

# FEC® POWER

## Source

Vol. 24 No. 12

Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer

## Winter Weather Travel Tips

If you travel in inclement weather for the holidays, be sure to carry an emergency kit with at least the following items:

- First-aid kit
- Blankets
- Compass
- Flashlight with spare batteries
- Bottles of water
- Flares
- Protein snacks for quick energy like nutrition bars, dried fruit, and nuts.
- A shovel
- Sand, salt, or cat litter for traction
- Spare tire and jack
- Snow/Tire chains
- 12-Volt cell phone charger and/or a power bank portable charger
- Extra gloves



1. When driving in rain, ice, or snow, be sure to increase your following distance by at least two car lengths.
2. Don't forget to leave a copy of your travel plans with someone you trust and periodically check in with that person.
3. Always wear your safety belt and remind passengers to wear theirs as well. Children should ride in properly installed child seats. Have the seats checked at a local hospital, police station, fire station, or your insurance agency.

### WARNING!

If you connect an electric generator to the main electrical supply coming into the house, the electrical generator could feed back into Farmers' Electric's system and electrocute workers who are repairing the electrical lines.

To avoid this type of back-feeding onto the system, you must have a qualified, licensed electrician install a double-pole, double-throw transfer switch between the generator and utility power in compliance with all state and local electrical codes. (A minimum of 10-gauge wiring must be used.)

Your generator might not be large enough to handle the load of all the lights, appliances, TV, etc. at one time. To prevent dangerous overloading, calculate wattage requirements correctly.

## Merry Christmas!



On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the entire staff of Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years!

Farmers' Electric Cooperative offices will be closed December 24 and 25 and January 1 in observance of the holidays.

In case of an emergency, please call (800) 445-8541. Our line crews are on call 24 hours a day.

*Manager's Message...***Lance Adkins, GM**

have proven to be as serious a concern as the virus itself. On top of that, drought continues to plague those in all areas of production agriculture.

In my lifetime I have not experienced a time when so many who are critically ill are isolated from friends and family, their only human connection with gowned, gloved, and masked healthcare workers. I have never before experienced standing in long lines, in the cold, waiting for a turn to enter a store to buy food or supplies.

Christmas is the time when we celebrate the birth of Christ, born in a time of fear, struggle and despair, the answer to a long-ago promise, a message of hope, Immanuel – God with us! For our family, it is this promise, this message of hope that serves as our foundation when events around us are far beyond our control.

As I pause to consider those things I am thankful for this year, I am thankful for the doctors, nurses, technicians and healthcare workers with the skills and training necessary to provide quality healthcare. I know they are tired and stretched to the limit of mental and physical endurance. I am thankful too for those who conduct research and develop treatment options to address illness and disease. I am thankful for individuals, organizations and businesses who continue to give of themselves to help meet the needs of those who are struggling. Christmas is about hope and promise.

For our family, we have found that we draw strength and encouragement as we reach out to help others. Thank those around you each day who work to make your community a great place to live. As you celebrate this holiday season, look for a way to assist those who are struggling, work to keep the promise and hope of Christmas alive all year.

I hope you have the opportunity to drive by the Clovis office and enjoy the Christmas message displayed on the windows, a tradition for many years now. Thank you too, for the support and encouragement you give those who work for you here at Farmers' Electric!

Until Next Month,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lance Adkins".

## Merry Christmas!

As we celebrate the season of Thanksgiving and Christmas, we are aware of many in the communities we serve who are facing struggles with health and finance. I think most would agree that the holiday season has become very “commercialized” and far too many end up paying for gifts well into the next year as credit card bills come due! Struggles are even greater this year, likely no family or business has not been touched by COVID and attempts to reduce the spread of the virus by limiting gatherings and business operations. For many, isolation and depression



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### **POWER SOURCE**

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### **To Report An Outage**

We are on-call 24  
 hours each day,  
 365 days each year,  
 to serve **your** electric  
 power needs.

**Clovis**  
 (575) 762-4466  
**Fort Sumner**  
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 (575) 472-3971  
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## #STAYSAFENEWMEXICO

**Wear a  
Mask**

**Wash  
Your  
Hands**

**Keep  
A Safe  
Distance**

**Be Kind**  


## Scholarship Applications Available Now!

Farmers' Electric Cooperative will be awarding scholarships again this year through the Farmers' Electric Education Foundation. Scholarship applications may be obtained from area high school guidance counselors or from cooperative office locations in Clovis, Ft. Sumner, and Santa Rosa. Scholarship applications can also be requested by calling the Clovis office at 575-762-4466 or 800-445-8541 or by going online to [www.fecnm.org](http://www.fecnm.org). All cooperative members and their dependents are eligible to apply for these scholarships.

**Don't Delay! Deadline For  
Applications Is February 1, 2021!**



As in the past, there are two different scholarship forms. Be sure when requesting a form that you specify either the "Graduating High School Student Application" or the "Returning College Application." Both forms are available from any FEC office or are available to download from [www.fecnm.org](http://www.fecnm.org).

This year, the FEC Board of Trustees has authorized (63) \$1,000 scholarships and (1) \$2,000 Glenn Holland Memorial scholarship.

## Waste Less Hot Water

Every drop of hot water you conserve could add up to savings on your energy bill.

Think about how often you run the hot water faucet or an appliance that uses hot water - and whether you could either turn it off or use cold water instead.



Here are six ways to use less hot water:

1. **Swap your old showerhead** for a low-flow model that bears the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense label. Typical showerheads deliver 2.5 gallons per minute.
2. **Set a timer** for five minutes, and turn the shower off when the alarm rings. Five minutes is more than enough time for anyone to shower. Also, turn the water off while you lather up your hair, and turn back on to rinse out the shampoo.
3. **Plug the sink** while you're shaving rather than running water the whole time to rinse your razor under the spigot. You could save up to 300 gallons of water and energy.
4. **Soak pots and pans** instead of scraping them under running hot water. They'll clean up quicker and you'll save water and energy.
5. **Fix a leaky hot water faucet.** Often, it's a simple repair, but even replacing it will cost less than you'll pay for years of wasted water and energy that drips away.
6. **Wait until you have a full load** in the dishwasher before you run it.

## Energy Insight

Be careful with those space heaters! Running just one space heater, 10 hours a day, could add up to \$45 to your monthly electric bill!



## Ask the Energy Guys

Hey Energy Guys! I'm having a new home built and I need service. Which would be better, overhead or underground?



### PROS

- Not vulnerable to damage from tree branches
- Does not interfere with views
- No right of way (tree trimming) required
- Less susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Less vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines

### CONS

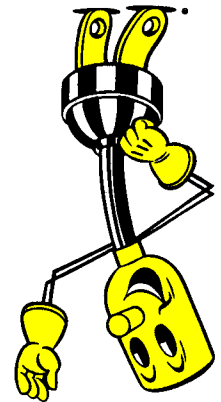
- More expensive to build
- Susceptible to flooding
- Difficult to locate faults
- Expensive to repair
- Fed by overhead lines at some point, making the lines vulnerable to outages and interruptions
- Limitations on voltage that can be buried underground
- Can be vulnerable to dig-ins

### PROS

- Lower cost
- Quicker to construct
- Easier to spot damage and faults
- Less expensive to repair and upgrade
- Can be built in any terrain
- Any voltage can be placed overhead

### CONS

- Susceptible to wind, ice, and snow
- More vulnerable to damage from trees and vegetation, which requires right of way trimming
- Vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines
- Susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Less attractive



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