

Co-ops Keep the Lights on in Difficult Times



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER BRAD BIERSTEDT

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES HAVE A LONG history of weathering adversity. In fact, they were born out of challenging times.

This resilience will help Karnes Electric Cooperative and our consumer-members overcome the hardships resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected our area this year.

Electric co-ops formed after 1935 to relieve the difficulties rural areas faced while their urban neighbors enjoyed the conveniences of electricity. The Rural Electrification Act made low-cost loans available to farmers and ranchers, who banded together to create nonprofit co-ops to deliver electricity to rural America, including Texas. Lawmakers of the time thought that electricity would revolutionize the rural way of life.

Soon after, electric co-ops weathered World War II. Construction of rural distribution systems slowed during that period, but the model prevailed. Within four years after the war, the number of co-ops in the U.S. doubled and connections tripled, according to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

When many of our family members and neighbors were called to serve in other wars, including the Vietnam War, Korean War, and wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, electric cooperatives endured. We kept the lights on for them while they were away.

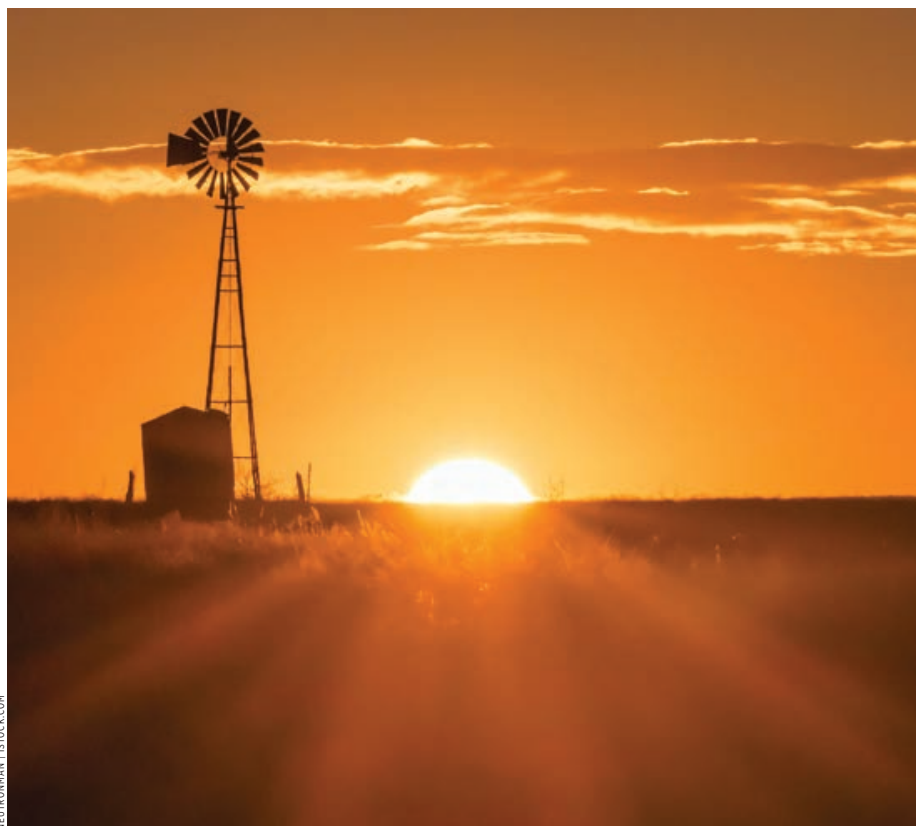
The economic recession of 2008 didn't faze electric cooperatives. While many long-standing businesses thought to be too great to fail actually failed, electric co-ops persevered. We

looked to our values—the Seven Cooperative Principles, which put members' needs first—as a guiding light during the downturn.

Electric cooperatives have continually weathered storms at home. Forces of nature such as tornadoes, hurricanes and ice storms threaten and sometimes damage our infrastructure, but our brave lineworkers battle the elements to keep the electricity flowing.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, co-ops everywhere have taken extra precautions to keep employees and members safe. We aim not just to survive as an organization but to help our members make it through the hard time and recover, too.

Even though the world is grappling with uncertainty and difficulties because of the pandemic and its economic effects, you can rest assured that Karnes EC will make it through—and your lights will stay on.



Annual Meeting Rescheduled

Mark your calendar and save the date!
Karnes Electric Cooperative's annual meeting will be **Monday, September 14.**



Lightning strikes kill more Americans than tornadoes or hurricanes. Don't take chances with this deadly force of nature.

Go inside a building and stay away from windows and doors.

Avoid appliances and metal plumbing and stay off the phone.

Do not seek shelter under a tree—they are easy targets.

Move to low ground and avoid open fields.

Whether at the beach or in a swimming pool, get out of the water immediately.

Do not touch metal objects, such as golf clubs or bicycles.

Inside a car is relatively safe, but do not touch interior metal.

If your hair stands on end, you may be a target. Crouch low on the balls of your feet and keep your knees and hands off the ground.

Karnes EC encourages you to always practice safety.

SEVERE WEATHER
Are You
Ready?



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*
L. Scott McClaugherty IV, *District 4*
Shirley Hofmann, *District 2*
David Ross Nieschwitz, *District 7*

COOPERATIVE OFFICES

Main Office

1007 N. Highway 123, Karnes City

Pleasanton Member Service Center

1824 W. Goodwin St., Pleasanton

Pay your bill and view your account summary at 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, Ecletto, 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

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. If 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 NOAA Weather Radio**, local TV and radio broadcasts during storm season.

► **Prepare an emergency supply kit** that includes a radio, flashlight, extra batteries, extra eyeglasses, bottled water, nonperishable food, dry clothes, bedding, insurance information, important documents, medications, copies of prescriptions and special products for babies, seniors, medically fragile family members and pets.

► **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.

► **Register with the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry online at stear.dps.texas.gov or dial 211 to register if you have a disability or medical needs, or if you simply do not have transportation.** Gulf Coast residents in evacuation zones who have a disability or medical needs who do not have friends or family to help or do not have transportation should register with STEAR in advance.

DIVISIÓN DE ADMINISTRACIÓN DE EMERGENCIAS DE TEXAS

Directrices para huracanes

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

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

► **Discuta los planes de evacuación** con su familia **antes** de la temporada de huracanes, que empieza el 1 de junio y termina el 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** que incluya un radio, linterna, repuesto de baterías, anteojos extras, agua embotellada, alimentos no perecederos, ropa extra, ropa de cama, información de seguros, documentos importantes, medicinas, copias de recetas medicas y productos especiales para bebés, las personas mayores, miembros de la familia médicamente frágiles y mascotas.

► **Aprenda sus rutas** de evacuación antes de la temporada de huracanes. Cuando haya un huracán en el Golfo, mantenga el tanque de gasolina lleno. Esté consiente de que habrá demoras de tráfico.

► **Puede registrarse con el State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry en la página web, stear.dps.texas.gov, o llamando al 211 para registrarse si usted tiene una discapacidad o necesidades médicas o si simplemente no tiene transporte.**

Los residentes que viven en la Costa del Golfo en zonas de evacuación con una discapacidad o necesidades médicas quienes no tienen amigos o familiares para ayudarles o no tienen transporte deben registrarse con STEAR por adelantado.



BELOVODCHENKO ANTON | ISTOCK.COM

They Know How To Keep Cool. Do You?

IT'S SUMMER, TEMPERATURES ARE rising and you need to work extra hard to stay cool.

Close the shades on the sunny side of your house. Only use heat-generating appliances, such as ovens, in the evening, when it's cooler. Or better yet, grill outside and have cold side dishes. Use fans to circulate the air, and wear light, loose clothing.

And remember, when plugging in window air conditioners and fans, do not plug too many appliances into one outlet, and use extension cords sparingly.



Nominating Committee To Be Appointed

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF KARNES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE will meet July 28 and appoint a committee of members to nominate candidates for the directors election for districts 3, 4 and 7, which will be held at the annual meeting Monday, September 14. The nominating committee meeting will be held Monday, August 3.

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 principal 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 at 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.



Have a Safe Fourth of July

FIREWORKS ARE A MUCH-ANTICIPATED HIGHLIGHT OF THE FOURTH OF JULY BUT ALSO present a significant danger.

The best option is to attend a public fireworks display and leave it to the professionals, but if your holiday isn't complete without setting off a few of your own, **please take these precautions:**

- ▶ Follow all local laws, and read and follow product directions.
- ▶ Do not allow children to handle fireworks.
- ▶ Make sure fireworks are used on a hard, stable surface in an open, clear area, and never attempt to relight a "dud."
- ▶ Make sure there is water nearby in case of an emergency.
- ▶ Wear ear protection.
- ▶ Never light fireworks in a container.
- ▶ If swimming is part of your plan, make sure children are always supervised in or around the water. Take responsibility for your children even in the company of other adults. Consider hiring or nominating a lifeguard.
- ▶ Many people travel over the holiday, and congestion, accidents, road rage and impaired driving can quickly turn the holiday into a tragedy. Make sure your car is in excellent condition and that you are rested, alert and sober if you are driving. Plan ahead for a designated driver if appropriate.
- ▶ If barbecue is on the menu, be careful when lighting the grill, and make sure an adult is always present around a heated grill. Be sure to put away perishables to avoid eating spoiled food. Make sure to cook meats thoroughly on the grill.
- ▶ Watch out for signs of heatstroke, such as hot, red skin; changes in consciousness; a rapid or weak pulse; and rapid or shallow breathing. If you suspect someone is suffering from heatstroke, call 911.
- ▶ And don't forget to take special precautions with your pets. Fireworks can be terrifying for them, so keep them indoors or in another safe place.
- ▶ Drink plenty of water, wear sunscreen and have a wonderful Independence Day.



SKODONNELL | ISTOCK.COM

JULY HOLIDAYS

Independence Day

Saturday, July 4

Our offices will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of the holiday.

Pecan Pie Day

Sunday, July 12

Ice Cream Day

Sunday, July 19

Co-ops Warn of COVID-19 Scams



PROTECT AGAINST SCAMS

- ▶ Do not respond to calls or texts from unknown numbers or any others that appear suspicious.
- ▶ Never share your personal or financial information via email or text message or over the phone.
- ▶ Be cautious if you're being pressured to share any information or make a payment immediately.
- ▶ Scammers often spoof phone numbers to trick you into answering or responding. Remember that government agencies will never call you to ask for personal information or money.
- ▶ Do not click any links in messages. If a friend sends you a message with a suspicious link that seems out of character, call them to make sure their accounts weren't compromised.
- ▶ Always check on a charity (for example, by calling or looking at its actual website) before donating.

AS THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC CONTINUES TO AFFECT THE United States, scammers have seized the opportunity to prey on consumers, including electric co-op members in Texas.

The Federal Communications Commission has received reports of scam and hoax text message campaigns and scam robocalls offering free home testing kits, promoting bogus cures, selling health insurance and exploiting virus-related fears.

Scammers sometimes call to say that an electric bill is past due and try to collect personal information, such as Social Security numbers, or immediate payment through wire transfers, prepaid debit cards, gift cards or other untraceable currency. Members should be especially wary if anyone comes to your door to collect payment.

When Karnes Electric Cooperative calls you, we will have your name and address; our member service representatives will not ask for that information over the phone. Never give out personal information to a stranger over the phone or at the door, and don't let strangers inside your home.

If you are suspicious or feel threatened by a caller or visitor, call law enforcement immediately. If you get a call from a scammer pretending to be from your electric cooperative, hang up and call Karnes EC directly.

Other opportunists are offering air conditioning duct cleaning as a way to "protect" your home and family from the virus.

The FCC also warns of an increase in messaging scams, in which an email or text may falsely advertise a cure or an offer to be tested for coronavirus. Do not click on these links.

Some text scams impersonate government agencies. The FCC has learned of a text scam claiming to be from the "FCC Financial Care Center," offering \$30,000 in COVID-19 relief. There is no such FCC program.

The Better Business Bureau warns of text message scammers impersonating the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and informing recipients that they must take a "mandatory online COVID-19 test" or that diabetic patients can receive a free testing kit and blood glucose monitor using an included link. Again, don't click the link.

Text message hoaxes may claim that the government will order a mandatory national two-week quarantine or instruct you to go out and stock up on supplies. These fake messages may even appear to be from a "next-door neighbor."

Fraudsters are also preying on financial fears. The FCC is aware of scams based on COVID-19 work-from-home opportunities, student loan repayment plans and debt consolidation offers. Small businesses are also getting scam calls about virus-related funding or loans.

If you think you've been a victim of a coronavirus scam, contact law enforcement immediately.



NESHARM | ISTOCK.COM

Tips for Tiptop Kitchen Efficiency

THE KITCHEN IS ONE OF THE HOME'S BIGGEST ENERGY CONSUMERS, SO KEEPING IT IN tiptop shape can help save money on your electric bill.

When replacing appliances, look for Energy Star-certified products. An Energy Star-rated refrigerator uses half as much electricity as a 15-year-old fridge, and an Energy Star-rated dishwasher is 12% more efficient than noncertified models.

Keep the refrigerator well stocked. A full fridge cools down faster after the door has been opened because of thermal mass.

Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.

Turn off the heated dry function on your dishwasher and opt to air-dry dishes instead. Be sure to run only full loads, as dishwashers take the same amount of energy to wash a partial load as a full one.

Cover pots while cooking to keep the heat in and lessen cooking time by up to 10%.

Use the right size burner for your pot. A burner with a larger circumference than the pot wastes energy.

Cook with copper pots or copper-bottomed pots on electric stoves. Copper is an efficient conductor of electricity, which means it takes less time to get hot.

Make sure your pots and pans are flat on the bottom to ensure good contact with heating elements. Warped pots and pans don't heat up as well and waste energy.

When you can, use your microwave instead of the range.

Don't open the oven while baking. Opening the oven door can reduce the temperature by about 25 degrees each time. If you need to take a peek, turn on the oven light instead.

Use glass or ceramic dishes in the oven. They retain heat better than their metal counterparts, allowing lower oven temperatures when baking.

Unplug appliances when they're not in use. Coffeepots, toasters and blenders can consume electricity even when they're off.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH



WUNDERVISUALS | ISTOCK.COM

Basic Barbecue Rub

4 parts salt
4 parts brown sugar
4 parts cracked or coarse-ground black pepper
4 parts paprika
2 parts garlic or onion powder
1 part chili powder
Ground red pepper (cayenne, ancho or chipotle, for example), to taste

1. Thoroughly mix spices in a bowl with a tight lid.

2. Rub a generous amount of spice mix on all surfaces of meat before grilling or smoking. Keep surplus rub covered.

COOK'S TIP When using this rub with pork, try adding ginger, dry mustard or turmeric. For beef, crank up the red pepper. Toss in a little lemon pepper or citrus zest with chicken.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at
TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM



HARD WORK NEVER QUILS

YOUR SOURCE OF POWER. AND INFORMATION.

Day or night, rain or shine, we're here for you. We're not your typical energy company—we're a local, not-for-profit electric cooperative. We live in the communities we serve and work hard to improve quality of life for all.

To learn more about the cooperative difference, visit karnesec.org.

