

We Respect Private Property



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

As part of the business of taking care of Comanche Electric Cooperative Association's electric distribution system, work crews are dispatched all over our service territory.

While much of the linework they do can be conducted in the co-op's right-of-way beside public roads, from time to time they might need to access your private property.

Reasons for the visit can vary—whether to swap out a meter, solve a service issue or restore power after an outage. But rest assured: Our crews will respect your privacy and your property while they are there.

CECA workers, and the contractors who help them, work from vehicles identified with the co-op's logo and name.

Routine work, such as pole and equipment testing and upgrading of transformers and wires, generally takes place from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Emergency restoration work, of course, can take place any time of the day or night.

Vegetation management, another duty that could take crews onto your land to access the co-op's right-of-way, is vital to the reliable operation of CECA's distribution system. We realize that sometimes trees you don't want touched might need to be trimmed or cut down. Trees growing into power lines, even if not planted right underneath, can pose a hazard not only to the system's reliability, but also to the safety of you and your family.

The weight of ice or the wind can bring trees in the right-of-way crashing down onto lines, disrupting power.

In addition, limbs touching power lines can conduct



Trees growing into the right-of-way pose a hazard and must be trimmed.

electricity, posing a shock danger to passersby. Trees growing into the right-of-way must be trimmed, even if the result might be a lopsided-looking tree.

When they are done, crews will clean up whatever mess they made, leaving your property as much like they found it as possible.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about our workers on your property, please contact our customer service representatives at 1-800-915-2533.

I thank you for your understanding and patience, and the trust you put in us to keep the lights on for you.



PHOTOGRAPHER: EIT DOLLAR PHOTO CLUB

Don't Sweat Summer Bills

A few simple steps can help you lower your electric bills this summer:

- ▶ Keep blinds or shades closed. When open, the sun can really heat up a room. Turn off the lights when not needed. They add heat just like sunlight does.
- ▶ Clothes dryers are energy intensive and produce heat. Try using a clothesline instead. Run only full loads in your clothes washer and wash with cold water.
- ▶ Look around and see where you think cool air might escape. Any door that can be closed should be closed. That leaves less living space to cool.
- ▶ Consider doing exercise outside. The less movement you do inside, the less heat you produce.
- ▶ Set the A/C thermostat and leave it. Bring in cool morning air with a box fan in a window. Shut windows as the day warms up.
- ▶ If you have a central air system, keep the fan setting in the "on" position instead of "auto." It will circulate the air throughout your home and make it feel cooler.
- ▶ Leave the house for a trip outside or to the library, a store or the movies. When you do go, make sure everything is turned off and items that use standby power—such as electric coffee pots, TVs and computers—are unplugged.
- ▶ If it's cool at night, open the windows and turn the thermostat off. It feels so great to have a nice, cool breeze while sleeping.

CECA Receives Award for No Lost Time



Linework is tedious and dangerous work, so when CECA received an award at the 2014 Loss Control Conference for two years of no lost time, it was a pretty big deal.

CECA has always put a priority on safety, both for our employees and the general public. We are extremely proud of the men and women who work year-round in all conditions to keep the power on and to keep our members safe. Please join us in congratulating our employees on a job well done. Receiving the award on behalf of all CECA employees, left to right are: Warren Huggins, TEC loss control specialist, and CECA employees Thomas Stevens and Dale Ogle.

REMINDER:

CECA To Update Metering System

In an effort to update and streamline our metering process and better serve our members, CECA will soon begin the long process of updating our current metering system to a newer and improved system.



CECA has entered into a contract with Texas Meter Device, or TMD, an experienced electric system installation service out of Waco. Over the next 12 to 13 months, you are likely to see these crews in your area from time to time. Each vehicle representing TMD should have a sign visibly displayed on it identifying workers as CECA contractors.

All meters on the CECA system must be changed. Therefore each meter location in our service territory will be visited by TMD at some time. As the project progresses, we will do our best to inform you when we will be in your area.

Should you have any questions or concerns in relation to this project, you can call CECA's metering department at 1-800-915-2533.

CECA

P.O. Box 729
Comanche, TX 76442

Operating in Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Mills, Shackelford and Stephens counties

HEADQUARTERS

201 W. Wrights Ave.
Comanche, TX 76442

EARLY OFFICE

1801 CR 338
Early, TX 76801

EASTLAND OFFICE

1311 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448

OFFICE HOURS

Comanche Office: Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Early Office: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed from 1 to 2 p.m.

Eastland Office: Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

YOUR LOCAL PAGES

This section of Texas Co-op Power is produced by CECA each month to provide you with information about current events, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Shirley at the Comanche office or at sdukes@ceca.coop.



CONTACT US

CALL US

(325) 356-2533 local or
1-800-915-2533 toll-free

FIND US ON THE WEB

www.ceca.coop

facebook.com/CECA.coop

Meet CECA's Newest Additions

Please join us in welcoming CECA's newest members to the family!



JENNY PARKER is CECA's newest customer service representative, working at both the Early and Eastland offices. Born in West Texas and raised in Monahans, she now resides in Brownwood with her four beautiful daughters. Her hobbies are photography and piano. She loves to travel, even if it's just seeing the local sights and learning more about her new environment. With four young daughters, she spends a lot of time outdoors, watching and playing sports with her kids. "I love working for this company and am finding it a pleasure to work with such amazing members and co-workers!" Parker says. "Everyone here is so happy!" If you happen by the Early or Eastland office, please bid Jenny a huge welcome.



SHANE KINNAMON is one of four dispatchers for CECA. His is one of the pleasant voices you will hear if you call after hours. Kinnamon moved from Irving to Comanche about a year ago in an effort to get out of the city and back to a quieter pace of life and what he loves to do—hunting and fishing. Shane and his wife, Charity, have two sons, Seth and William, and another child due in November. His younger brother, Justin, also lives with them. "I love my job and the people I get to talk to here at Comanche Electric Cooperative!" Kinnamon says.



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POWER TIP

Save **ENERGY** • Save **MONEY**

When replacing incandescent bulbs in recessed light fixtures, use energy-efficient bulbs that are rated for that purpose. For example, the heat buildup in downlights will significantly shorten the life of spiral CFLs.

Source: Department of Energy

Did You Know?

THINKSTOCK

Capital credits are margins (income greater than expenses) that are credited to cooperative members each year based on their electricity purchases from the cooperative. This money is used by the cooperative as working capital for a period of time, then paid back to individual members as the co-op's financial status allows.

IMAGE: THINKSTOCK

Safety Tips for Weekend DIY Warriors

If you are a homeowner, the weekend is often your opportunity to tackle one of the projects on your to-do list. Whether it is trimming the hedges, washing windows, building a patio, fixing the garage door or anything else on your list, **Safe Electricity** reminds you to prepare to handle all projects safely.

Begin by making sure you have the right tools for the job. Also, check power tool cords for any cracks or frayed insulation and proper connections. Then take note of potential hazards in the work area, such as overhead power lines—especially those connected to the home.

Look up and around you. Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long metal tools such as ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles; when installing rooftop antennas and satellite dishes; or when doing roof repair work.

Other safety tips to keep in mind when tackling DIY projects:

- ▶ Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from lines.

- ▶ Use only extension cords that are rated for outdoor use when working outside. Keep your work area tidy and do not allow power cords to tangle.

- ▶ Remember that electricity and water are a dangerous mix. If it is raining or the ground is wet, do not use tools that require electric power. Never use electrical appliances or touch circuit breakers or fuses when you are wet or standing in water. Keep electric equipment at least 10 feet from wet areas.

- ▶ Make sure outdoor outlets are equipped with ground-fault circuit interrupters. If your outdoor outlets do not have them, use a portable GFCI.

- ▶ If your projects include digging, like building a patio or planting a tree, call 811 to have utility lines marked before you begin. This free service prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury.

- ▶ Be willing to hire a licensed professional for projects that involve electrical wiring or for work close to electrical equipment.

For more information on home safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



When home projects require digging, make sure you know the location of underground utilities.



Unplug small appliances to save energy during your vacation.

Save Energy at Home While on Vacation

Long holiday weekends away from home and summer vacation trips are just around the corner. Don't let your house waste energy while you're away.

Before you load your suitcases into the car:

CHECK THE THERMOSTAT. If it might get hot while you're away, leave the A/C on, but set the temperature up to ward off mold and humidity. If you have pets at home, leave the thermostat at a comfortable setting.

UNPLUG APPLIANCES. You'll need to leave the refrigerator running, of course, but TVs, phone chargers, toasters, coffee makers and other appliances use small amounts of electricity when they're plugged in but not in use. Unplug all of those devices before you leave so they won't use any electricity while you're gone.

UNPLUG COMPUTERS. Chances are, your desktop computer, laptop, tablet, phone, printer and scanner are all near each other. Plug them all into a surge-protector power strip. That way, you have to pull only one plug to disconnect them all at once before you leave your home for an extended time.

LEAVE A LIGHT ON. You don't want to advertise that nobody's home, so don't leave your house dark. Instead of indoor lamps and outdoor lights burning 24/7, connect them to programmable timers that will turn them on and off at the times you specify. Besides saving energy, the on-and-off lights will make your home appear occupied.



CO-OP CONNECTIONS

Featured Businesses

Spring Crest Carpet and Drapery Center

Spring Crest Carpet and Drapery is your one-stop shop for all your floor and window needs. We feature a wide variety of carpet, vinyl, ceramic tile, wood flooring and area rugs, as well as wood and faux blinds, pleated and roman shades, custom draperies and plantation shutters. We offer professional installation and free estimates, and we can even help you with your financing needs. We have been at the same location for more than 20 years. You can depend on us.

LOCATED: 609 S. Main St., Brownwood

PHONE: (325) 646-6793

HOURS: Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday by appointment only

EMAIL: troybruce@netzero.net

OFFER: Free installation on five or more blinds or 10 percent discount on a whole house of installed carpet

Seal-Tite Insulation

These days you have to be careful what you put into your home and into the environment. Seal-Tite Insulation is not only safe for your home and future, but will save you money on your utility bills from the moment it is installed. Our product could cut your heating and cooling energy consumption by up to 50 percent, thereby decreasing the amount of energy used and reducing your power bill—as well as reducing the waste of our planet's valuable resources. We offer a 5 percent discount to all cooperative members within a 60-mile radius of our home base. Call us today for a free in-home estimate. Serving the Central Texas area.

PHONE: (254) 967-5891

OFFER: 5 percent discount on the gross total of your job

Consider Using Tamper-Resistant Receptacles

They may look like standard outlets, but tamper-resistant receptacles, or TRRs, are different. Their most distinguishable feature—a built-in shutter system that prevents foreign objects from being inserted—sets them apart. Only a plug that applies simultaneous, equal pressure to both slots will disengage the cover plates, allowing access to the contact points. Without this synchronized pressure, the cover plates remain closed.

While a child's curiosity knows no boundaries, it can sometimes put them in peril, especially when electricity is involved. Electrical outlets and receptacles represent potential hazards for children.

In recent years, more homes have been equipping their electrical outlets with TRRs, but in many public facilities, like hospital pediatric wards, these safeguards have been required for more than 20 years. The National Electrical Code now requires TRRs in all new home construction.

Existing homes can be easily retrofitted with TRRs using the same installation guidelines that apply to standard receptacles. TRRs should only be installed by a licensed electrician and should carry a label from a nationally recognized, independent testing lab.

For more information on TRRS, visit esfi.org.

TRRs by the Numbers

- ▶ Each year 2,400 children suffer shocks and burns resulting from inserting objects into the slots of electrical receptacles. That's nearly seven children a day.

- ▶ It is estimated that six to 12 child fatalities result from children tampering with electrical receptacles.

- ▶ Existing homes can be retrofitted with TRRs for as little as \$2 per outlet.



**I USED TO PUT A FEW DRINKS
IN MY SECOND FRIDGE. AND
ABOUT \$146 A YEAR.**

After I purchased a new ENERGY STAR® qualified refrigerator, I moved my old one to the garage to keep a few drinks cold. Turns out, that move was burning a pretty big hole in my wallet. Now I'm saving \$146 per year just by pulling the plug on my old fridge. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.



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