meeting

Reviewed: 2018 Board of Directors Self-Assessment

Reviewed: Board Policy No. 2

Approved: Sale of 2.07 acres of Blumenthal substation property to LCRA in accordance with prior agreement

Approved: Participation as co-signatory on Letter of Concern to be sent to NRECA

Meeting adjourned.



Power Tip

Look for LED products and fixtures for outdoor use, such as on pathways, steps and porches. Many include features like automatic daylight shut-off and motion sensors.

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ABOVE: From left, CTEC Board Director Tim Lehmborg, Back to School Blast representative Ken Rousch, Operation Round-Up Board Chairman Bernard Selensky and CTEC Board Director Doyleene Bode

LEFT: From left, CTEC Board Director Mark Hahn, Operation Round-Up Board Director Curtis Schulze, Richard Montellano and CTEC Board Director Jack Asbill

CTEC Operation Round-Up Grants Awarded



RECENTLY, THE CENTRAL TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE OPERATION ROUND-UP BOARD of Directors approved grants for a local community organization and a family in need. Five hundred dollars was awarded to Back to School Blast, a nonprofit outreach program in Llano County designed to aid economically disadvantaged students by providing backpacks and school supplies as well as basic necessities, such as shoes and socks. The program also offers vaccinations, and vision and health screenings.

Tragically, Richard Montellano's family's home caught fire in Mason. The Montellano's home sustained extensive structural damage, and much of the home's contents were destroyed. The Operation Round-Up board authorized a grant of \$2,000 to help the family begin to rebuild.

By volunteering to round up their electric bills to the next whole dollar each month, CTEC's Operation Round-Up members make a difference in the lives of their fellow community members, like the Montellano family.

CTEC members who are not enrolled in Operation Round-Up can sign up one or all of their accounts online at ctec.coop or by calling their local co-op office. The average monthly contribution is just 50 cents. One-time monetary donations are also welcome, and all contributions are tax-deductible.

Operation Round-Up is an easy, inexpensive way to foster a worthwhile community program through your co-op membership.

Central Texas Electric Cooperative

Fredericksburg (headquarters)
386 Friendship Lane
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Llano
1410 E. State Highway 29, Llano

Kingsland
Nob Hill Subdivision
706 Cottonwood St., Kingsland

Mason
1881 E. State Highway 29, Mason

Office Hours
8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Friday

Website
ctec.coop

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Robert A. Loth III

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

W.C. "Dub" Stewart, President, *Llano County*
Allen Goodwin, Vice President, *Kendall County*
Doyleene Bode, Secretary, *Gillespie County*
Tim Lehmborg, Treasurer, *Gillespie County*
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Tommy Duncan, *Llano County*
Mark Hahn, *Mason County*
Stanley Keese, *Llano County*
James Low, *San Saba County*
Charles E. Pearson, *Gillespie County*

Emergency Contact

To report electric service interruptions, please call the Central Texas Electric Cooperative office in your area at the numbers listed below:

FREDERICKSBURG AREA
(830) 997-2126
1-800-900-CTEC (2832)
including Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, Blanco, Real and Kimble counties

LLANO AND SAN SABA AREAS
(325) 247-4191

THE LAKES AREA
(325) 388-4542

MASON AREA
(325) 347-6314
including McCulloch, Menard and Kimble counties

AFTER HOURS OUTAGE REPORTING
1-800-900-CTEC (2832)

Affordable Strategies for Drafty, Inefficient Windows

IF YOUR HOME IS OLDER AND STILL HAS ITS ORIGINAL WINDOWS, THEY LIKELY AREN'T as energy efficient as they could be. Windows can let in unwanted cold drafts during the winter and heat in summer. Replacing windows can be costly, and it can take 20 years of energy savings to recoup the investment.

If replacement isn't an option for you, you can make significant improvements to your existing windows without investing a large amount of money or time.

Weatherstripping can be used for areas where a window's movable parts meet the window frame. There are a variety of low-cost, easy-to-apply options that can pay for themselves in energy savings in as little as one year.



The seam between the window frame and the wall is a common source of air leakage. Fill gaps less than 1/4-inch wide with caulk; for larger gaps, use expanding foam and paint over it.

If the windowpane is loose, or the glass is cracked or missing, fix it. If you're handy, you can reglaze the window yourself, or hire a local repairman to do the job.

Installing exterior or interior storm windows can sometimes provide as much savings as a full replacement, but they need to be the exact size of your window opening. Studies show that storm windows can cut heating costs by 7–12 percent.

Window coverings also can help. There are many types, including interior roller shades, cellular shades and draperies. Recent laboratory tests showed that cellular shades can cut heating or cooling expenses by 10–16 percent. Cellular shades can be purchased with a lighter reflective side and a darker, heat-absorbing side. Some even can be reversed with the change of seasons.

Draperies are usually less efficient but can provide a level of comfort during winter and summer months. For maximum effect, make sure draperies overlap in the middle, are as tight to the window and wall as possible and run all the way to the floor.

Consider installing awnings or overhangs above windows that receive a lot of direct sunlight. Window films that adhere to the window's surface can reflect unwanted summer sunlight. Solar screens designed to block the sun's rays also can be effective.

Another low-cost measure that can produce savings is using a plastic weather barrier that adheres to the frame. Hardware stores sell clear plastic and framing material that can be shrunk into place with a hair dryer.



Co-op Lineworkers See Students From a Different Perspective

When co-op lineworkers are high atop utility poles, they can see a lot. And this time of year, they're on special alert for students who may have a problem, like a stalled school bus or other conditions that may be unsafe for school kids.

Sure, our primary mission is to provide first-rate electric service. But if we can do other things to serve the community, you'll have even more reasons to be thankful for Central Texas Electric Cooperative.



Understanding How Your Appliances Use Energy

IF SOME OF YOUR APPLIANCES ARE GETTING old and will need to be replaced soon, it's time to do some homework. Your appliance choices can have a significant impact on your electric bill.

Your energy use varies month to month, so it can be difficult to see the difference any one appliance makes. Instead, it's best to think about how an appliance uses energy over its lifetime. Think about upfront and lifetime energy costs.

In a *Consumer Reports* test, the most efficient refrigerator used \$68 less in electricity per year than the least efficient model. Compound that difference over a decade or two, and the lifetime energy savings could be greater than the upfront cost. All it takes to get the best appliance for your needs is some research.

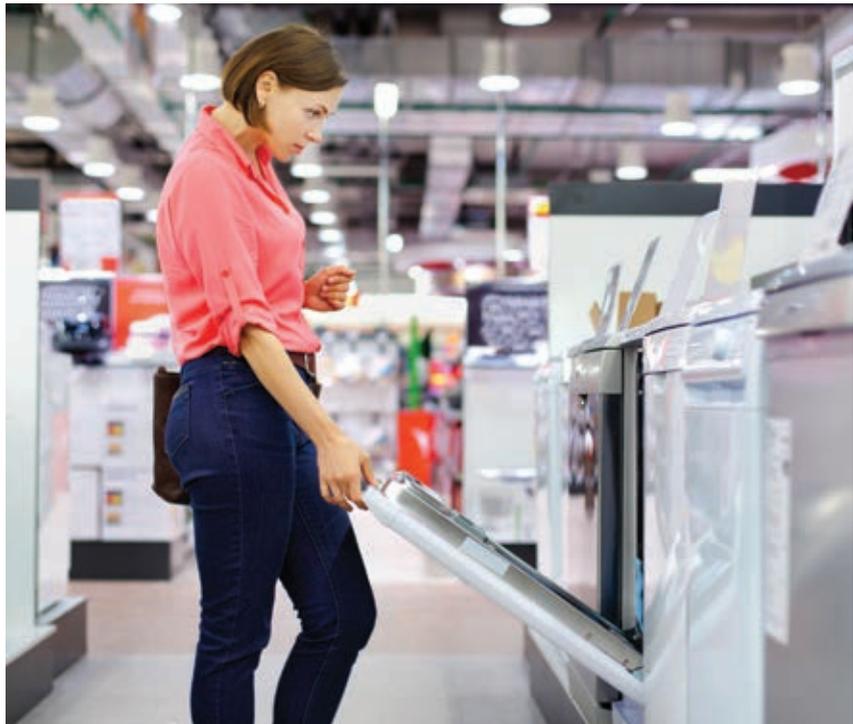
Appliances use less energy, on average, than home heating and cooling equipment, but still can use several hundred dollars' worth each year. That dollar amount depends on factors like the model, how often it's used, the settings you use and even the time of day it's most used.

Over the past few decades, new appliances have become more energy efficient, driven partly by government standards. These requirements, created by the U.S. Department of Energy, save consumers more than \$60 billion each year by requiring appliances to include an EnergyGuide label that shows estimated energy use and operating costs per year. These estimates help you compare models and calculate initial costs against long-term savings.

Some appliances also will have an Energy Star label. This sticker indicates an appliance is substantially more efficient than the minimum standard. Your greatest energy savings opportunities can come from replacing an old appliance with an Energy Star-rated appliance. Removing a refrigerator that's 20 years old and replacing it with a new Energy Star model can lower its electricity costs by 75 percent.

In some cases, the way an appliance is configured also can make a significant difference. For example, the most efficient refrigerator models have the fridge compartment stacked on top of the freezer. All 36 of the most efficient clothes washers of 2018 were front-load models.

Consider how much you use the appliance, too. The more you use the appliance, the greater your savings from choosing a more efficient model. If you use the appliance less or have a small household, you may get by with a smaller refrigerator or freezer, which will save money.



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How you operate appliances also can make a difference. Here are some easy ways to save:

Refrigerator/Freezer

- ▶ Set your refrigerator at 35–38 degrees and your freezer at zero degrees.
- ▶ Make sure there is adequate airflow between your home's wall and the back of the unit.
- ▶ Keep the refrigerator relatively full when possible.
- ▶ Replace the seals around the doors if they appear to be leaking air.

Stove/Oven

- ▶ Use the burner size that best matches the pan size.
- ▶ Use smaller appliances like a microwave or slow cooker instead of the oven when possible.

Dishwasher

- ▶ Use the most energy-efficient and shortest setting that gets your dishes clean.
- ▶ Air dry rather than using the heated dry function.
- ▶ Wait until the dishwasher is full before running it.

Make the most out of your appliance energy use with a little research before buying a new model and a few easy adjustments to the way you use them.