



MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER

BRAD
BIERSTEDT

Thank a Lineworker on April 12

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES have designated the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

So on April 12, Karnes Electric Cooperative will honor the dedicated people who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on. Connecting a new member, restoring power after inclement weather and keeping your lights on is all in a day's work for our hardworking line crews.

They go through long hours of field training and classroom work to understand how our electrical delivery system works so that when there is a problem, they'll know how to fix it. Fixing outages often means going out in tough conditions, often at odd hours, to tackle potentially dangerous problems to keep our community powered.

Their dedication and sacrifice should be celebrated and appreciated.

To mark Lineman Appreciation Day, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in 2015 unanimously adopted this 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; 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 ... to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America's electric cooperatives."

Co-ops everywhere proudly acknowledge all electric lineworkers for the services they perform around the clock in dangerous conditions to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

We invite our members to take a moment and thank a lineworker for the important work they do. You can use the hashtag #ThankALineman to show your support on social media, or even better, tell the next lineworker you see how grateful you are for the men and women who power our lives. ■



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LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

April 12

When you find
yourself in the dark,
we've got your back.



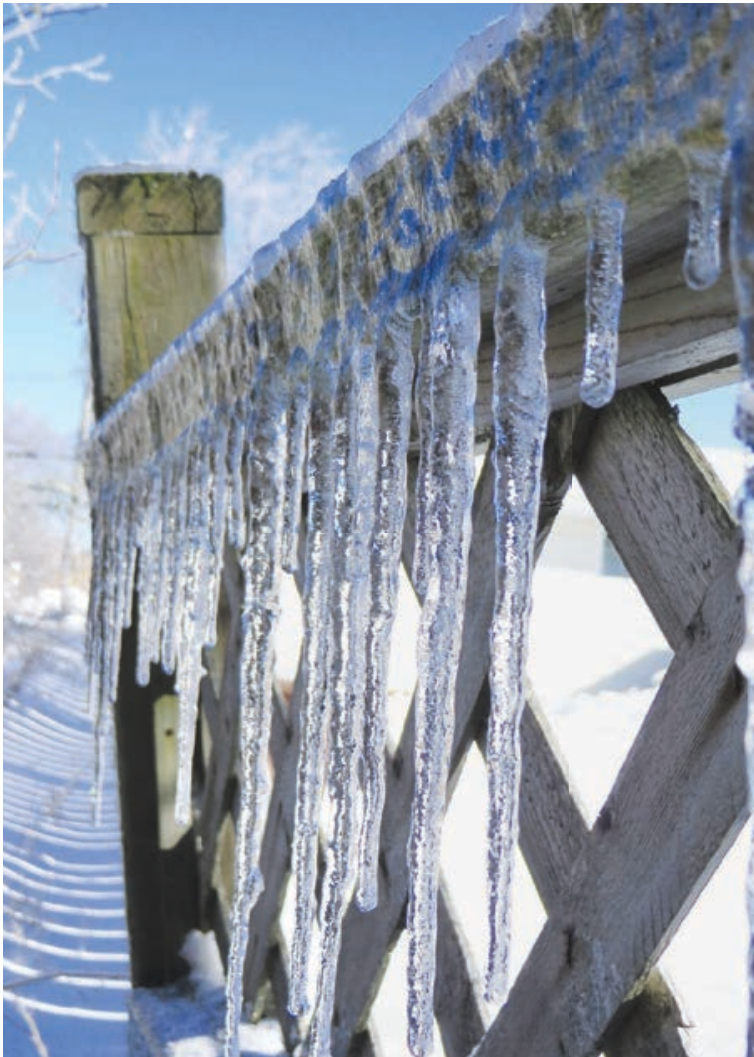


SAVE THE DATE

Karnes EC Annual Meeting

Monday, August 9
Karnes City ISD
Performing Arts Center

LYSENKOALEXANDER | ISTOCK.COM



CELINA CAMPBELL | ISTOCK.COM

Thank You

The Karnes Electric Cooperative Board of Directors and employees extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for our members' patience and understanding during the winter storm in February.

Karnes Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CONTACT US

P.O. Box 7
Karnes City, TX 78118
Toll-Free 1-888-807-3952
Web karnesec.org

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Brad Bierstedt

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24/7 Outage Reporting

TOLL-FREE
1-888-807-3952

ONLINE

At karnesec.org using your SmartHub account, or use the SmartHub app on your mobile device.

Please be prepared to provide your account number and meter number.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Online or via the SmartHub app
- 24-hour pay-by-phone
- Auto bill pay
- Mail
- In person
- Night drop
- Kiosk located at Pleasanton Member Service Center

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Open Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Karnes City Headquarters

1007 N. Highway 123, Karnes City

Pleasanton Member Service Center

1824 W. Goodwin St., Pleasanton

MISSION STATEMENT

Providing quality service to empower communities and improve lives.



KEC Recognizes More Than 70 Years of Service

Barbara Benavides

Barbara Benavides retired January 29 after 38 years with Karnes Electric Cooperative. During her tenure she held a number of positions, including general office clerk, member records clerk and billing clerk, before becoming a member service supervisor. She concluded her service to Karnes EC as a member service representative III.

Benavides and her husband, Lionel, have three daughters and five grandchildren. In her retirement Benavides plans on taking care of her elderly parents during the week and spending the weekends with her husband and grandchildren. Her husband plans to take her to Europe, where he was stationed in the Army in the 1970s. Benavides expressed excitement about the trip despite her fear of flying.

She emphasized the importance of hard work and taking pride in one's work, advising her colleagues to never be afraid to learn new things and to take the time to learn them well. "Take a lot of notes," she said. She stressed the importance of keeping up with all areas of your department and always being kind to others. Benavides also stressed the importance of saving early for retirement so that when the time comes, retirees will be better prepared.

Benavides said she has been lucky to work with some great, hardworking people and that she will cherish those friendships for a lifetime. Her fondest memories at the co-op include the times that everyone would come together to support a fellow employee in their time of need.

Pete Scheffler

Pete Scheffler retired January 4 after 34 years with Karnes EC. During his tenure he held a number of positions, beginning as a construction helper before moving on to digger operator, staking technician and staking technician III.

He has three children and six grandchildren, and his retirement plans include taking care of his farm and cattle and accomplishing all the tasks that he's put off for years. He also plans to spend more time with his family and rest when needed.

Scheffler echoed Benavides' advice to take pride in your work, and he expressed the importance of asking questions when you are unsure. "The only stupid question is the one you do not ask," he said.

Working for the co-op has been a great experience for Scheffler, who described his co-workers as one big family and the greatest group of people he's ever worked with.

On behalf of the KEC Board of Directors and employees, we wish Barbara and Pete many years of continued health and happiness. ■

Sealing Air Leaks, Step by Step

DRAFTS AND UNCOMFORTABLE temperature swings are challenges with many older homes and can be a big energy (and money) waster. In a lot of homes, about half of the conditioned air escapes to the outdoors every hour.

The good news is that you can stem the tide on your own with a little time and effort.

Here are three steps to get you started. Keep in mind that there's much more to learn about sealing your home than we can cover here, so consider researching trusted websites for additional tips and tutorials.

Step 1: Find the Leaks

The first step is a thorough visual inspection of the interior and exterior of your home. Look for gaps and holes in exterior walls, flooring and the ceiling. These will often occur where different building materials meet, such as the top of concrete foundation walls or around windows and doors. Another common source of air leaks is where pipes or wiring penetrate a wall, floor or ceiling.

Ductwork located in unheated crawl spaces and attics can also leak air.

Exterior doors and windows that open deserve your attention, too. Open each door or window and place a dollar bill between the door or window sash and the frame. If you can pull the bill out easily when it's closed again, the seal is not tight enough. Any window that rattles when it's closed or it's windy out probably isn't sealed sufficiently either.

Step 2: Gather the Materials You'll Need

Here's a short list of materials to get you started:

Caulk. Waterproof silicone or latex outdoor caulk that's water-soluble until it cures is recommended, especially if it's paintable when dry.

Expanding spray foam. One can typically costs \$4–\$6. This is an effective way to plug leaks, but keep in mind that it can be a bit messy.

Weatherstripping. Prices vary depending on the type and length you need, but there's a wide variety of weath-

erstripping options made of vinyl, metal, felt and open-cell foam that work for most situations.

Pre-cut foam socket sealers. For about \$3, you can typically purchase a pack of 24 sealers, which can be added to electrical outlets to cut drafts.

Chimney balloon. Prices range from \$50 to \$90. You may need a chimney balloon if your chimney flue doesn't seal well. Buy a square or round balloon to match the shape of your flue.

Adhesive plastic window insulation sheets. For \$2–\$14, these sheets can slow the movement of heat through windows.

Step 3: Do It!

If you are unfamiliar with how to apply any of these materials, check out tutorial videos online. Sealing air leaks is one of the best ways to boost your home's energy efficiency. Whether you're a do-it-yourself pro or novice, with a few simple steps (and low-cost materials), you'll be well on your way to a sealed, more efficient home. ■





FRANCESCO MOU FOTOGRAFO | ISTOCK.COM

Call a Licensed Electrical Contractor

MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD before that you need to hire a licensed electrician for electrical upgrades and repairs. But maybe you've also heard that someone with a journeyman license is good enough.

That's false. Your electrical contractor should be fully licensed through the state for a variety of reasons.

Electrical contractors are "licensed to engage in the business of designing, installing, erecting, repairing, or altering electrical wires or conductors to be used for light, heat, power or signaling purposes," according to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. "This includes the installation or repair of ducts, raceways, or conduits for the reception or protection of wires or conductors and the installation or repair of any electrical machinery, apparatus, or system used for electrical light, heat, power or signaling."

To obtain an electrical contractor license, a prospective company must employ a licensed master electrician. The licensed master electrician can be the business owner.

Additionally, obtaining an electrician's license ensures that the holder has undergone a criminal history background check. This helps keep consumers safe, as these professionals enter homes and businesses to conduct repairs and improvements.

Hiring a licensed electrical contractor for repair work protects homeowners because electricians licensed by the state are required to have insurance. Licensing requirements also ensure that electricians stay up to date on current technology, safety guidelines, and building and safety codes.

Any licensed contractor in Texas must have their company name and Texas electrical contractor license number on both sides of their work vehicle and on business letterhead, proposals and invoices.

You can verify licensing by doing a search on the TDLR website at www.tdlr.texas.gov/licensesearch or by calling 1-800-803-9202. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Good Friday
Friday, April 2

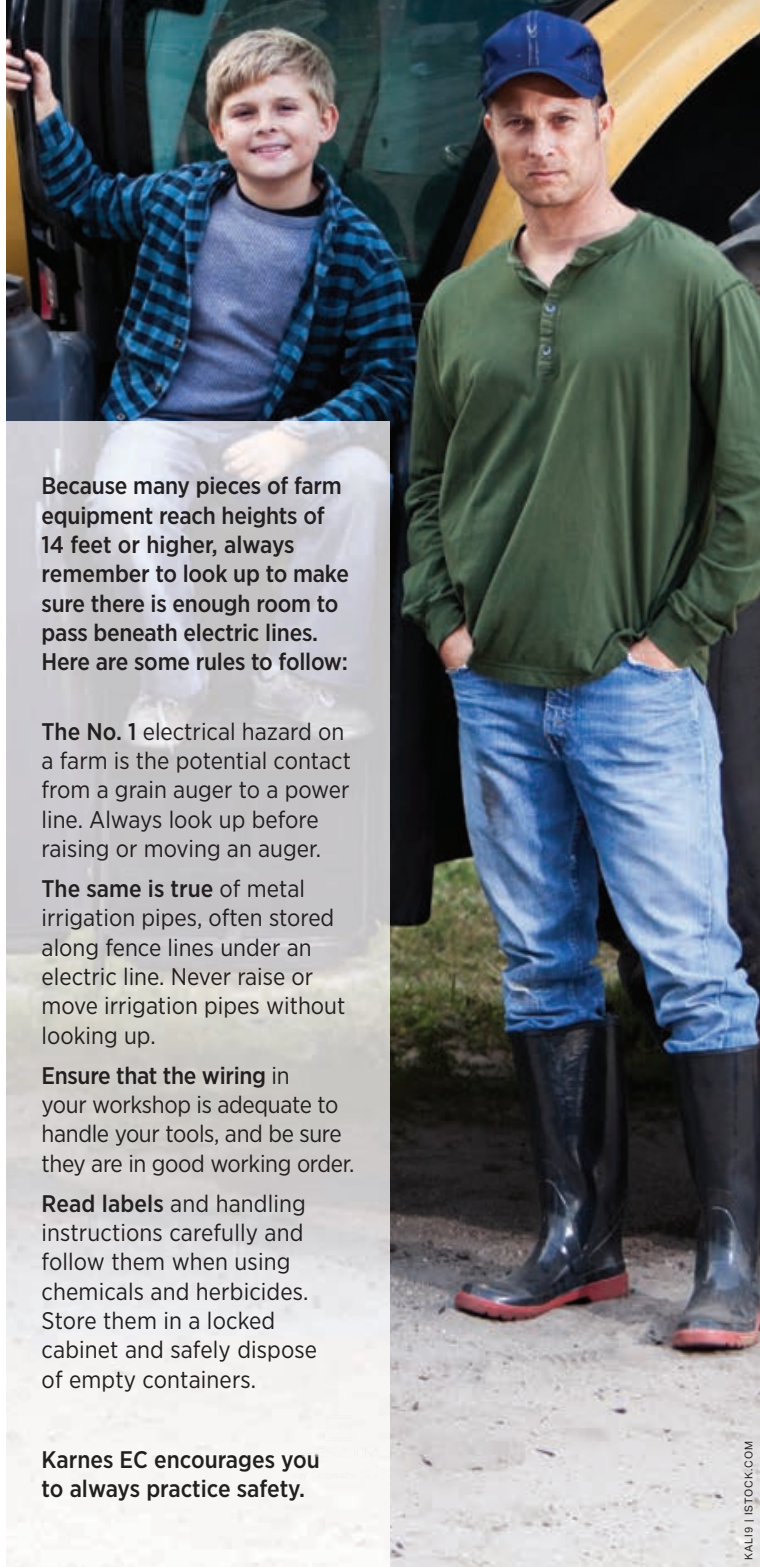
Our offices will be closed in observance of the holiday.

Easter
Sunday, April 4

Lineman Appreciation Day
Monday, April 12

NICOLE S. YOUNG | ISTOCK.COM

Cultivate Farm Safety



Because many pieces of farm equipment reach heights of 14 feet or higher, always remember to look up to make sure there is enough room to pass beneath electric lines. Here are some rules to follow:

The No. 1 electrical hazard on a farm is the potential contact from a grain auger to a power line. Always look up before raising or moving an auger.

The same is true of metal irrigation pipes, often stored along fence lines under an electric line. Never raise or move irrigation pipes without looking up.

Ensure that the wiring in your workshop is adequate to handle your tools, and be sure they are in good working order.

Read labels and handling instructions carefully and follow them when using chemicals and herbicides. Store them in a locked cabinet and safely dispose of empty containers.

Karnes EC encourages you to always practice safety.

KAL19 | ISTOCK.COM



RAVSKY | ISTOCK.COM

Lamb and Root Vegetable Stew

2 pounds lamb shoulder or roast, cut into 1-inch pieces

¼ cup flour

1 teaspoon pepper

2 tablespoons olive oil

2 medium sweet yellow onions, chopped

4 cloves garlic, minced

¼ cup white wine

2 cups water or chicken broth

1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary (or 1 teaspoon dried)

1 tablespoon minced fresh oregano (or 1 teaspoon dried)

6 medium carrots, chopped

1 pound A-size red potatoes, quartered

½ teaspoon red pepper

1 teaspoon sea salt

1. Put lamb in a large storage bag with flour and pepper and shake to coat thoroughly.

2. Heat olive oil in large soup pot on medium heat, remove lamb from bag and cook until pieces are lightly browned. Add onion and garlic and cook until translucent, about 5 minutes. Deglaze with wine.

3. Transfer to a slow cooker, add remaining ingredients and stir thoroughly. Cook on low 4–5 hours or until carrots and potatoes are soft. Taste and adjust seasonings.

Serves 4–6.

TCP Find this and more delicious recipes online at [TexasCoopPower.com](https://www.texascooppower.com).