



MESSAGE  
FROM  
GENERAL  
MANAGER  
AND CEO  
BRYAN STORY

## Who Owns What?

Untangling electrical equipment responsibilities

**AS SUMMER BRINGS** long days and higher temperatures, the risk of severe weather increases. Thunderstorms can form quickly and cause significant damage to critical electrical infrastructure across our community. At Lamar Electric Cooperative, we're always ready to respond swiftly to outages and restore service safely. But we also rely on you, our

- ▶ Any underground service lines running from the meter to your structure
- ▶ The weatherhead and service mast (typically located on your roof or wall), which help safely channel electricity into your home

If this homeowner-owned equipment is damaged—especially after a storm—you'll need to contact a licensed electrician to complete any necessary repairs. Our crews can't restore service until those repairs are safely made.



### Help Crews Help You

One of the most effective ways you can ensure efficient power restoration is by addressing any damage to your electrical equipment promptly. A qualified professional can assess and repair these systems correctly, reducing delays and improving safety for everyone.

### Preventing Outages With Tree Trimming

Another key part of our commitment to reliable service is regular tree trimming throughout our service territory. While we all appreciate the beauty that trees add to our neighborhoods, unmanaged vegetation can be a major cause of outages during storms. One way you as a member can help the cooperative is by reporting any tree limbs that are near or touching overhead power lines on your property.

members, to help speed up the process and stay safe by understanding which parts of the electrical system are your responsibility—and which are ours.

### What We Maintain

Lamar Electric is responsible for maintaining and repairing the power lines and equipment that deliver electricity to your home. **This includes:**

- ▶ Utility poles
- ▶ Overhead and underground distribution lines
- ▶ Electric meters
- ▶ Padmount transformers

### What You Maintain

As a homeowner, you're responsible for any electrical equipment beyond the meter. **This includes:**

- ▶ The service panel or breaker box in your home

### We're in This Together

There's never a convenient time to be without power, but preparation makes a difference. By understanding your responsibilities and working with us, we can minimize downtime and keep our community safe and connected—no matter what the weather brings.

If you have questions about your electrical service or equipment, don't hesitate to contact us. We're here to help. ■



ART WAGER | ISTOCK.COM

## Recent Review of EPA Rules Signals Reliability Wins

**ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES** are applauding a recent series of actions announced by the Environmental Protection Agency. These actions would alleviate reliability and cost challenges for electric co-ops across the U.S.

The EPA said it will review and reconsider the Biden administration's power plant greenhouse gas rule. The agency also plans to reconsider other rules hindering America's energy dominance, including the mercury and air rule, ozone transport rule, and power plant wastewater rule. The agency also will address a number of fundamental problems with the coal ash program and take other actions to unleash American energy while protecting the environment.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association that represents electric cooperatives in Washington, D.C., flagged concerns with these rules in a letter to Lee Zeldin, EPA administrator, in January. NRECA CEO Jim Matheson met with Zeldin at EPA's headquarters to discuss these issues.

The letter served as a policy road map recommending ways the EPA could address harmful regulations for electric co-ops while ensuring reliable and affordable power and promoting a healthy environment.

The recent EPA announcements are another critical step that puts our nation on a path toward a more reliable and resilient electric grid—and not a moment too soon. The demand for electricity is skyrocketing, yet unrealistic public policy decisions are forcing always-available generation resources to retire faster than they can be reliably replaced.

Lamar Electric Cooperative appreciates the EPA's recent actions that bolster American energy dominance with sound policies that protect our environment—without leaving American families in the dark. ■



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### General Manager and CEO

Bryan Story

### Board of Directors

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## Contact Us

For information and to report outages, please call us.

**(903) 784-4303**

### MEMBER BENEFITS

- Level billing
- Automated meter reading
- Free bank draft service
- E-Bill
- Visa and Mastercard accepted
- Prepaid metering

### TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Lamar Electric provides *Texas Co-op Power* and [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com) to give you information about events, safety, special programs and other activities of your cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the co-op office.

### VISIT US ONLINE

[lamarelectric.coop](http://lamarelectric.coop)



Check us out at  
[TexasCoopPower.com/lamar](http://TexasCoopPower.com/lamar)





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## Use Caution Near Co-op Equipment

**AS YOU OR YOUR CHILDREN** find yourself spending more time outdoors this summer, Lamar Electric Cooperative reminds you to exercise caution near electrical equipment maintained by the co-op.

Substations and power lines carry extremely high voltages, and if contact is made, the results can be disastrous—or even deadly. Follow these guidelines to keep you and your family safe.

Never climb trees near power lines. If you make contact with a tree that is touching a power line, your body could become the path of electricity from the line to the ground. If you encounter an animal trapped in a tree near power lines or inside a substation, do not attempt to remove it—no matter how furry and cute! Call your co-op or 911 for assistance.

These days, we're seeing more remote-controlled toys, like drones and airplanes, which can be a great way to have fun outdoors. But these gadgets also bring new safety concerns.

### **Remember these safety tips when flying a drone:**

- ▶ Keep a safe distance from power lines, substations and other electrical equipment when you fly. If contact is made with power infrastructure, many members of your community could be left without electricity.
- ▶ Keep the drone in sight at all times.
- ▶ Avoid flying if weather conditions are unfavorable. High winds could cause you to lose control of the drone.

Your safety is important to us. We hope you'll share the message of electrical safety so that you and others can enjoy plenty of summer days filled with fun. ■

## Quick Sweet Chili Shrimp

**¼ cup sweet chili sauce**

**¼ cup mayonnaise**

**2 large cloves garlic, minced**

**14 jumbo shrimp (or 1½–2 pounds medium shrimp), peeled and deveined**

**Olive oil**

**Salt and pepper, to taste**

- 1.** Whisk together the chili sauce, mayonnaise and garlic and set aside.
- 2.** Lightly brush the shrimp with a little olive oil and season with salt and pepper.
- 3.** Cook the shrimp in a preheated grill pan, cast-iron skillet or frying pan until just cooked, about 2 minutes per side. When the shrimp are almost finished cooking, add the chili sauce mixture, stir to combine and warm through.

**SERVES 4**

**TCP** Find this and more delicious recipes online at [TexasCoopPower.com](https://www.texascoopower.com).

KARINSASAKI | ISTOCK.COM



# Look Up for Power Lines



**THINGS WE SEE EVERY DAY** can almost fade from view. But failure to notice high-voltage power lines can be a deadly oversight. Lamar Electric Cooperative wants to raise awareness about the dangers of overhead power lines and the precautions to take around them.

Often when we go outside, we don't even think about power lines. Taking a few moments to become aware of your surroundings is critical to keeping yourself and your loved ones safe.

**Follow these guidelines as you work outdoors.**

**Look up and around.** Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long metal tools, like ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles. Lower your long equipment when moving it. Carry ladders and other long items horizontally.

**Be careful when working on or around your roof,** installing or removing rooftop antennas and satellite dishes, doing roof repair work, or cleaning gutters. Never go up on the roof in bad weather.

**Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house.**

**Never trim trees near power lines yourself—leave that work to trained professionals.**

**Never use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines.** Contact a professional maintenance contractor.

**Never climb trees near power lines.** Even if the lines aren't touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to a branch.

**If your projects include digging, like building a deck or planting a tree, call 811 before you begin.** Never assume you know the location or depth of underground utility lines. This service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury. ■

## Capital Credits Allocated to Member Accounts

**LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** recently allocated 2024 capital credits to each member's account. As a nonprofit organization, after the end of each fiscal year, the cooperative must determine what margins were made during the year and allocate these margins to the members' equity accounts. A margin is any revenue received in excess of operating costs.

These margins will be returned to members as approved by the board in the future when doing so will not weaken the financial condition of the cooperative. At this time, margins from 1938 through 1980 and 2016 have been returned to the members.

Eventually, all margins will be paid to each member. In the meantime, the funds are used to construct new lines or make other capital improvements to the electrical system, even though the amount is credited to each member's equity account. For this reason, we often refer to these margins as capital credits. Capital credits cannot be used to pay your electric bill.

These capital credits remain on the books even if a member no longer receives service from Lamar Electric. That's why it's important that departing members keep the co-op informed of any changes to their mailing address in the future, so they can receive returns when they're paid.

Capital credits for 2024 can be calculated by multiplying a member's total bill by 0.0366319187. For example, if your total billing for 2024 from the co-op (consisting of energy billing and power cost adjustment) was \$2,000, multiply that amount by 0.0366319187, and the product is \$73.26.

In calculating your total bill, include any security light charge, if applicable, but do not include any tax, service or miscellaneous charges.

If you have any questions concerning these calculations, please contact the Lamar Electric office.

This article is intended to serve as an official notice of the capital credits allocation for 2024. ■



# POWERFUL CONNECTIONS



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Purple Heart Day**  
Thursday, August 7

**National 811 Day**  
Monday, August 11

**Senior Citizens Day**  
Friday, August 17

**Eat Outside Day**  
Sunday, August 31

MARIA PAVLOVA | ISTOCK.COM

## POWER TIP

Run the dishwasher before you go to bed to avoid adding to the heat of the day and to reduce power load during peak times.

MARTIN-DN | ISTOCK.COM

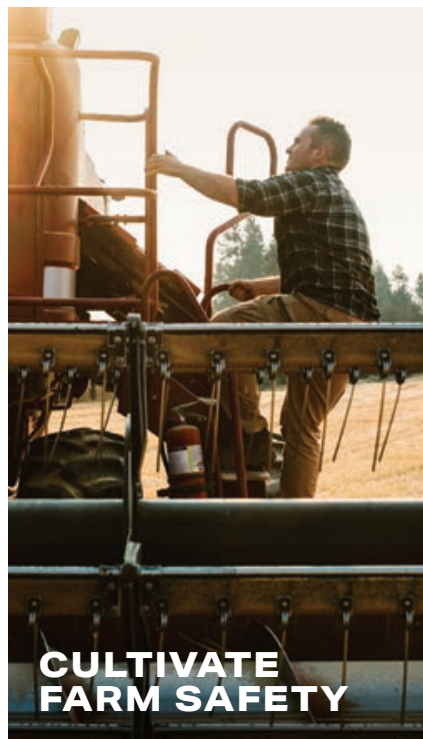
# Top 10 Tips for Energy Savings

**WHILE IT'S EASY** to focus on big-ticket items like new HVAC systems or window replacement when trying to save energy, some simple, everyday tips can help reduce your electricity use and lower your bill.

1. Replace any incandescent light bulbs, especially ones that are on more than one hour per day, with an LED bulb.
2. Seal from the inside. Air sealing is an inexpensive way to lower energy costs and improve comfort. Seal gaps and holes in walls, floors and ceilings with caulk or foam sealant. Look for cracks around windows and where wires and pipes pass through.
3. Use power strips for electronic devices such as game systems, printers and TVs and turn them off during vacations or long periods without use. Smart power strips make saving money an easy task.
4. Close shades and drapes during the day to help keep your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.
5. Change your central HVAC system filter when dirty or according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Dirty filters can impact your home comfort and increase your electricity bill.
6. Turn down your thermostat 7–10 degrees for eight hours a day.
7. Have your ductwork checked for leaks. Leaks at the return, air handler and supply can be a major source of high bills. For mobile homes, check for leaks at the grill, crossover duct and downflow air handler.
8. Set water heater thermostats no higher than 120 degrees.
9. Wash clothes in cold water and only do full loads.
10. Ensure refrigerator door seals are tight, and eliminate unnecessary fridges, such as a drink fridge in the garage. ■



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**Because many pieces of farm equipment reach heights of 14 feet or higher, always remember to look up to make sure there is enough room to pass beneath electric lines.**

**Here are some rules to follow:**

The No. 1 electrical farm hazard is the potential contact from a grain auger to a power line. Always look up before raising or moving an auger.

The same is true of metal irrigation pipes, often stored along fence lines under an electric line. Never raise or move irrigation pipes without looking up.

Ensure that the wiring in your workshop is adequate to handle your tools, and be sure they are in good working order.

Read labels and handling instructions carefully and follow them when using chemicals and herbicides. Store them in a locked cabinet and safely dispose of empty containers.

**Lamar Electric encourages you to always practice safety.**

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