

Three ways members can report a power outage.

Whether a storm, blown transformer or downed power lines, quick reporting can help get the power back on.



With more than one way to report a power outage, it's easy for you to help us identify the problem and restore power as soon as possible. Members can report an outage by phone or online with our Outage Map. Members who register their phones, are also able to report outages by text and receive notifications from us when the power has been restored.



CALL:
800 541 2662

TEXT:
OUT to 85700

ONLINE:
Go Online and use our Outage Map.

SIGN UP FOR TEXT ALERTS: Register your phone* by texting the keyword **FEC** to **85700**.

* Cell phone numbers must be listed on your account. Call the co-op at **800 541 2662** to update your membership records.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT TEXT ALERTS AND
THE OUTAGE CENTER AT: FarmersElectric.coop**



Pride of Ownership



by **MARK STUBBS**
General Manager

Studies show that in communities where the majority of residents own their homes, people are more successful academically, are more physically fit and have a stronger sense of community. Although owning a home might not be possible or desirable for everyone, ownership does matter. We often treat

things we own with greater care.

Chances are that you probably don't often think about your ownership role with your electric cooperative, but every member of Farmers Electric Cooperative can take pride in owning their co-op. It might seem easy to take electricity for granted, but cooperative employees and directors work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to make sure that you, the member-owners of the co-op, have reliable and affordable electricity.

Leaders of locally based cooperatives believe that these special bonds and obligations are integral parts of the community. Your co-op knows you can't sell electricity to a business that has closed its doors, or to people who have left the community because there are not enough opportunities. Electricity is a critical need, but it takes more than poles, wires and kilowatt-hours to make a community.

We are owners of our coop, and we are owners of our community. Our community is strong. Think about how much greater it can be when we work cooperatively to tackle our challenges. If we consistently act like



Farmers EC raises the flag in Greenville for a Hunt County 1st Responders luncheon last fall.

owners, we will put even more care and attention into our community, and we will look locally for solutions. Finding local solutions can help keep money—and people—right here in our community.

We all have a role to play as fellow owners. As your local electric cooperative, we promise to do our part for the community.

If you have questions or comments please let us know. Go to the Member Hub at FarmersElectric.coop and send us an email, or give us a call 903 455 1715.

PREPARE FOR WINTER

WEATHERPROOF YOUR HOUSE TO STAY WARM.



Weatherproofing is an inexpensive way to save money on energy bills during winter. Even the tiniest gaps around windows, doors, light fixtures, electrical outlets and air ducts can slowly let your home's heated air escape to the outdoors. That can add up to substantial heat loss.

HERE'S HOW TO AVOID LEAKS:

1. Caulk throughout the house, wherever walls meet floors or door frames, and between the outside of window frames and the siding. Choose caulk designed for the surface you're caulking, and try a high-quality caulk, which will last longer.

2. Apply weatherstripping to all exterior doors and windows. Weatherstripping is a thin piece of material that seals the gap between where the door or window meets the jamb. Self-sticking foam pieces are quick and easy to apply.

3. Replace worn door sweeps on exterior doors to help prevent heat loss under the door.

4. Seal windows with thin plastic sheets using an insulator kit. Shrinking the plastic film with a hair dryer ensures a smooth and tight seal.

The Process of Restoring Power.



CREATE AN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS KIT

Disasters both natural and man-made generally take the public by surprise, often leaving little time for gathering supplies before it is necessary to evacuate or to shelter-in-place without electricity.

Create a plan now. Download the Farmers EC Emergency Preparedness checklist at: FarmersElectric.coop.

Click on Rebates & Resources link and download the PDF.

Electricity powers our lives. We depend on it for nearly everything we do. So we understand how frustrating it can be when you're left in the dark.

Power outages are never convenient for anyone. It takes a lot of hands to keep your power on, and even more hands to get it back up and running after an outage. We appreciate the patience and consideration that our members show to line crews and other cooperative employees during these inconvenient times.

Farmers Electric Cooperative works hard to restore your electric service when outages occur, but there are methodical steps to take to ensure that power is restored to the majority of members as quickly—and safely—as possible.

After a major storm, line crews must identify which towers, poles and lines have incurred damage. Very rarely, but occasionally in the case of a major storm such as a hurricane or tornado, transmission towers can be damaged. If that is the case, tens of thousands of members could be affected. Repairing damage to transmission lines is the top priority when it comes to restoring member power.

High-voltage transmission stations feed power to distribution substations. These substations serve thousands of members.

If there is no damage done to transmission towers, the local distribution substations are checked first. If the issue is isolated and can be resolved at the substation level, that means thousands of people can get their power restored at once.

At times, the issue cannot be isolated to a distribution substation.

If that is the case, crews inspect supply lines between the substations and the meters they serve. If the supply lines can be repaired, power can be restored to the towns and homes served by those lines, as long as there is no damage to the tap lines.

Tap lines carry power to transformers located underground or connected to poles outside of homes and other buildings.

Our line crews identify which damaged lines to work on first, based on which lines will restore power to the greatest number of members.

Many times, the issue is resolved once the tap lines are repaired. But have you ever lost power, only to

look next door and see the lights still blazing from your neighbor's window?

When this happens, it generally means that the service line between your home and the nearby transformer has been damaged.

If this happens, call Farmers EC right away so we can send a line crew to your home.

Power restoration can be a tricky business, so if you lose service in your home or neighborhood, please remember the following:

- **Report the power outage as soon as possible.**
- **Stay clear of downed power lines. Contact with these lines could be life-threatening.**

We appreciate your patience and cooperation whenever an outage occurs. For more information on outages, stay connected with us on Twitter and Facebook. Sign up for Text Alerts, or check the outage map on our website at FarmersElectric.coop for outage details..

November 2016

Odds & Ends

Fair, festival, class or show—share your community event with us and we'll help you get the word out with the Farmers EC Community Calendar.

SEND TO: event@FarmersElectric.coop



DID YOU KNOW

Increasing Telephone Scams

It's becoming more and more common for thieves to target people for scams over the telephone. Sometimes they call a co-op member and say they're collecting on an overdue bill from the "electric authority" or an electric company that doesn't even have customers nearby, and try to scare their target with threats of disconnecting their electric service.

These scammers are trying to get your bank account or credit card numbers so they can rob you.

Remember that if an authentic employee of your electric cooperative calls you on the phone, he or she will never ask you for a password, user name or Social Security number. So if someone calls and claims to work for the cooperative and asks you for this information, you'll have a pretty good idea that the person is a fraud.

Never give out personal or account information over the phone unless you have initiated the call, or you're sure that the person on the line is legitimately who they say they are. If you suspect a caller is pretending to be an electric cooperative employee in an effort to scam you, hang up. Then call the cooperative to report what happened.



RECIPE

Texas-style Chili

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 3 medium onions, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 pounds sirloin steak, cut into half-inch cubes
- 1 can tomatoes (28 ounces), undrained
- 1 can tomato paste (6 ounces)
- 1 can chopped green chiles (4 ounces)
- 3 tablespoons chili powder
- 1 tablespoon cumin
- 2½ teaspoons salt
- 6 whole cloves
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper, or to taste

DIRECTIONS

1. In a Dutch oven, heat vegetable oil over medium-high heat. Add onions and garlic and sauté until onions are tender, about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.
2. Add cubed beef and cook until no longer pink.
3. Add tomatoes, tomato paste, chiles, chili powder, cumin, salt, cloves and cayenne.
4. Reduce heat to low. Simmer covered for about 2 hours, stirring occasionally.

Power Tip

To save energy this month, try lowering your water-heating costs. Water heating accounts for 14 to 25 percent of the energy your home consumes. Turn the water heater's temperature to the "warm" setting, around 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This will save energy—and help you save on your monthly bill.

HOLIDAY HOURS

Our offices will be closed November 24-25 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Crews will be on standby in case of outages.