

# What's Good for the Members Is Good for the Cooperative



## MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER BRAD BIERSTEDT

A **UNIQUE BUSINESS MODEL** keeps electric cooperatives effective and vital. Co-ops have operated in the United States for more than 80 years, and during that time, the basic model hasn't changed. Because Karnes Electric Cooperative is a nonprofit, member-owned organization—operating in the fashion of its forefathers—it can focus on keeping costs down and providing exceptional service.

For us at Karnes EC, those goals involve minimizing expenses and maintaining a quality system that delivers the kind of service members expect and deserve.

For you, the member-owners of this organization, keeping the cost of electricity down can be achieved through energy conservation. Factors that affect the level of your energy consumption include the energy efficiency of your home, the number and types of electric appliances used, and your household's lifestyle. As a conscientious co-op member, you can direct your attention to these three areas to minimize your consumption.

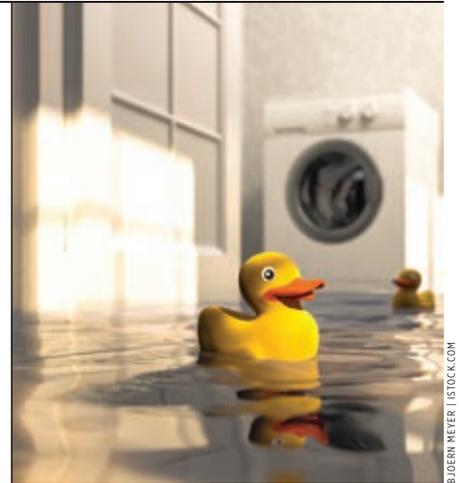
**1. Energy Efficiency:** The type of home you live in plays a major role in determining how much electricity is used. Smaller homes with less than the recommended insulation, inefficient heating and cooling systems, inefficient appliances, and leaky doors and windows might use more energy than a larger, more energy-efficient home. Weatherstripping and caulking are inexpensive ways to stop air leaks, and installation is a task you can do yourself.

It's also important to have your heating and cooling system serviced by a qualified professional to make sure it's in top working order. Don't forget to change the filters at least monthly while the system's in use.

**2. Quantity and Types of Electric Appliances:** It's especially important to make sure that appliances—including air-cooling and heating systems—have high energy-efficiency ratings. As computers and other electronic appliances have become a greater part of household life, their presence adds to the demand for energy. Without thinking about the increased energy use, families might add TVs, video game systems and computers to the home; over time, the total of those additions can drive up power demand. The newest technologies and devices can make our lives easier, but part of the cost involves the electricity necessary to keep them running.

**3. Lifestyle and Energy Use:** If you're "hot natured," you might run the air conditioner frequently. If that's the case, be aware that your choice has an impact on your electric bill. Similarly, having a lot of people running in and out of the house, leaving doors open; taking long, hot showers or baths; and leaving lights or appliances on when not in use—all of these contribute to demand for kilowatt-hours. Even with Karnes EC's low cost per kWh, consuming more power means creating a higher electric bill.

Karnes EC strives to make sure members have all the power they need and to control costs as much as possible, but your choices and habits play a big role in your electric bill each month.



No season in Texas is safe from flood risk.

## It's Still Storm Season

### HURRICANES AND OTHER FALL STORMS

not only damage property, but they can also cause health and safety hazards. When a storm blows your way, your response can head off a disaster, so be prepared. Some tips:

**Know the storm is coming.** Listen to weather reports constantly during this hurricane-prone season.

**Once a storm knocks the power out, unplug all major electrical appliances.**

This could prevent an electrical surge from damaging the motors of those appliances when the power is restored.

**Unplug basement appliances;** storms often cause flooding downstairs.

**After the storm, turn off the electricity** to areas of the home that got wet. If you step in water—even a puddle—that is touching a plugged-in appliance, you could be electrocuted.

**Don't turn flooded or wet appliances back on** until an electrician inspects them and gives you the OK.

**Keep the refrigerator door closed during power outages.** Food will stay good for four to six hours in an unopened refrigerator.

**If someone in the house is on life support** or relies on any electric medical device, make a plan for where to take the person in case of a power outage. The local hospital can help you with the plan.



# 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.

## 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 St., Pleasanton

Pay your bill, submit meter readings and view your account summary at [karnesec.org](http://karnesec.org).

Karnes Electric Cooperative is an equal-opportunity provider and employer.

## 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](http://karnesec.org)

## 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, call to 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:**

[txdps.state.tx.us/dem](http://txdps.state.tx.us/dem)

**Federal Emergency Management Agency:** [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov)

**American Red Cross:** [redcross.org](http://redcross.org)

## Division 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 medica**, regístrese llamando al 2-1-1: Los residentes de la Costa del Golfo con necesidades especiales de asistencia medica (incluyendo los que son incapacitados o medicamente fragil) 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.

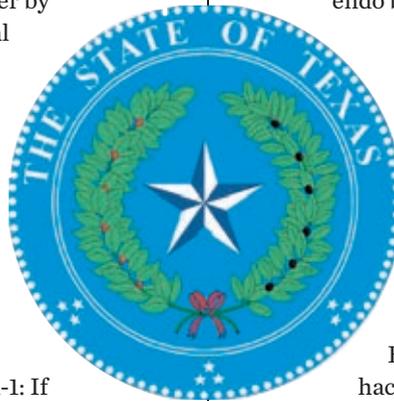
El registro de asistencia de transporte se debe hacer **POR ADELANTADO** llamando al 2-1-1. Es confidencial. No espere hasta que una tormenta este en el Golfo para registrarse para la ayuda.

**Si usted necesita transporte**, regístrese llamando al 2-1-1. Si usted no tiene un coche ni otro tipo de vehiculo, 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 esta interesado en registrarse y quiere determinar si usted vive en una zona de evacuación, llame al 2-1-1.

**Para mayor información sobre la preparacion para la temporada de huracanes en el internet:**

[listo.gov](http://listo.gov)  
[cruzrojaamericana.org](http://cruzrojaamericana.org)  
[txdps.state.tx.us/dem](http://txdps.state.tx.us/dem)



## Happy Labor Day

Karnes EC will be closed Monday, September 5, in observance of Labor Day.

As always, crews will be on standby in the event of an outage.



Dorm life can be great, but protect yourself and your friends by developing and practicing an escape route in case of a fire.



# College Fire Safety

**COLLEGE LIVING UNDOUBTEDLY CAN BE EXCITING.** For most students attending schools outside of their hometown or state, it's their first opportunity to be independent. Although college provides new and exciting opportunities, it also introduces myriad safety hazards, especially to students living in dormitories and apartments.

A student might have been the most safety-conscious person in their school, house or neighborhood, but an impeccable safety record doesn't safeguard someone against the actions of other residents in shared college housing facilities; therefore, it is extremely important to develop and practice an escape route should there be a fire.

## Fire Safety

Fire is the third-leading cause of accidental deaths in the United States. A residential fire occurs every 82 seconds on average in this country, and, once burning, the size of a fire doubles every 30 seconds. If a fire occurs in your building, evacuate as quickly as possible. Do not try to act bravely or put the fire out.

If you have an escape plan, follow it at the first sign or smell of a fire. Never exit through a door if it feels hot to the touch because there are likely flames on the other side. It is also a good idea to know where all the fire extinguishers are located in the building.

## Fire Prevention

In communal living facilities, everyone must do their part to make their dwelling a safer place. Here are a few easy steps you can take to help prevent fire through electrical hazards:

- ▶ Look for a certified safety lab mark on all appliances. It means samples of the product have been tested for safety.
- ▶ Make sure outlets are not overloaded, and unplug appliances when not in use.
- ▶ Check electrical wires and cords on appliances, tools, lamps, etc., to make sure they are not worn or frayed.
- ▶ Never run electrical wires or extension cords under carpets or heavy items, and never bunch them up behind a hot appliance.
- ▶ Have building management install at least one smoke alarm on each level, and make sure they are maintained and tested regularly.

## 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**