

EMERGENCY RESTORATION

When Disaster Strikes, We Are Ready



MESSAGE FROM
GENERAL MANAGER BRAD BIERSTEDT

MOTHER NATURE IS NOT AS PREDICTABLE as we would like, and when she gets angry, we are left to pick up the pieces. Hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, snow and ice, drought and other natural disasters pose major threats to all kinds of infrastructure, including electrical lines and systems.

Karnes Electric Cooperative is always ready to respond when the lights go out, but emergency situations—and extended outages—can be particularly challenging. Our lines serve several “critical needs” facilities, such as hospitals, making a longer outage a possibly life-threatening situation. Some homes may receive special attention if power loss affects life-support systems or poses other immediate dangers.

When a major storm moves through our area, fellow co-ops’ line crews are standing by, ready to help us restore power to the greatest number of members in the shortest amount of time possible. Even though co-ops are independent entities, we still rely on one another to share resources, information and, in some cases, manpower.



During a disaster, co-ops work together and with state and national agencies to safely restore power as quickly as possible.

Relying on each other is the cooperative way, and by doing so, we can restore power to members more quickly when severe weather emergencies occur.

This type of assistance is known as a mutual-aid agreement, and it works both ways. Wherever the need is for assistance—whether in our service area, a neighboring co-op’s, or sometimes even in another region entirely—the crews head there to pitch in.

Most co-op lines and systems are designed and built to the same standards, so when fellow crews answer the call for assistance, no training is necessary. They show up ready to get the job done.

Karnes EC also communicates with the Texas Division of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. When Texas’ governor formally declares an area a disaster, he requests aid from the president so that emergency management staff can begin assessing damage.

The best preparation for emergency situations is becoming familiar with the rules and procedures ahead of time, so you’re educated and ready to respond. Preparation ensures shorter outages for our members, and that’s whom we’re here to serve.



Notice of Capital Credits Allocations

CAPITAL CREDITS FOR 2014 were allocated to members’ accounts in June.

At the end of each fiscal year, cooperatives must determine what, if any, margins were made during the year and allocate these margins to members’ accounts.

Your cooperative’s margin is any money left after all operating costs have been paid. Because members are co-owners of the cooperative, those margins are allocated to their accounts.

These capital credits are not available as cash or credit on your electric bill. Refund of this amount, in full or part, in the future will be based on the decision of the board of directors that doing so will not weaken the financial condition of the cooperative.

In the meantime, the funds remain invested in the cooperative, credited to each member’s account, even if the member moves away from Karnes Electric Cooperative. It is important that departing members keep the cooperative informed of their current mailing addresses in the future so they can receive capital credit retirements when they are paid.

This will serve as your official notice that capital credits have been allocated.

To calculate your allocation for 2014, multiply your total electric bill for 2014 by whichever of the following factors pertains to your account:

Farm and Nonfarm (Residential)	0.15993213
Irrigation	0.17326656
Small Commercial	0.15027909
Large Commercial	0.04407186
Oil Wells	0.19621448
Public Buildings	0.17807461

If you have any questions concerning these calculations, feel free to contact the cooperative at (830) 780-3952.

Karnes EC Honors Leroy T. Skloss

General manager retires after 42 years of service

KARNES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE HONORED General Manager Leroy T. Skloss with a retirement luncheon June 25. Skloss began working for KEC September 4, 1973, as a serviceman's helper. He went on to work as a material and work order clerk assistant, capital credits clerk and assistant material and work order clerk, book-keeper, assistant office manager, assistant to the manager and assistant manager before being named the general manager January 1, 1991.

Skloss and his wife, Margie, have been married for 45 years and have three children: Deanna, Derek and Dustin. They have one granddaughter, Sydney, and are expecting a second later this year.

Life not lived by the calendar or clock will be a big adjustment going forward. Skloss is looking forward to taking care of his cattle operation, being able to relax and enjoy some time golfing, fishing down at the coast and spending more time with his family.

As Skloss reflected on the past, he said that being named general manager of Karnes Electric Cooperative was definitely the highlight of his long cooperative career. He was also honored to serve as president of the San Miguel Electric Cooperative Board of Directors for the past 10 years, and as a member of the South Texas Electric Cooperative and Texas Electric Cooperatives boards.

As he leaves the cooperative, he shares this wisdom: "Continue to work hard to have the best cooperative possible. Always stop and think before you act and then simply do the right thing. It takes less time than explaining why you did it wrong."

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

With Skloss' retirement, the board of directors named Bradley "Brad" E. Bierstedt as his successor, effective July 1, 2015.



Leroy T. Skloss dedicated the past 42 years to Karnes EC and its members.



Karnes Electric Cooperative

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

GENERAL MANAGER

Brad Bierstedt

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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

Coy City, Ecleto, Floresville, Gillette, Goliad, Karnes City, Kenedy, Runge, Three Rivers, Tilden and surrounding areas

(830) 569-5538

Charlotte, Christine, Pleasanton, Poteet, Verdi and surrounding areas

FIND US ON THE WEB

karnesec.org

Residential Generators

A buyer's guide

LET'S FACE IT: ROUGH WEATHER HAPPENS. At Karnes Electric Cooperative, our goal is to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. But when a major storm hits, power may be out for an extended period of time. Anyone who has experienced an extended power outage has likely mulled over the idea of buying a generator. Before you do, make sure you have all the facts.

The purchase and installation of a generator is an important and serious decision. Properly done, you gain peace of mind knowing your family can ride out any outage with some degree of safety and comfort. An incorrectly implemented generator can become deadly to you, your family, your neighbors and your electric cooperative's employees.

So let's look at the decisions you'll need to make when it comes to purchasing a residential generator. First, do you want to back up your entire home or just portions of it? The biggest drawback to a permanently installed, whole-house generator is the cost, despite significant advantages.

The next decision is sizing the generator to your particular situation. Online tools abound, so if you like to research, just type "generator sizing guide" into your browser, and off you go. Or contact Karnes EC to help you determine the correct size. All this being said, a reasonable size for a portable generator is at least 6,500 watts, with a startup capacity of about 8,000 watts. (The difference in those numbers is because of this: When motor loads start, they draw more power than they use when running. This "inrush" of power gets them spinning, then their demand for electricity decreases.)

The third consideration is how to integrate the generator with your home. Permanent models have dedicated switching devices that handle this chore, but portable models can require

you to remove them from storage, set them up, connect them and start them up.

This is where the danger mentioned above comes into play: Improperly connected generators can easily backfeed into Karnes EC's grid. As electricity flows back into the lines, the transformers boost the voltage to lethal levels, endangering

line crews working to restore power, or anyone who might come into contact with a downed line. Be sure to closely follow connection instructions, and contact us if you have any questions regarding connecting your generator safely.

Use of the generator can be as simple as plugging appliances directly into it—but this is cumbersome and limiting. It's better to have a transfer switch installed by a qualified electrician. This device connects to the circuits you want to power. You connect your generator to the dedicated plug, follow the disconnect procedure and fire it up—and you've got power for your home that's safe for all.

Next, a word about quality: With generators, you definitely get what you pay for. Cheap models are just that. They may last a couple of years, but after that, parts can be impossible to get.

Few things are worse than your generator failing to operate when the lights are out. Go for engines with recognizable brand names. They may cost more, but will certainly be worth the extra cost.

Also, it's important to exercise your portable generator regularly. Don't worry, you don't need to walk your generator—it's not that type of exercise. "Exercising" means connecting load to the generator and turning it on to be sure it will run.

And while you're at it, why not let your co-op know you have a generator? We can provide safety and connection tips if needed, and our knowing will enhance our line crews' safety.



Anyone who has experienced an outage has likely thought of buying a generator—but before you do, know all the facts.

Texas Division of Emergency Management

Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines

Preparing for Hurricane Season: June 1–November 30

EVACUATION PLANNING: When a hurricane threatens, listen for instructions from local officials.

When they call for an evacuation in your area, get going without delay.

- ▶ Discuss evacuation plans with your family BEFORE hurricane season, June 1–November 30.
- ▶ Make a checklist of what you need to do before you leave town and review it.
- ▶ Monitor National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio and local TV and radio broadcasts during storm season.
- ▶ Prepare an emergency supply kit including: radio; flashlight; batteries; eye-glasses; bottled water; nonperishable food; dry clothes; bedding; insurance information; important documents; medications; copies of prescriptions; and special products for babies, the elderly and medically fragile family members.
- ▶ Learn evacuation routes before storm season. When there's a hurricane in the Gulf, keep your gas tank as full as possible. Expect traffic delays in an evacuation.
- ▶ Dial 2-1-1 to register if you have special health-care needs or if you simply do not have transportation: Gulf Coast residents in evacuation zones with special health-care needs—who do not have friends or family to help them—should register in advance for a ride by dialing 2-1-1. Residents with no other transportation can register for a ride in advance by dialing 2-1-1.



Division de Administracion de Emergencias de Texas

Directrices para Huracanes

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

EVACUACIÓN EN CASO DE HURACÁN: Cuando exista una amenaza de huracán, escucha las instrucciones de funcionarios locales. Cuando llamen para una evacuación en su área, sálgase del área lo más pronto posible.

- ▶ Discute los planes de evacuación con su familia ANTES de la temporada de huracán, que comienza el 1 de junio hasta 30 de noviembre. Haga una lista de lo que usted debe hacer antes de salir de la ciudad y revísela.
- ▶ Escuche la radio y televisión durante la temporada de huracanes.
- ▶ Prepare un equipo de emergencia incluyendo: radio, linterna, repuesto de baterías, anteojos extras, agua embotellada, alimentos no perecederos, ropa extra, ropa de cama, información de seguro, documentos importantes, medicinas, copias de recetas medicas y productos especiales para bebés, las personas mayores y miembros de la familia médicamente frágiles.
- ▶ Aprenda sus rutas de evacuación antes de la temporada de huracanes. Cuando hay un huracán en el Golfo, mantenga el tanque de gasolina lleno. Este consiente de que habrá demoras de tráfico.
- ▶ Si usted tiene necesidad especial de asistencia médica o si usted simplemente no tiene como trasladarse: Los residentes de la Costa del Golfo con necesidades especiales de asistencia médica en zonas de evacuación—sin familia o amigos para ayudarlos—deben registrarse para su traslado por adelantado llamando al 2-1-1. Los residentes sin coche, pueden registrarse por adelantado para su traslado llamando al 2-1-1.



An energy audit uncovers where you need to seal air leaks with weatherstripping.

How “Green” Is Your Home?

WANT TO KNOW WHETHER your home wastes precious resources such as energy and water? Do a little digging. Here are three ways to educate yourself about your family's habits and your home's energy efficiency:

First, round up copies of all of your electric bills for the past year. They will reveal to you exactly how much energy you used each month. Knowing how much energy your family actually uses—and whether it spikes during certain months—will help you change any wasteful habits.

Second, get an energy audit. The auditor will uncover places in your house—like in the attic and around windows and doors—where gaps, cracks and other holes in your home can let your heated and air-conditioned air escape and invite the outdoor air indoors. Once you know that, you'll know where you need to seal those leaks with caulk or weatherstripping.

Third, check appliances and fixtures. Are your appliances more than 10 years old? If so, they're far less efficient than newer models on the market today. Are your appliances Energy Star-rated? Make sure any new ones you buy are. Likewise, are your faucets, showerheads and toilets low-flow? Replacing them with water-conserving models will make a difference both in your water bill and your family's environmental footprint.

Take Control of Summer Energy Bills

HERE ARE FIVE EASY WAYS to minimize your energy use during the hot months:

Sun block. Half of all of the heat that enters your home comes in through the windows. Invest in a thick shade or window film to block out the summer sun. Save up to 15 percent on your cooling bill by shading west-facing windows, which absorb the most afternoon sun. For the hottest parts of your house, consider installing an awning or planting trees in front of windows to shade the house.

Quick change. A filter for your air-conditioning system costs only a few dollars (about \$5 for a high-quality, pleated model) but can save you much more if you change it every month during the summer. Dirty air-conditioning filters prevent airflow and make the system work harder. That means a higher bill.

One degree. For every degree warmer that you turn up your thermostat during air-conditioning season, you'll save up to 2 percent on your cooling costs. Try setting your thermostat at 78 degrees, and turn on a ceiling fan to help circulate the air.

Wind chill. Fans don't cool the air, but they make the air feel cooler by moving it around the room and against your skin, which creates a sort of wind chill effect. When the fan is running, you can move your thermostat 3 to 4 degrees higher without noticing a difference in your comfort level.

Cool touch. Replace every incandescent lightbulb in your house with a compact fluorescent lightbulb or a light-emitting diode. The replacements cost more to buy than incandescents, but CFLs use 75 percent less energy, and LEDs use less than one-tenth. Both of these energy-efficient versions pay for themselves and then some over their lifetimes. Plus, they emit far less heat than incandescent bulbs, so they don't add heat to your home's air or make the air conditioner work harder.



Keep long tools like ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles away from power lines.

Know What's Overhead

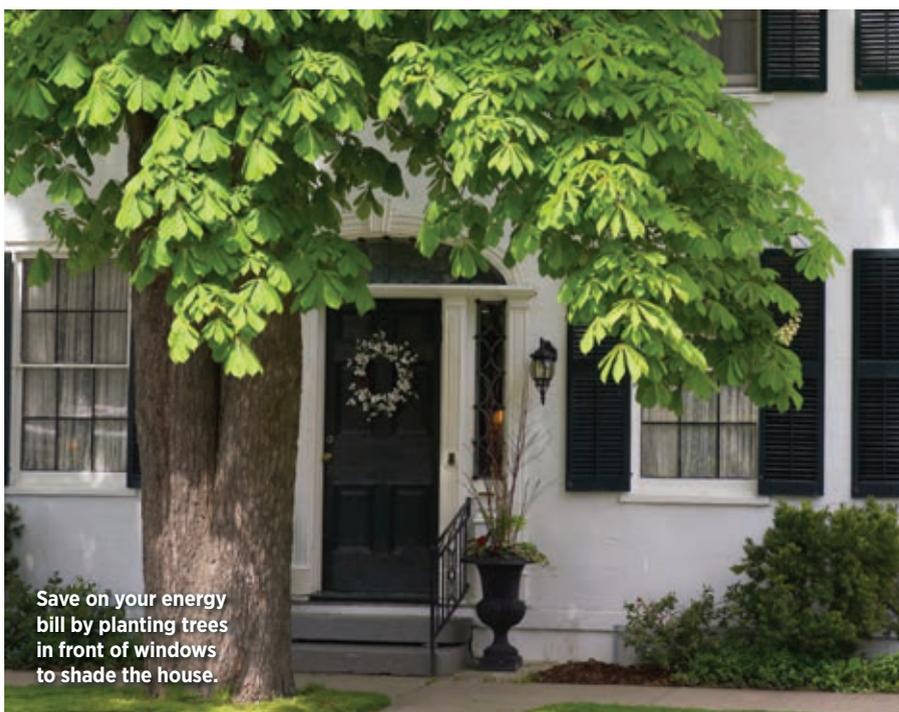
DO-IT-YOURSELF PROJECTS can be overwhelming, but knowing what's overhead can keep you from getting in over your head. Before starting a job, survey the area. If you discover a possible hazard, take steps to avoid it and make sure everyone else involved is aware, too.

Other safety tips for DIY projects include:

- ▶ Use caution when using long tools like ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles to keep them from getting near power lines.
- ▶ Keep equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from power lines.
- ▶ Never trim trees near power lines. Have a professional do the job.
- ▶ Never use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines.
- ▶ If it is raining or the ground is wet, do not use electric power or yard tools, or touch electrical equipment.
- ▶ When working outside, use extension cords that are rated for outdoor use. Do not allow power cords to tangle.
- ▶ Use heavy-duty, three-prong extension cords for tools with three-prong plugs. Never remove or bend back the third prong on extension cords. It is a safety feature designed to reduce the risk of electrocution or shock.
- ▶ Make sure outlets in garages and outdoors are equipped with ground-fault circuit interrupters.

If you do find yourself in over your head, don't just wing it. Call a licensed professional to help you finish the job.

—Safe Electricity



Save on your energy bill by planting trees in front of windows to shade the house.

Electrical Safety With Pressure Washers

WATER AND ELECTRICITY ARE A DANGEROUS MIX, but an electric-powered pressure washer does not have to be, as long as it is used safely. The most important factor is plugging into a functional, tested ground-fault circuit interrupter receptacle.

A GFCI monitors the flow of electricity in a circuit. If there is an irregularity of electrical flow, the power is cut off, preventing an electric shock. GFCIs are recommended anywhere water and electricity may meet—so every outdoor receptacle should be equipped with a GFCI.

GFCIs come in several varieties. One type is a circuit breaker with a built-in GFCI, which a qualified electrician can install in a home's panel box. Others come in the form of a receptacle that fits into a standard outlet box. If your outdoor receptacles do not have GFCI protection, purchase portable ones.

Also, make sure you are using a grounded cord, approved for outdoor use and in good condition without any nicks or cuts, and with an intact grounding prong.

The Center for Disease Control notes that electric shock can occur if a pressure washer's safety instructions are not followed, and it offers these additional precautions:

- ▶ Never use a gasoline-powered washer in an enclosed space.
- ▶ Always test the GFCI before plugging in and using a pressure washer.
- ▶ Always plug a properly grounded pressure washer into a properly grounded receptacle.

▶ If an extension cord must be used, keep the pressure washer's power cord connection out of any standing water, and use a heavy-duty extension cord with components rated for outdoor use.

▶ Keep both the power and extension cords as far away as possible from the item being washed and away from any water runoff.

▶ Always have a qualified electrician check the pressure washer for electrical problems after it has tripped a circuit breaker.

There are different kinds of pressure washers, some powered with electricity and others powered by gas. No matter what kind you plan to use, know how to use it safely. Read and follow all safety instructions in the owner's manual that comes with the device.



Make the Connection

Shop online, pay bills, download music, watch movies—faster!

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET FOR THE KARNES COMMUNITY

Call **800.699.4832** or visit **www.karnesec.net** to get connected today.

karnesec.net