

FEC® POWER

Source

Vol. 23 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**

I don't know about you, but I've been struggling to fully engage or embrace the "Holiday Spirit" this year. Maybe it is all the "commercialization". Many area stores opened their doors for business on the afternoon of Thanksgiving Day; even more disappointing, the stores appeared to be full of shoppers. Perhaps it is that at least one of our local stores started setting up Christmas displays just after the Fourth of July. Or, perhaps it is the constant news cycle covering impeachment hearings... or that the Hallmark Channel never really stops showing Christmas movies. Clearly

the Grinch is working overtime to steal my Christmas!

I am encouraged though! I've been warmly greeted by a few people I know personally, giving their time to "ring the bell" for Salvation Army donations at area stores. Farmers' Electric put a parade float together for the Clovis Christmas Light Parade, I got to drive - that's where the heater is. Lots of folks lined Main Street, shouting Merry Christmas as we passed; the look on the faces of parents and children was priceless. Folks genuinely appreciated the efforts of all who worked to put the event together.

In church this past Sunday there was more encouragement as our friend, Esther Steinle, reported on "Angel Arms", a ministry she started several years ago to aid area servicemen and women fly home for Thanksgiving, Christmas, or other times to be with loved ones with unexpected illness or death. Without Esther and those who donate to Angel Arms, many of these who serve could not afford to travel home. Angel Arms is assisting more than 40 individuals so far this holiday season - and counting. Please remember the men and women in the armed forces, serving here and abroad, to keep us safe; remember too, their families here at home anxiously awaiting their return. Many will spend the holidays far from home, separated from family.

From time to time, I need to be reminded about what the true meaning of Thanksgiving and Christmas is; being thankful for the blessings we have received rather than envious of what we believe others have. To be reminded of the joy in giving of our resources, time, and monies, to help those in need; it truly is more blessed to give than receive. To remember the one who's birth we celebrate, Christ Jesus, who came, not to be served, but to serve others.

Do not let the Grinch steal your Christmas! Look for a way to assist those who are struggling; go out of your way to thank those around you each day who work to make your community a great place to live. When you see someone in uniform, go out of your way to thank them for their service, and take time to spend time with family and friends as often as you can.

Thank you too, for the support and encouragement you give those who work for you here at Farmers' Electric. Merry Christmas!

Until next month,

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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.

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 (575) 762-4466
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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 counselor's 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. All cooperative members and their dependents are eligible to apply for these scholarships.



Don't Delay! Deadline For Applications Is February, 3, 2020!

This year 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.

New Year Special

Charbroil Patio Bistro Electric Infrared Grill

\$179

Save \$50!

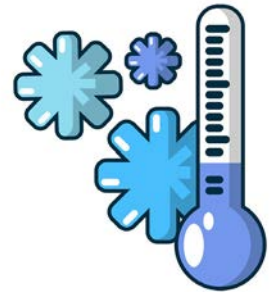
***While supplies last**



Colder Winter Temps Lead to Higher Usage – Higher Bills

With the recent drop in temperatures over the last couple of weeks, some members, especially those that heat with electricity will see their December bills higher than their November bills; and if the normal cold trends continue, even higher in January and February without much relief until March.

Higher winter heating bills have several contributing factors; First: As soon as the sun goes down, temperatures on the High Plains plummet, even if the high during the day was relatively mild. Couple that with high north winds and the short winter days – heating systems are going to operate harder and longer all causing more electricity consumption as the winter cold digs in.



It is "usage" that has increased. No one has been arbitrarily charged extra. This is a trend that all of the regions of eastern New Mexico and west Texas have experienced. Whether investor-owned, municipal, or cooperative, electric utilities all had consumers wondering why their bills were higher.

All FEC members are encouraged to look closely at their bill particularly the graph on usage located in the left bottom third of your bill (13 months of usage history). It should indicate that your consumption/usage went up during December and January (invoice billing with multiple accounts will not have this history).

Keeping a home warm and comfortable during cold winter days and nights often results in the use of additional heating methods such as heat lamps, space heaters, resistance backup heat and other high-usage devices. While these options may be effective during short-term cold spells, they should be limited for long periods of time as they directly impact your overall usage.

We know this can be frustrating and we want to work with our members as much as we can. If you are lower income and/or elderly, you may qualify for help with your winter utilities through LIHEAP and the Department of Human Services. Go to www.hsd.state.nm.us click the "Looking for Assistance" tab, after that, click on the "Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)" tab, then simply follow the instructions.

To further help combat rising electric usage, FEC offers a pamphlet titled, "101 Easy Ways to Save Energy and Money." Call us today at (800) 445-8541 and we can put one in the mail to you.

Youth Tour 2020!



In 2020, FEC will again sponsor two area high school Juniors (summer after Junior year) on the week-long, Government in Action Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Please call 800-445-8541 for more details on this exciting opportunity! We promise this will be a trip of a lifetime. Applications available online at www.fecnm.org. **Deadline to apply is January 15, 2020.**

Attention

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2019. To avoid potential disconnection of services, please contact the Human Services Department for eligibility information for the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at 800-283-4465. Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2019 through March 15, 2020, if you qualify for LIHEAP and have no past due amount or are making the agreed upon payments.

Atención

Proteccion contra la interrupcion de servicio de invierno comienza el 15 de Noviembre del 2019. Para evitar la posibilidad de desconexion. Favor de ponerse en contact con el Departamento de Servicios Humanos para informarse acerca de los requisitos de elegibilidad para el Programa de Asistencia Energetica de Bajos Ingresos (LIHEAP) al 1-800-283-4465, Su servicio no sera desconectado 15 de Noviembre del 2019 a 15 de Marzo del 2020 si califica para el Programa de Asistencia Energetica de Bajos Ingresos y no tiene saldo atrasado ni a fallado con su acuerdo de pagos fijos.

Why Seal and Insulate?

Air that leaks through your home's envelope – the outer walls, windows, doors, and other openings – wastes a lot of energy and increases your utility costs. A well-sealed envelope, coupled with the right amount of insulation, can make a real difference on your utility bills.



Increase Comfort.

Sealing leaks and adding insulation can improve the overall comfort of your home and help to fix many of these common problems:

- Reduced noise from outside
- Less pollen, dust and insects (or pests) entering your home
- Better humidity control
- Lower chance for ice dams on the roof/eaves

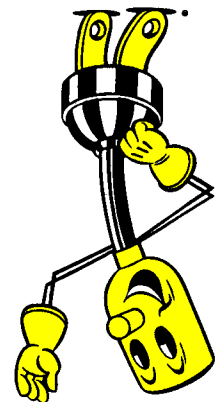
Most Homes Will Benefit.

Most homes in the United States don't have enough insulation and have significant air leaks. In fact, if you added up all the leaks, holes and gaps in a typical home's envelope, it would be the equivalent of having a window open every day of the year!

Rebates from Farmers' Electric

Currently FEC offers a **\$500** cash-back rebate for qualifying homes that have added insulation to at least R30. Call (800) 445-8541 for more details.

“Owned By Those We Serve”



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