

MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER BRAD BIERSTEDT

# **Tree Trimming Improves Service for All Members**

**ONE OF THE THINGS** I love most about our community is the natural beauty that surrounds us. We are fortunate to have so many trees that offer beauty, shade and habitat for all sorts of birds and other wildlife. We know that you appreciate our community for many of the same reasons.

That's why Karnes Electric Cooperative strives to balance maintaining beautiful surroundings with ensuring a reliable power supply by keeping power lines clear in rights-of-way.

While we recognize and appreciate the beauty of trees, there are three main benefits to trimming trees in ROW areas. But before I touch on those reasons, let me first explain what a right-of-way is and how it may impact you.

All the land that we use to construct, maintain, replace and repair underground and overhead power lines makes up our rights-of-way. These protected areas enable the co-op to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder power line installation, maintenance or operation. ROW



areas are typically on public lands or located near a business or home. Regardless, Karnes EC must be able to maintain the power lines above and below the ROW.

The goal of our vegetation management program is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our community. Proactive vegetation management benefits co-op members in three tangible ways.

#### Safety

First and foremost, we care about our members and put their safety and that of our lineworkers above all else. If trees are touching power lines in our members' yards, they can pose a grave threat to families. If children can access those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor such as a tree.

A proactive approach also diminishes the chances of branches or trees falling during severe weather events, which make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

#### Reliability

Of course, one of the biggest benefits of a smart vegetation management program is reliability. Strategic tree trimming reduces the frequency of downed lines that cause power outages. Generally speaking, healthy trees don't fall on power lines, and clear lines don't cause problems. Proactive trimming and

pruning keep lines clear to promote reliability.

## Affordability

As you know, Karnes EC is a not-for-profit cooperative, and that means we strive to keep our costs in check to keep our rates affordable. This extends to our approach to vegetation management. If trees grow too close to power lines, the potential for expensive repairs also increases. Effective tree trimming and other vegetation management efforts keep costs down for everyone.

Our community is a special place. We appreciate the beauty trees provide, but we also know you depend on us to provide reliable energy. Through vegetation management, we can keep power lines clear, prepare for future weather events and secure the reliability of the grid.



## SAVE THE DATE

# Karnes EC Annual Meeting

Monday, August 9 Karnes City ISD Performing Arts Center



# Stay Safe in a Lightning Storm

**LIGHTNING STRIKES KILL** an average of 49 people in the United States each year, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and more than 400 people are hit by bolts each year. But if you prepare before an outdoor event and know how to protect yourself, you can keep your family safe from lightning. Follow these tips from NOAA:

**Plan ahead.** Just as you have an emergency plan for fires and weather events like tornadoes and hurricanes, form an action plan for lightning. Choose a safe shelter and time how long it takes to get there.

**Check the weather.** A simple forecast can tell you whether you should delay outdoor activities to avoid a dangerous situation.

**Look to the sky.** Dark skies, whipping winds and lightning flashes are all signs that you should stay indoors.

**Seek shelter.** As soon as you hear a rumble of thunder, head for a safe place; an enclosed structure with plumbing and wiring is best, or find a car. Open-air shelters, sheds and covered porches are often not safe places. Avoid tall trees that stand alone, towers, poles, and metal fences and other conductors of electricity. And keep out of open areas so that you're not the tallest object in a field.

**Wait it out.** Leaving shelter too quickly makes you vulnerable to lightning strikes. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder before you head back outdoors.

**Avoid corded phones and appliances.** If you're indoors when a storm hits, do not use phones or appliances with cords. Lightning can travel through your home's wiring. Water is also a great conductor of electricity, so don't take a bath or shower.

If someone near you has been struck by lightning, call 911 immediately. A certified person should begin CPR right away if necessary.

# 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 General Manager

**Brad Bierstedt** 

#### **Board of Directors**

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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.

#### TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

# Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines

Hurricane Season Is June 1-November 30

#### **Preparedness Checklist**

- Make an evacuation plan. Find activated evacuation routes at DriveTexas.org or by dialing 1-800-452-9292. Call 211 to find out if you live in an evacuation zone.
- > Sign up for emergency alerts. Make sure your mobile device is enabled to receive Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs).
- Prepare an emergency supply kit. Learn how to build an emergency kit at ready.gov/build-a-kit.
- Review your home insurance policy.
- Register with the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) at stear.tdem.texas.gov or by dialing 211 if you live in an evacuation zone and:
  - · Have a disability or medical needs and do not have a car or other vehicle to use in an evacuation.
  - Have a disability or medical needs and do not have friends or family to help in an evacuation.

Information collected for STEAR is confidential.

#### **Hurricane Preparedness Online Resources**

Texas Division of Emergency Management: tdem.texas.gov Texas Department of State Health Services: texasready.gov American Red Cross: redcross.org U.S. Department of Homeland Security: ready.gov Office of Texas Governor Greg Abbott: gov.texas.gov

#### DIVISIÓN DE ADMINISTRACIÓN DE EMERGENCIAS DE TEXAS

# Preparación para huracanes

La temporada de huracanes es del 1 de junio al 30 de noviembre

## Lista de verificación de preparación:

- > Haga un plan de evacuación. Encuentre rutas de evacuación activadas en DriveTexas.org o marcando 1-800-452-9292. Llame al 211 para averiguar si usted vive en una zona de evacuación.
- Regístrese para recibir alertas de emergencia. Asegúrese de que su dispositivo móvil esté habilitado para recibir Alertas de emergencia inalámbricas (WEAs).
- Prepare un kit de emergencia. Aprenda como construir un kit de emergencia en ready.gov/build-a-kit.
- Revise su póliza de seguro de hogar.
- Registrese con el Registro de Asistencia de Emergencia del Estado de Texas (STEAR) en stear.tdem.texas.gov o marcando el 211 si vive en una zona de evacuación y:
  - Tiene una discapacidad o necesidades médicas y no tiene un auto u otro vehículo para usar en una evacuación.
  - Tiene una discapacidad o necesidades médicas y no tiene amigos o familiares para ayudar en una evacuación.

La información recolectada para STEAR es confidencial.

#### Recursos en línea para la preparación para huracanes

División de Administración de Emergencias de Texas: tdem.texas.gov Departamento de Servicios de Salud del Estado: texasready.gov

Cruz Roja Americana: redcross.org

Departamento de Seguridad Nacional de los Estados Unidos: ready.gov Oficina del Gobernador de Texas Greg Abbott: gov.texas.gov

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# Tornado Season Peaks in June

BE BETTER PREPARED for tornado season, which peaks in June, with this safety information from the Texas Department of Insurance

A tornado watch means tornadoes are possible in the area, and a tornado warning means a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.

When a tornado warning has been issued for your area or if you see an approaching tornado, follow these safety tips.

## If you are in a school, hospital, factory, shopping center, business or home:

- Stay away from windows, doors and outside walls.
- Do not open windows.
- Go to a basement, if one is available.
- Find an interior room on the lowest floor, if there is no basement.
- ▶ Cover yourself in blankets, towels or anything that will protect you from flying debris.
- If you are in a car or mobile home, get out immediately. Find a substantial structure or designated tornado shelter. If no suitable structure is nearby, lie flat, face down, in the nearest ditch or depression and use your hands to cover your head to protect against flying debris.





# 3 Electrifying Appliances That Save Time and Energy

WHETHER YOUR OVEN and stovetop are powered by gas or electricity, it's no secret that they consume more energy than smaller countertop appliances, such as slow cookers and toaster ovens. In addition to efficiency, smaller kitchen appliances can provide faster cooking times and less cleanup hassle.

If you're looking for convenient cooking methods with the bonus of energy efficiency, here are three electrifying appliances for your kitchen:

- 1. Air fryers are becoming increasingly popular, and consumers have a lot of good things to say about these handy little machines. Air fryers use convection to circulate hot air and cook food, which means little to no oil is required, resulting in healthier meals than those from traditional fryers. With everything cooked in the fryer, cleanup is a breeze. Air fryers are available in a variety of sizes, and prices range from \$40 to \$200-plus.
- 2. Electric griddles have certainly been around for a while, and they offer several benefits for any home chef. Griddles are convenient because you can cook everything at once—like a one-pan meal—and the possibilities are endless. From fajitas to sandwiches to French toast, griddles can help satisfy any taste buds. They consume small amounts of energy and provide quick cooking times, so your energy bill will thank you. Prices and sizes for griddles vary, but you can typically find one for about \$30.
- 3. Pizza brings people together, so why not consider a pizza maker for your kitchen? These compact countertop machines are an inexpensive alternative to a costly brick oven, and they use less energy than a traditional oven. Plus, most pizza makers are multifunctional and can be used to cook flatbreads, frittatas, quesadillas and more. You can purchase a pizza maker for \$30-\$150. ■

## Let Your Voice Be Heard

Karnes Electric Cooperative will be conducting a member satisfaction survey this year to get feedback from members on how we're doing and update our ACSI score.

Be on the lookout for the survey and complete it to let your voice be heard!



## Bacon Pecan Pie Bars

- 11/2 cups flour
- 11/2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) softened butter, divided use
- 31/2 cups chopped pecans, divided use
- 11/4 cups light corn syrup
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon coarse salt
- 1/2 cup cooked bacon, chopped
- 1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Whisk together flour and powdered sugar. Cut in 3/4 cup butter and mix until it forms a dough. Mix in 11/2 cups chopped pecans. Press the dough into a greased 13-by-9-inch baking dish and bake 20 minutes.
- 2. After crust is done and removed from oven, raise oven temperature to 350 degrees.
- 3. In a saucepan, combine corn syrup, brown sugar and remaining 1/4 cup butter. Cook, stirring constantly, until mixture comes to a boil. Remove mixture from heat and allow it to cool a few minutes.
- 4. Using an electric mixer, beat the eggs. Gradually add the syrup mixture. Stir in vanilla and salt. Fold in the remaining pecans and bacon.
- 5. Pour filling over the crust and bake 30 minutes or until the center is set. Let the bars cool for at least 1 hour before cutting.

#### MAKES 20 BARS.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at TexasCoopPower.com.



**Preparing for Disasters** 

NO MATTER WHERE you live in Texas, it's important to learn about the potential hazards near you to get ahead of possible disasters. Have you considered the types of disasters you may face? Do you know what your risk is for hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, winter storms and wildfires?

As February demonstrated, the worst can happen anytime, so it's important to take disaster preparation seriously. Planning for scenarios such as prolonged power outages or a lack of safe drinking water will make it easier for you and your family to manage a disaster.

## Make a Plan

Disasters can happen suddenly, so knowing where your family is and how to communicate with them is important. That's why you need to make a plan. Sit down with your whole family and think through various emergency and disaster situations:

- ▶ What would we do in case of a fire, hurricane, flood or tornado?
- ▶ Where would we meet if we got separated?

- ► How will we communicate if phones are not working?
- ▶ Who should be our family's emergency contacts?
- ▶ Where should we go if we have to evacuate and how should we get there?
- ▶ What if we have no home to return to?

# As part of your plan, record:

- ▶ Birthdates.
- Social Security numbers. Keep these separate from other information for identity security purposes.
- ▶ Medical provider contact information.
- Medical information, including a list of prescription medications and dosages.
- Medical and property insurance information.
- Work and school phone numbers and addresses.
- ▶ Emergency contacts.
- Designated evacuation and family reunification sites.
- ▶ Phone numbers of family and friends. Local authorities will provide direction on the need to shelter in place or evacuate.

You should have a plan and be prepared for either situation. If you must evacuate, where will you go and how will you get there? If you need to shelter in place, do you have what you need to survive for at least 72 hours?

During many emergencies and disasters, cellphone networks may not work. Do you have another form of communication? How will you receive updates from local authorities to know when the emergency or disaster is over? How will you contact family members?

#### Build a Kit

No matter the type of disaster, you will need to have food, water and essential supplies for your family and pets.

Pack your supplies in a portable container. A waterproof container is best. If needed, divide your supplies into multiple containers so they are easier to carry. You may also want to create a smaller go-kit of basic supplies in a backpack. If you must leave on foot, you can carry it with you.

#### Basic supplies should include:

- ▶ A three-day supply of nonperishable food, such as canned or pouched items.
- 1 gallon of water per day for each person and pet.
- ▶ A manual can opener.
- Baby items (food, formula, bottles, diapers) and pet supplies, if they're needed.
- A first-aid kit.
- ▶ Medications.
- ▶ Hand sanitizer and wipes.
- ▶ Flashlights, a battery-powered radio and batteries.

Keep your supplies ready in an easily accessible area. Keep a list of the items you will need to add at the last minute, such as medications, in clear view on your kit. And don't forget to periodically replace items that may expire, such as food and batteries.

Once your plan is complete, print it and keep it in a safe place. And don't forget to practice your plan. The more you practice, the safer you and your family will be during and after a disaster.

