

FEC POWER *Source*

Vol. 18 No. 12

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Winter Weather Traveling Tips

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

- First-aid supplies
- Blankets
- Compass
- Flashlight with spare batteries
- Bottles of water
- Flares
- A shovel
- Quick-energy foods, nutrition bars, or dried fruits and nuts
- Sand, salt, or cat litter for traction
- When driving in rain, ice, or snow, be sure to increase your following distance by at least two car lengths.
- Don't forget to leave a copy of your travel plans with someone you trust and periodically check in with that person.
- 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 insurance agency.

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 24th and 25th and January 1st in observance of the holidays.

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Travel Tips..... | 1 |
| Manager's Message..... | 2 |
| Energy Efficiency..... | 3 |
| Energy Efficiency (Cont)... | 4 |

Manager's Message...



Lance Adkins, GM

Be Thankful In All Things

Well, winter finally arrived, though it seems more like we went from summer to winter overnight. Green leaves on the trees one day and most of the leaves on the ground by sundown the next day. I waited one day more and most of the leaves had blown to one corner of the yard, much less raking. From an electric utility perspective, leaves off the trees before a big snow is a very good thing. With the onset of cold weather, the season is starting to match the décor in area stores who have had Christmas displays out

for some time. Folks seem encouraged by weather forecasts that predict a mild winter with more moisture than we have seen over the past three winter seasons.

In looking back at the articles I have written over the past several months, I have spent considerable time on the challenges the Cooperative faces in keeping rates affordable for the membership. It seems there is a constant barrage of regulatory and legisla-

tive initiatives that combine to make electric service more difficult and more costly to provide. Combine this with a daily dose of negative network news and it is easy to overlook all of those blessings we should be thankful for.

For my wife and I, one of those blessings arrived in October, with the birth of grandson number five out in Savannah, Georgia. We received the "call," determined for ourselves that birth was immanent and immediately booked flights and arranged for a rental car. One would think that with grandchild number five we would have known better. After a week of waiting, asking our daughter how she "feels" and a follow up visit to the doctor, we decided to extend our stay a few more days. Grandson number five extended his stay a few more days as well and arrived, safe and healthy, about the time we boarded the plane for home. Nana was none too happy with me. At least we have email and Skype.

Our time waiting wasn't wasted. We had plenty of time with grandsons number one and three. One blessing we didn't even recognize; our daughter and son-in-law do not subscribe to cable, so no daily dose of negative network news. While waiting for the plane at the airport, I watched CNN on the monitor as my 401k retirement plan sank with the stock market and watched as America's first case of the Ebola virus was confirmed in Dallas. Fortunately, the nurses that contracted Ebola recovered quickly and the fear of widespread outbreak of Ebola in America did not materialize. This was a true blessing indeed. Why is it that we tend to focus on the negative rather than the positive?

As I celebrate the holiday season I plan to work harder to keep the negative news in proper perspective and reflect on the many things for which I am thankful. My challenge to you this time of thanksgiving and Christmas and throughout next year, 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, 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!

"As I celebrate the holiday season I plan to work harder to keep the negative news in proper perspective and reflect on the many things I for which I am thankful."

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Questions or article ideas should be directed to :

Thom J. Moore,

POWER SOURCE

Editor, P. O. Box 550

Clovis, New Mexico

88102-0550

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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.

Part Science, Part Style

Energy-Efficient Window Treatment

A recent study by the US Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency used rigorous science and analysis to dissect window-covering choices – how you use them, where you install them and whether they really save energy.

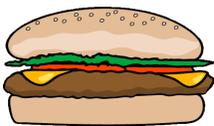
Windows account for 25-40 percent of annual heating and cooling costs, especially in older homes with less efficient windows. Blinds, shades, films, and drapes are all good options to consider if old or inefficient windows can't be replaced. Window coverings could save significant amounts of energy at a relatively low cost to the consumer, according to joint government and industry studies. You may want to give your window coverings a second look when it comes to cooling, heating, and the over-all comfort of your home.

Safety is also a concern, as window treatments can pose potential safety hazards to children, who can fall through blinds or screens or get strangled with cords. Window treatments should be inspected and safeguarded against these threats upon installation.

Also, when planning and installing, remember that location, placement, materials, and adjustments are all key. Windows facing west let in the hottest light and need the most coverage, while windows facing south are a home's most important natural light source and only need substantially less coverage. Although most people rarely adjust their window coverings – about half stay closed at all times, and more than 75 percent remain in the same position regardless of the season or time of day – adjusting them during the day and



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See **WINDOWS** on **PAGE 4**

Attention

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2014. 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, 2014, through March 15, 2015, if you qualify for LIHEAP and have no past due amount or are making the agreed upon payments.

Atención

La protección del interruptor de invierno empieza el 15 de noviembre de 2014. Para evitar desconexión potencial de servicios contacta por favor al Humano Atiende al Departamento para la información de elegibilidad para los Ingresos Bajos que Calientan Programa de Ayuda de Energía (LIHEAP) en 800-283-4465. Su servicio no será desconectado del 15 de noviembre de 2014, por el 15 de marzo de 2015, si califica para LIHEAP y tiene no cantidad debida pasada ni hace el aceptó pagos.

WINDOWS *from* PAGE 3

depending on the season can make your home more comfortable.

Below are some tips to the advantages and applications of various window coverings. Use them to keep your home comfortably cozy and energy efficient throughout the year.

Drapery

During the winter months, draperies work best. Their ability to reduce heat loss depends on the fabric type (closed or open weave), color, the season, and additional factors. Keeping drapes drawn during the winter, especially at night, could save up to 10 percent of the heat loss from a warm room. When you're hanging draperies, make sure they are placed as close to windows as possible to reduce heat exchange. Also ensure that they are long enough to fall onto a windowsill or floor. However, during the day, especially in the winter on south-facing windows, opening the drapes should allow passive solar heat to enter your home, helping to heat it.

Shades

Shades are one of the simplest choices for insulating rooms. Depending on the material, some are more energy efficient than others. Cellular or pleated shades are one example of an energy-efficient choice. They can help keep air from either entering or escaping your home. Dual shades – highly reflective (white on one side and heat-

absorbing (dark) on the other – are also energy efficient and can be reversed with the seasons. In the summer, lower shades on sunlit windows. In the winter, shades on the south side of a house should be raised during the day, (to allow passive solar to enter), and then lowered at night.

Interior Blinds

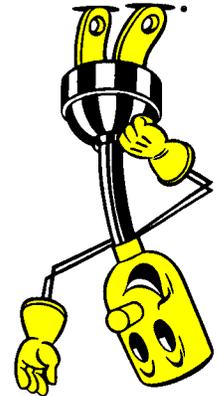
Because of their spacing and openings, blinds tend to be more effective at reducing summer heat gain than winter heat loss. But the level of cooling and heating can also be influenced by the position of the slats. When completely closed and lowered at a sun-filled window, for example, heat gain can be reduced by about 45 percent, according to industry estimates. Slats can also be adjusted to block and reflect sunlight onto a light-colored ceiling.

Window Film

Residential window films can be high-end and permanent or inexpensive and temporary solutions to improve the energy efficiency of windows. Clear solar-control window films can block up to 84 percent of the solar energy that would normally enter through windows. When installed well, you may not even know that some types of film have been applied to your interior windows, manufacturers say – but they're still working year-round to block ultraviolet light in summer and retain warmth in the winter.

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