

We Have a Feast of Blessings



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER LEROY T. SKLOSS

Later this month, people will sit down at dinner tables with family and friends for the annual Thanksgiving Day feast (followed by the traditional post-dinner nap and Texans and

Cowboys NFL games).

But Thanksgiving isn't just about full bellies and football. It's also a time we set aside for reflecting, counting our blessings and enjoying the company of our loved ones.

Speaking for myself, the blessings are many, including the fact that I am privileged to work for an electric cooperative.

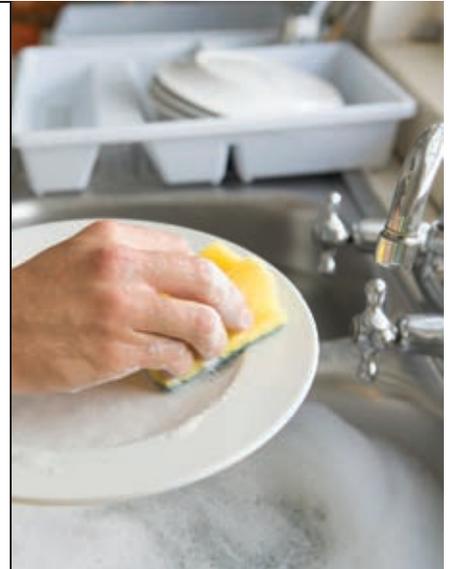
As general manager of Karnes Electric Cooperative, I am thankful for members like you who support the mission of this cooperative not only to provide reliable electricity at a reasonable rate, but also to be a strong presence in sustaining the communities we serve. Your participation in co-op meetings, elections and activities makes Karnes Electric Cooperative a vital organization, one that can be counted on to support volunteer fire departments, food banks, scholarships and other mainstays of a healthy community.

I am thankful for our directors, those civic-minded members who give of their time and talents to represent your interests as we set policies and plan for our future electricity supply. With each passing year, as financial and regulatory challenges mount, your board members must stay abreast of the factors that influence the efficient and cost-effective delivery of electricity to your home.

I am thankful for Karnes Electric's employees, who, day in and day out, demonstrate dedication and professionalism in performing their duties. Electric cooperatives seem to attract and retain people who choose to make their living in an environment where service comes first.

And last—but certainly not least—I am thankful for my understanding family, who sometimes has to share me with my job. They know that in a crisis, the phone may ring in the middle of the night, calling me away to work, and that sometimes my duties include time away on business trips. With their support and love, my job and my life are much easier.

I hope that this Thanksgiving, you also have plenty for which to give thanks. May you and your loved ones have a happy, healthy and blessed holiday.



Hand-washing dishes is an energy-efficient choice if you don't leave the water running.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Dishwasher or Hand-Washing?

Gathering family members to help you carefully wash and dry your dishes by hand is a great way to keep everyone together in the kitchen after a big holiday dinner. It's also a big waste of hot water.

Cleaning dishes in the dishwasher typically uses 37 percent less water than washing them by hand. The reason: Most of us run the hot water constantly while washing plate after glass after casserole dish.

A tip: If you have a divided sink, plug the drains and fill one side with warm, soapy water and the other with clear rinse water, and then turn the faucet off. You'll use half as much water cleaning your dishes with this method as you would if you ran the dishwasher.

If you do load the dishwasher, wait until it's full to turn it on. If you have to rinse dried-on food from dishes beforehand, use cold water only.

Always opt for the "energy-saving" cycle when you run your dishwasher. And deactivate the "heated drying" cycle in favor of letting the dishes air-dry. You'll save up to 10 percent on dishwashing costs if you do.





Alvin Pawelek Honored at Luncheon

On September 26, Alvin Pawelek was honored with a retirement luncheon celebrating his more than 18 years of service to Karnes Electric Cooperative.

Pawelek began working for KEC on April 28, 1994, as a construction helper. In 1998, he became a meter reader and remained in that capacity until his retirement.

He has two daughters and five grandchildren. His retirement plans are to spend as much time as possible with his family, take care of his farm and cattle, attend church, and be a good Christian.

On behalf of the KEC Board of Directors and employees, we all want to wish Pawelek and his family many years of continued health and happiness.



Karnes Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 7, Karnes City, TX 78118

GENERAL MANAGER

Leroy T. Skloss

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COOPERATIVE OFFICES

Main Office

1007 N. Highway 123, Karnes City

District Office

1824 W. Goodwin, Pleasanton

Pay your bill, submit meter readings and view your account summary at karnesec.org.



Contact Us

For information and outages during office hours

(830) 780-3952 Karnes City
(830) 569-5538 Pleasanton
1-888-807-3952 Toll-free

To report a power outage after 5 p.m. and on weekends and holidays

(830) 780-3952

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karnesec.org



No peeking! Keep the oven door closed when baking. Even a quick peek instantly lowers the temperature several degrees, making your oven work harder and consume more electricity.

Save Energy While You Prepare Holiday Feast

Baking pies, roasting a turkey and warming up the side dishes for your family's Thanksgiving feast can be hard on your electric bill if you rely on your oven to do all the work.

This Thanksgiving, consider using your stovetop, barbecue grill, microwave oven, slow cooker, toaster oven, electric skillet or even your blender or food processor to prepare your bird and all the trimmings.

Here are some tips for a more energy-efficient Thanksgiving.

- 1.** Give your oven a break and your family a treat by frying, grilling or smoking your turkey outdoors. The smoky flavor can be a nice change from a traditional, oven-roasted turkey.
- 2.** Use the microwave oven to heat up vegetables, potatoes and other side dishes.
- 3.** Consider serving some foods that don't need cooking. The turkey, stuffing and potatoes will be nice and hot. Add some variety to the menu by preparing a few cold salads and raw vegetables with dip. Experiment with no-bake desserts, like frozen peanut butter pie or no-bake cheesecake.
- 4.** When you do use the oven, resist opening the door to check on the food. Every time you open the door, you let heat out and the oven has to work harder to get back to the proper temperature. Use the window and light instead.
- 5.** Bake everything at the same time: pies, bread, turkey, potatoes. The more your oven can do at once, the less time you'll need to use it. Leave enough room between items for air and heat to circulate.
- 6.** Choose glass or ceramic pans for the oven. They cook food at temperatures as much as 25 degrees lower than metal pans.
- 7.** The burners on your cooktop will work more efficiently if you match the size of the burner to the size of the pot. Placing a small pot on a larger burner wastes the heat from the part of the burner that doesn't touch the pot.
- 8.** Clean the burners and the oven. There's no need for your appliance to spend any energy heating spilled, baked-on food that you haven't cleaned up yet. If you make a habit of using the self-cleaning function on your oven while it's still hot after you use it, it will use the residual heat and work more quickly.

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CREATAS IMAGES

Texas Division of Emergency Management

Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines

Preparing for Hurricane Season: June 1-November 30

Residents of Texas Gulf Coast **EVACUATION ZONES** should **BEGIN NOW** by making an evacuation plan, preparing an emergency kit and learning evacuation routes well in advance.



- **If you have special health care needs, register by dialing 2-1-1:** Gulf Coast residents with special health care needs (including those who are disabled or medically fragile) who live in evacuation zones and do not have friends or family to help in an evacuation should register for assisted transportation in advance by dialing 2-1-1. The 2-1-1 transportation assistance registry must be dialed **IN ADVANCE**. It is confidential. Do not wait until a storm is in the Gulf to register for assistance.
- **If you need transportation, register with 2-1-1:** If you do not have a car or other vehicle, and you cannot get a ride with friends, neighbors or family, register **IN ADVANCE** for assisted transportation by dialing 2-1-1.
- **Evacuation zone information:** If you are interested in registering and you want to find out whether you are living in an evacuation zone, dial 2-1-1 for information.

Hurricane Preparedness tips online:

Texas Division of Emergency Management website: www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem

FEMA website: Ready.gov

Red Cross website: redcross.org

División de Administración de Emergencias de Texas

Directrices para Huracanes

Preparando para la temporada de huracanes durante el 1 de junio hasta el 30 de noviembre

Los residentes de zonas de evacuación de la Costa del Golfo de Texas deberán empezar ahora a hacer un plan de evacuación, preparando un equipo de emergencia y aprendiendo bien las rutas de evacuación por adelantado.



- **Si usted tiene necesidad especial de asistencia médica, regístrese llamando al 2-1-1:** Los residentes de la Costa del Golfo con necesidades especiales de asistencia médica (incluyendo los que son incapacitados o médicamente frágil) que viven en zonas de evacuación y no tienen amigos o familiares para ayudar en una evacuación deben registrarse por adelantado para la asistencia de transporte llamando al 2-1-1. El registro de asistencia de transporte se debe hacer por adelantado llamando al 2-1-1. Es confidencial. No espere hasta que una tormenta esté en el Golfo para registrarse para la ayuda.
- **Si usted necesita transporte, regístrese llamando al 2-1-1.** Si usted no tiene un coche ni otro tipo de vehículo, y usted no puede obtener transporte con amigos, vecinos o familiares, regístrese por adelantado para su traslado e llamando al 2-1-1.
- **Información sobre la zona de evacuación:** Si usted está interesado en registrarse y quiere determinar si usted vive en una zona de evacuación, llame a 2-1-1.

Para mayor información sobre La Preparación para la Temporada de Huracanes en el Internet:

listo.gov

cuzrojaamericana.org

www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem

A Guide to Distribution Poles

BY MAURICE MARTIN

Ever look up at a utility pole and wonder: “What is all that stuff?”

While wires are easy—everyone knows they carry electricity—how about those attached metal boxes and other mysterious gadgets? What are they called, and what purpose do they serve?

With a little information, you can understand a lot more about the utility line you pass every day. A little “pole spotting” can shed light on the work done by Karnes Electric Cooperative.

While pole spotting, keep in mind:

- ▶ Utility poles are not for climbing! Looking is OK, but keep a safe distance from all equipment described here.

- ▶ The measurements and descriptions given here represent common configurations, but in the real world, design varies greatly. Part of why electric co-op employees undergo such extensive training is to enable them to identify components in the field with a high level of confidence and certainty.

Transmission vs. Distribution

First, make sure that the pole you’re looking at is a distribution pole and not a transmission pole.

Distribution poles are those you see in your neighborhood, unless your distribution lines run underground. They are generally up to 55 feet high and made of wood. Power running through electric distribution lines ranges from 4,600 to 33,000 volts.

Transmission lines are designed to carry electricity longer distances and at higher voltages—69,000 volts and above. Relative to distribution poles, transmission poles are much larger—from 55 to more than 100 feet—with the conductors higher off the ground. Some large transmission lines use steel poles and tower structures.

When a pole carries both transmission and distribution lines, the transmission lines will run above distribution

lines. The lower the voltage of the line, the lower it is on the pole.

Four Common Distribution Devices

Transformers are something most people can already spot—they’re hefty metal cylinders that hang off poles. The transformer that connects your home to a distribution line lowers the distribution voltage to what you need in your house—generally 120 volts for your outlets and 240 volts for your air conditioner and



Transformer

Lowers voltage to a safe level for use in your home.



Recloser

Protects lines and consumers from short circuits.



Capacitor

Improves the power factor on the utility lines.

clothes dryer. If you could see the top of the transformer, you’d find bushings—ceramic projections with several disks running around the outside. Inside the bushings are metal conductors; the outsides are insulators so when they attach to a transformer, the metal casing doesn’t become electrically charged.

Capacitors look somewhat like transformers, with bushings on top, but have flat, rectangular casings. While transformers change voltage, capacitors improve the power factor on the utility lines—they prevent power from being wasted and help boost the voltage.

Reclosers protect lines and consumers from short circuits. If a tree branch touches a line, electric current flows through the tree, burning it and overheating the wire. Eventually, this results in a fault that causes a protective device, similar to a fuse or circuit breaker, to interrupt the power. Circuit breakers “open” the circuit, cutting off the power. Because many shorts correct themselves in a few seconds—as the high current usually burns a tree limb away from the line—most modern circuit breakers have reclosers that allows them to reclose a moment later. Like transformers and capacitors, reclosers also have bushings. They tend to be round, like transformers, but smaller.

Fuses are also designed to protect lines and homes from short circuits. But fuses are one-shot devices—a fault, like the tree branch described above, on the load side of the fuse causes them to burn out. High-voltage fuses look like a bar offset from the pole by one or more insulators. When a fuse blows, lineworkers have to go out and find why the fuse blew, fix the problem and re-fuse the line to restore power.

These four devices are the most common ones you’ll find on distribution poles. Once you know what they look like, you’ll realize you’ve been seeing them every day for years.

Maurice Martin writes for the Cooperative Research Network.

Straight Shooting on Safety

Texans love to hunt. Nature beckons. There's suspense and excitement and escape from the daily routine.

Here are the "10 commandments" of shooting safety:

- ▶ Always point the muzzle of your gun in a safe direction.
- ▶ Treat every firearm or bow with the same respect you would show a loaded gun or nocked arrow.
- ▶ Be sure of your target.
- ▶ Unload firearms and unstring conventional bows when not in use.
- ▶ Handle firearms, arrows and ammunition with care.
- ▶ Know your safe zone-of-fire and stick to it.
- ▶ Control your emotions when using weapons.
- ▶ Wear hearing and eye protection.
- ▶ Don't consume alcohol or drugs before or while handling firearms or bows.
- ▶ Be responsible: Never use electrical equipment, such as insulators and transformers, as targets.

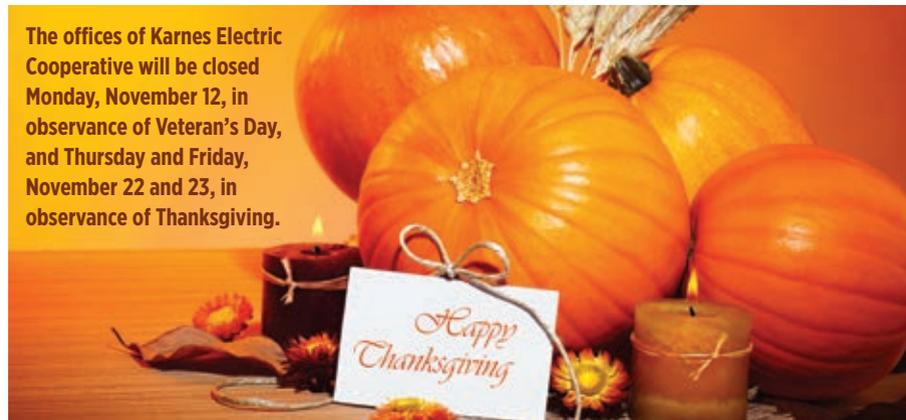
If you practice these rules, you'll help to ensure a safe future for yourself, for others and for the shooting sports.

Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday, November 4, at 2 a.m.

And as you set your clocks back an hour, Karnes EC encourages you to use the occasion as a reminder to change the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Smoke alarms have significantly reduced fire fatalities—but they can only help if they work.



The offices of Karnes Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, November 12, in observance of Veteran's Day, and Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23, in observance of Thanksgiving.



Window Efficiency

Are claims 'up to' any good?

BY MEGAN MCKOY-NOE

Replacing old windows boosts a home's energy efficiency, but by how much? A new study from the Federal Trade Commission cautions consumers not to expect all claims to live up to perceived expectations.

Energy-efficient windows offer lower heating, cooling and lighting costs; in fact, replacing old windows with qualified models can cut a home's energy bill 7 to 15 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Star program. But true energy savings depend on proper installation and the type of windows installed—facts that folks often miss when reading window advertisements.

"Energy efficiency and cost savings are major factors for many consumers buying replacement windows," says David Vladeck, director of the FTC Bureau of Consumer Protection. "The FTC is committed to making sure that the information consumers get is accurate and that marketers can back up the claims they make."

To understand how consumers perceive advertised savings, a 2012 FTC study evaluated how 360 consumers in four states interpreted the potential energy savings of advertised windows.

One of the ads evaluated displayed the following text (in uppercase letters): "PROVEN TO SAVE UP TO 47 PERCENT ON YOUR HEATING AND COOLING BILLS!" Another version removed the words, "up to," while a third version added this disclosure statement: "The average owner saves about 25 percent on heating and cooling bills."

More than one-third of consumers who saw the "up to" version reported the advertised windows would save most homeowners 47 percent on their energy bills—a far cry from the true average energy savings. However, including a disclosure statement did not weaken the ad's impact.

Megan McKoy-Noe writes for the Cooperative Research Network.

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