

# Line Crews Keep the Lights On



## MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER BRAD BIERSTEDT

**ELECTRICITY TRAVELS ALONG AN INTRICATE NETWORK OF WIRES** and poles to power our homes and businesses. Most of the time, it's a seamless journey, but occasionally, the path of electricity is disrupted by obstacles like fallen tree branches, animals or car accidents. When that happens, Karnes Electric Cooperative's lineworkers are ready to restore the connection no matter the weather or time of day.

We couldn't carry out our mission without the daily dedication of our line crews. It's a demanding job on the front line of our co-op that often requires working around the clock in challenging conditions to serve our members and communities. They are first responders who get us through some of our darkest hours. We count

on them to power our lives, day in and day out.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association officially acknowledged the tireless efforts of this talented group with this 2014 resolution:

Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on;

Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure;

Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and



NRECA

Remember to **#ThankALineworker**

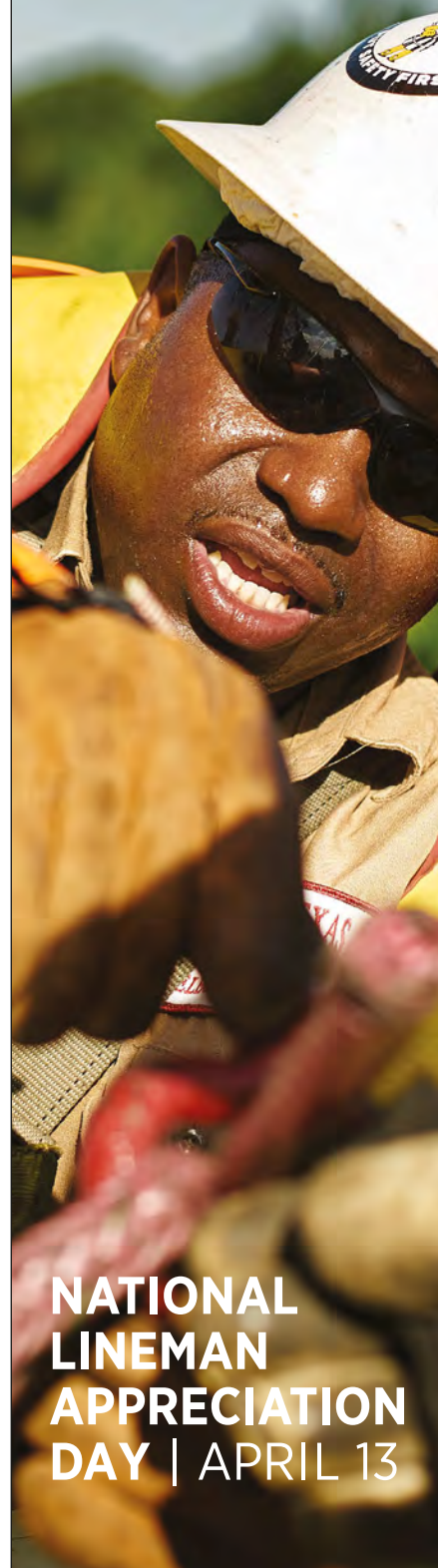
Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen;

Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the second Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America's electric cooperatives.

We proudly join with NRECA and cooperatives across the country to honor lineworkers and show our appreciation and respect for the service they provide for our members.

Karnes EC's lineworkers, as well as those from across the nation, truly deserve this special day of recognition.

SOME HEROES  
WEAR HARD HATS



NATIONAL  
LINEMAN  
APPRECIATION  
DAY | APRIL 13

DAVE SHAFER



SAVE  
THE  
DATE!

## KARNES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING

**MONDAY, JUNE 1**

### Look for details in next month's issue.

Members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting to see old friends and learn more about the cooperative's activities, finances and projects. Board and management reports often include state and national issues affecting the utility industry and your cooperative.

Notice of the annual meeting, along with your registration and the cooperative's annual report, will be mailed to all members in the next issue of *Texas Co-op Power*.

Every year, a number of door prizes are awarded to lucky members during the meeting.

## Karnes Electric Cooperative

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

### GENERAL MANAGER

Brad Bierstedt

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul T. Brysch Jr., President, *District 5*  
Clif Royal, Vice President, *District 6*  
Larry R. Schendel, Secretary-Treasurer, *District 1*  
Frank A. Geyer Jr., Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, *District 3*  
Currently Vacant., *District 4*  
Shirley Hofmann, *District 2*  
David Ross Nieschwitz, *District 7*

### COOPERATIVE OFFICES

#### Main Office

1007 N. Highway 123, Karnes City

#### District Office

1824 W. Goodwin St., Pleasanton

Pay your bill 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)



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# 10 Tips for Spring Energy Savings

**EVERY SEASON OF THE YEAR PROVIDES UNIQUE ENERGY-SAVING OPPORTUNITIES.**

Here are some ideas particularly well suited to spring.

- 1. Clear the air:** Open windows to allow fresh air to circulate.
- 2. Cook outside:** Enjoy the sunshine by using your grill or smoker to add festive flavors to meals.
- 3. Search and seal:** Cracks and spaces let conditioned air slip outdoors. Caulk and weatherstrip to seal leaks.
- 4. Natural light:** Open blinds and curtains and turn off the lights to save energy.
- 5. Be fan friendly:** Use ceiling fans to circulate air and keep cool.
- 6. Atmospheric adjustment:** Remember to adjust your thermostat settings for the warmer months ahead.
- 7. Tune up:** Schedule an appointment with a heating, ventilating and air conditioning technician to identify any potential problems with your system.
- 8. Peak savings:** Plan household chores that require electricity during off-peak hours (when energy demand is low).
- 9. Take charge:** Consider disconnecting electrical devices you don't use regularly until you need them. Plugged-in devices use energy even when not in use.
- 10. Move outdoors:** Time spent outdoors offers opportunities to turn off lights, TVs, computers and appliances. You'll be more active, have more fun and save more money.



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## Happy Easter!

April 12

Karnes Electric Cooperative  
will be closed April 10 in  
observance of Good Friday.



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## Power Tip

If your washer is more than 10 years old, consider buying a new Energy Star-certified model—they're more efficient and have more capacity.

# A Day in the Life of a Lineworker

## LARRY'S TYPICAL DAY AS AN

electric cooperative lineworker actually started the night before. He was getting ready for bed when a member reported her power was out. It was Larry's weekly night to be on call, so the co-op truck was already in his driveway. He drove it to the woman's house, identified a problem in the base of the meter, installed a temporary fix until an electrician could get out the next day and returned home two hours later. He would report for work at the co-op office by 7:30 the next morning.

Larry and his fellow lineworkers like hunting down problems because they know the members depend on them.

Larry is like a lot of electric utility lineworkers. The job takes specific skills, intestinal fortitude and a "get it done" personality.



## Following Procedure

Larry starts his day in a room with the rest of the lineworkers, leafing through stacks of paper—checklists, maps, work orders—planning the day's work. They compare notes and find out who is familiar with the area where they're headed.

In addition to taking time to coordinate the plans and paperwork, the lineworkers need to keep track of a lot of equipment. Neatly organized shelves in the warehouse hold saws, drills, climbing hooks, insulated work poles, trash cans and binoculars. They always wear safety gear or have it close at hand—hard hats, safety glasses, fire-retardant uniforms, steel-toe shoes, regular work gloves and hot-line safety gloves.

One more task keeps the crews from driving off to their first jobs, and it's probably the most important of all: the weekly safety meeting.

While catastrophic contact with electric current is always the top concern, training is also provided on a variety of safety topics. Larry doesn't see his job as dangerous. He knows it is hazardous and unforgiving, but it doesn't have to be dangerous if he follows the right procedures. Lineworkers have the tools, the rules and the knowledge to keep their work from being dangerous.

By midmorning, the convoy is ready. Three lineworkers drive three trucks: a service truck, a bucket truck pulling a

trailer with a large spool of wire, and a digger truck with a huge auger on top and pulling a trailer carrying a backhoe. They head across the county for the day's job.

## We Don't Say 'Hurry Up'

When the caravan arrives at the work site, the three lineworkers gather near the front of one of the trucks for what a lot of co-ops call a "tailgate meeting." They read through forms, noting the address, cross street, job and account number. All three men sign the form.

They break their huddle and de-energize the lines they're working on, complete the task at hand and reenergize the line.

Back at the co-op, they check the paperwork for the next day's jobs and then stock the trucks with the equipment they will need for an early start. Larry will be heading to a local school to help elementary students understand the importance of being safe around electricity.

To an outsider, taking time to follow all the procedures of a lineworker's workday may seem tedious or even unnecessary, but Larry and his fellow lineworkers disagree. They know how the work should be done and do it—never rushing through or skipping steps. They look out for each other and the co-op's members. It's the co-op way.

# Nominating Committee To Be Appointed

**THE KARNES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL** meet April 28 to appoint a committee of members that will nominate candidates for the election of directors for districts 3, 4 and 7. The nominating committee will meet May 1. The election of directors will then be held at the annual meeting June 1.

The following is an excerpt from the bylaws pertaining to the nomination of such candidates.

## QUALIFICATIONS AND TENURE

To become and remain a Director, a Person must comply with the following general qualifications:

(a) be an individual who is a member in good standing and who is domiciled in the area certified by the Public Utility Commission as being within boundaries served by the Cooperative under its certificate of convenience and necessity, and whose domicile is receiving electrical service from the Cooperative. A Member in “good standing” means a member who has timely paid all bills received from the Cooperative for the most recent twelve (12) consecutive billing periods without having been issued a termination notice or a disconnect notice;

(b) be above the legal voting age;

(c) have not been previously removed or disqualified as a Director;

(d) while a Director, and during the five years immediately before becoming a Director, not be convicted of, or plead guilty to, a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude;

(e) before becoming a Director, graduate from high school or earn an equivalent degree or certification;

(f) except as otherwise provided by the Board for good cause, attend at least three-fourths of all Board Meetings during each twelve-month period;

(g) while a Director and during the three years immediately before becoming a Director, is not engaged in business with, employed by or materially affiliated with, and does not have a material financial interest with another director, a competing enterprise, or a business selling electric energy, supplies or services to the Cooperative or its members;

(h) is not the incumbent or a candidate for an elective public office in connection with which a salary is paid;

(i) when a membership is jointly held by husband and wife, either one, but not both, may be elected a director, provided, however, that neither one shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the Cooperative unless both shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth;

(j) is not the spouse, parent or child (including step and adopted) of an incumbent director or Cooperative employee;

(k) an individual who was, at one time, or is currently, employed by the Cooperative is not eligible to serve as a director until at least sixty (60) months after leaving the employment of the Cooperative. Once becoming a director, an individual will not be eligible to be employed by the Cooperative until at least sixty (60) months after leaving the position of director;

(l) be bondable; and

(m) comply with any other reasonable qualifications determined by the Board.

## NOMINATIONS

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days, before the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of one (1) committee man from each district, for which a director is to be elected, and one (1) committee man at large, who shall be selected, so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the geographical areas served, or to be served by the Cooperative. No officer, or member of the Board of Directors, shall be appointed a member of such committee.

The committee shall prepare and post, at the principle office of the Cooperative, at least twenty (20) days before the meeting, a list of nominations for directors; but, any one hundred (100) or more members may make other nominations in writing, over their signatures, not less than forty five (45) days prior to the meeting; and the Secretary shall post the same, at the same place, where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted.

The Secretary shall mail, with the notice of the meeting, or separately, but a least ten (10) days prior to the meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected; and, showing separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations; and, the nominations made by petition, if any.

Nothing contained herein shall, however, prevent additional nominations to be made from the floor at the meeting of the members.

The members may, at any meeting at which a director or directors shall be removed, as herein provided, elect a successor or successors thereto without compliance with the foregoing provisions with respect to nominations.

Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors.



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## Don't Toy With Safety

**When playing outdoors, keep a safe distance from power lines, substations and other equipment your electric co-op uses to send electricity to your home.**

Flying remote-controlled toys and drones is a great way to have fun, but accidentally making contact with a power line or other electrical equipment can be dangerous and, in some cases, even deadly.

- ▶ Never fly kites or drones near power lines.
- ▶ Stay away from power lines, meters, transformers and electrical boxes.
- ▶ Never climb trees near power lines.
- ▶ If you get something stuck in a power line, call your electric co-op.
- ▶ Never touch or go near a downed power line.

## It's Important To Be Counted

**IN MARCH, MOST HOUSEHOLDS WERE** invited to respond to the 2020 census.

The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers and many others use to provide daily services, products and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funds go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads and other infrastructure based on data supplied by the census.

The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

Participating in the census is required by law. A complete and accurate count is critical for you and your community because the results of the 2020 census will affect community funding, congressional representation and more for years to come.

If you haven't already done so, be sure to complete your survey. Responses can be submitted online, by phone in one of 13 languages or via the traditional paper questionnaire.

The 2020 census marks the 24th time that the country has counted its population since 1790.

For more information, visit [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov).



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## Energy-Saving Improvements Don't Have To Be Expensive

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO REPLACE YOUR AIR CONDITIONER WITH A HIGH-EFFICIENCY SYSTEM** or make other major improvements to reduce energy consumption. There are low-cost efficiencies anyone can implement to help reduce energy bills.

**Mind the thermostat.** You might be able to trim your energy bill by carefully managing the temperature in your home. Consider setting your thermostat to 78 degrees when you're running the air conditioner. If that's not cool enough, use fans to help circulate the air to help you feel cooler.

**Go programmable.** If you don't always remember to adjust your thermostat manually, you could benefit from a programmable model. In the right situation and set correctly, programmable thermostats can save your household \$150 a year. Some models can be managed from your smartphone or other devices.

**Stop air leaks.** Small gaps around windows, doors, wiring and plumbing penetrations can be major sources of energy loss. This problem can be alleviated with a little weatherstripping and caulk. A \$10 door draft stopper (also known as a "door snake") is a simple way to block gaps underneath exterior doors. Sealing air leaks around your home could shave up to one-fifth off your heating and cooling bills.

**Manage your windows and window coverings.** Your windows may be letting heat out during the winter and letting heat in during the summer. Window coverings like medium or heavyweight curtains and thermal blinds can help. During the summer, keep window coverings closed to block the sun and keep it from heating conditioned indoor air. On cooler spring days, turn off your air conditioner, open the windows and enjoy the breeze—and lower electricity bills.

**Look for energy wasters.** There are small steps you can take every day to reduce your energy use. Water heaters should be kept at the warm setting (120 degrees). Wash dishes and clothes on the most economical settings that will do the job, and always wash full loads. Use the microwave instead of the oven when possible. And unplug phone chargers, electronics and small appliances when not in use.



## Always Call Before You Dig

**One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked and helps protect you from injury and expense.**

Safe digging is no accident.

Know what's below.

Always call 811 before you dig.

Visit **call811.com** for more information.


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# UTILITY POLES ARE NOT Bulletin Boards

**Help us keep our linemen safe.**

**Electric** cooperative workers find all kinds of no-nos on utility poles, such as yard sale signs, basketball hoops, deer stands, satellite dishes, lights and birdhouses.

**These obstructions** are dangerous for lineworkers. Unwelcome clutter on utility poles can compromise safety equipment, leaving workers vulnerable to electrocution.

**Anyone posting** items on utility poles also is at risk of exposure to thousands of volts of electricity pulsing overhead. Always stay at least 10 feet away from utility lines.

**Think before** you post that sign!

**Karnes Electric Cooperative** encourages you to always practice safety.

## Life Support: Make Plans in Case of an Outage

**FOR PEOPLE WHO RELY ON LIFE-**support equipment at home, a power outage could be a matter of life or death. If you or someone in your home depends on an electrically operated health aid, take these steps to prepare for power outages.

- ▶ Plug electronic devices into surge suppressors and consider using uninterruptible power supplies on important devices. A UPS acts as a temporary battery backup to some devices.

- ▶ Consider investing in a portable generator that can power vital equipment in the event of an extended outage.

- ▶ Make arrangements to move in temporarily with friends or family, or even go to a hospital during a power failure if a generator is impractical.

- ▶ Keep an adequate supply of prescription drugs and medical equipment on hand.

- ▶ Let your electric cooperative know that someone in your home relies on electrically powered medical equipment so your home will receive priority treatment during a weather emergency.

- ▶ Report all outages quickly.

- ▶ Ask your co-op to notify you in advance of scheduled outages.

