

GENERAL
MANAGERBRAD
BIERSTEDT

Stay Back and Stay Safe

WORKING WITH ELECTRICITY can be a hazardous job, especially for lineworkers. In fact, *USA Today* lists power line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. That's why, for Karnes Electric Cooperative, safety is the No. 1 priority.

This is not empty talk. Over time, we have created a culture of putting our crews' safety and that of the community above all else.

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, our members, but it's equally important that our employees return home safely to their loved ones each night. This requires continuous focus, dedication and vigilance—and your help!

Distractions Can Be Deadly

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on the task at hand when they're out in the community. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes crew members' full attention to ensure their safety and that of their colleagues. Distractions can have deadly consequences for them.

If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews—and you.

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are working near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.

We recognize that for your family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You'll recognize Karnes EC employees by their uniform and the service trucks with our name and logo on them. You may also recognize our lineworkers because they live right here in our local community.

Move Over or Slow Down

In addition to giving lineworkers space, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching any utility vehicle on the side of the road. That extra buffer of safety helps those who help all of us. ■



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Electric Meter Tampering Can Kill

TAMPERING WITH YOUR electric meter can cost you your life.

No, the crime won't land you on death row when the electric cooperative—whose technicians are trained to spot electricity theft—reports you to the police. In that case, you'll be charged with theft, possibly sent to jail and likely incur fines of about triple the money you thought you could save by rigging your meter.

But an attempt to bypass or alter an electric meter can result in shock, fire, explosion and even electrocution. And if you're lucky enough not to get hurt, you'll still leave the tampered meter in a state that's dangerous to others, including the electric cooperative employee who has to fix or replace it.

Plus, you're driving up electric costs for your neighbors, just as shoplifters force stores to increase the price of their products to cover losses from theft.

The cooperative doesn't have to catch you red-handed to turn you over to the authorities. In fact, the law assumes that a person who benefits from the use of stolen electricity has tampered with the meter.

If you suspect a meter on our lines has been tampered with, please let us know. You could save a life. ■