

Hidden Technology



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT/CEO RYAN BARTLETT

WHEN YOU DRIVE DOWN THE ROAD AND SEE electric lines along the highway, you may think there isn't much to them. After all, the only parts visible are the wooden poles attached by a bit of wire with some connections at the top. In reality, however, there is a great deal of modern technology hiding in plain sight. Here at Taylor Electric Cooperative, we pride ourselves on providing our members with superior service, and one way we do this is by ensuring we employ the latest technology.

Taylor EC is a legal entity authorized to operate as a distribution provider for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas power grid. Our system has circuit breakers, reclosers and downline devices monitored 24/7 by our system control operators, which uses a supervisory control and data acquisition, or SCADA, system. With the use of SCADA, we can monitor all the electric load on the Taylor EC system and isolate various devices to help troubleshoot problems. System control operators use the SCADA system to manage the flow of power and turn devices off and on to allow crews to work safely on our system.

In addition to SCADA, Taylor EC uses Milsoft Outage Management System software to predict and verify outages. Milsoft OMS allows system control operators to ping any meters in an area affected by an outage to pinpoint a de-energized device. Not only does the software verify outages, it also can send

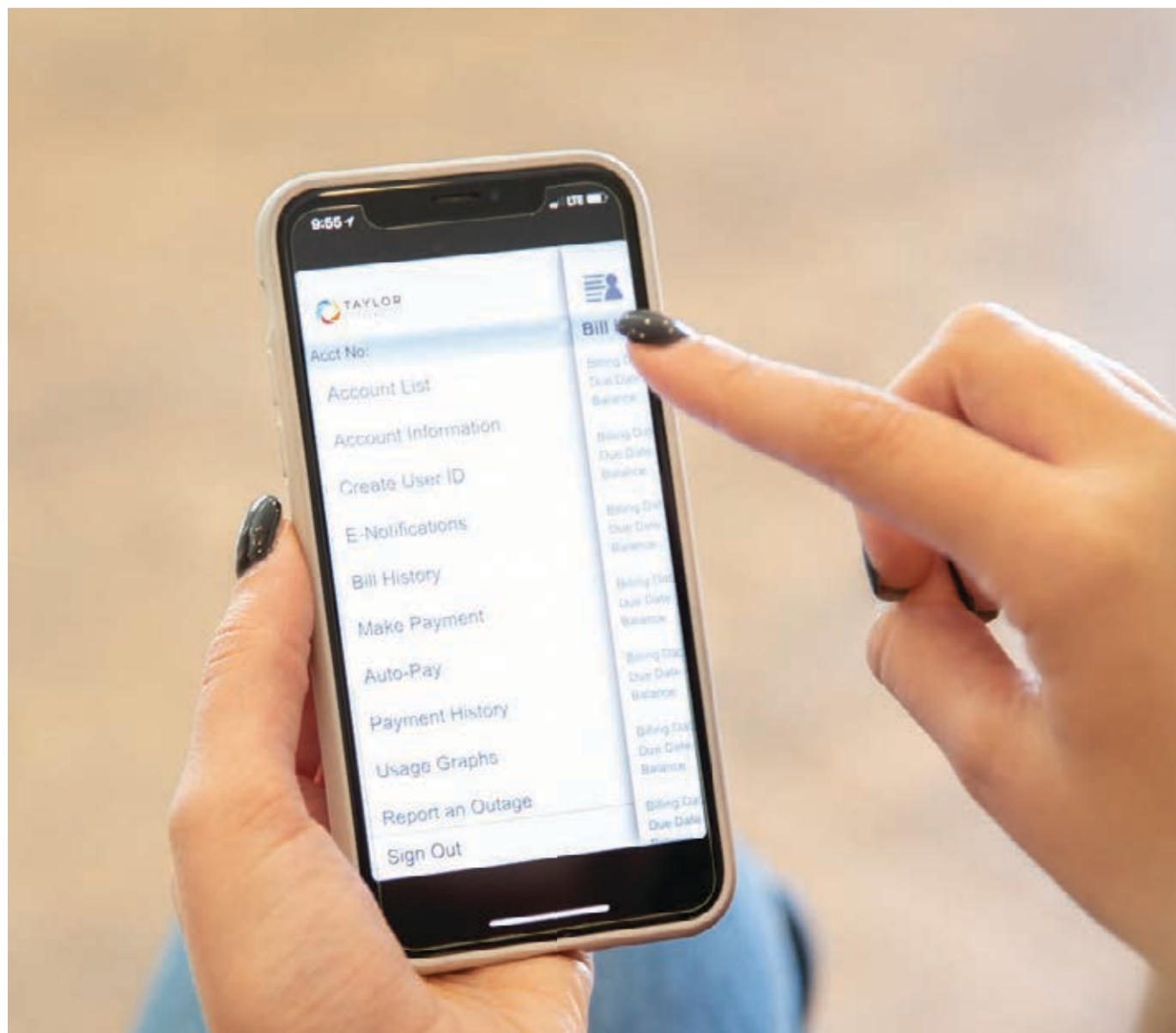
alerts to the member solutions department, informing them of any issues. The member solutions department can then update our membership about the situation via Facebook or email.

Another key area of technology moves with our cooperative vehicles. Each vehicle is equipped with Reveal Fleetmatics, a GPS-equipped system that tracks every truck in the Taylor EC fleet. We use this system to locate crews, which often must work in remote locations or off-road. This capability is especially important during nighttime outages, allowing system control operators to know each crew's position, ensuring they arrive home safely. When outages occur during the day, we use this software to contact the crew nearest an outage, to help restore power as efficiently as possible.

Implementing these technologies across our service area supports our goal of providing our membership with safe, reliable power. Each piece of technology works together to allow our employees to monitor each situation and ensure you are well-informed.

We are constantly seeking new and improved methods to maintain the quality of our system for the benefit of our members. Taylor EC is committed to you, our members; we will continue to update and improve our system so that we may achieve our ultimate goal of improving the quality of life for our members. We are proud to be your local electricity provider!





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The Ins and Outs of Outlets

WHEN IT COMES TO SELECTING ELECTRICAL OUTLETS, THERE ARE a lot of options to consider. This guide provides an overview of the common types of outlets and the level of safety protection they bring to a home.

Two-Pronged Receptacles

These once-common household outlets provided electricity to appliances and other devices, but most were installed prior to 1962 and are no longer recommended.

Grounded Receptacles

Three-pronged outlets are grounded, which reduces the risk of electric shock and protects equipment from electrical damage. These are mandated by the National Electrical Code in all areas unless otherwise specified.

Tamper-Resistant Receptacles

A built-in shutter system prevents objects from being inserted into tamper-resistant outlets, except when simultaneous, equal pressure to both slots is provided by a plug. These are recommended when upgrading receptacles and in areas where children could access the outlets.

Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters

Arc-fault circuit interrupters reduce the risk of fire by interrupting power when an arc fault occurs anywhere in the cir-

cuit, including within items plugged into it. These provide protection from faults beyond branch circuit wiring—extending to appliances and cords using the receptacle.

Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters

Common nowadays, ground-fault circuit interrupters provide protection against shock that could arise from faults within household circuits. These are must-haves in areas where water and electricity are in close proximity, such as in bathrooms, garages, kitchens, laundry areas and any receptacles located outdoors.

Surge Suppression Receptacles

These outlets protect sensitive electronic equipment from transient surges. They're not required by the NEC but are often installed in rooms containing costly electrical equipment such as computers, TVs or refrigerators.

USB Receptacles

These modern outlets provide a permanent Universal Serial Bus, or USB, connection source for charging devices such as cellphones or tablets.

If you're going to make upgrades, know that some receptacles may combine more than one technology, such as GFCI/TRR and GFCI/USB outlets—but remember, all outlet installations should be performed by a qualified electrician.

Ground-fault circuit interrupters provide protection against shock that could arise from faults within household circuits.





Use Caution Near Co-op Equipment

AS YOU FIND YOURSELF SPENDING MORE TIME OUTDOORS THIS SUMMER, EXERCISE caution near power lines and other electrical equipment maintained by Taylor Electric Cooperative.

Substations and power lines carry extremely high voltage, and if contact is accidentally made, the results can be dangerous—or even deadly.

Never climb trees near power lines. If you make contact with a tree that is touching a power line, your body could become a path for 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 Taylor EC for assistance instead.

If there are underground lines in your area, you'll notice big green boxes on the ground that hold our equipment. It's important that landscaping and other barriers be kept clear of these padmount transformers. Co-op technicians need at least 10 feet of clearance around the equipment to be able to safely access them when needed.

Padmount transformers are connected to primary high-voltage lines, and secondary lines can extend in several directions underground to distribute power to homes and businesses. That's why it's important to call 811 before planting shrubs or trees, setting fence posts, installing sprinkler systems or digging where it might damage underground lines.

These days, we are seeing more remote-controlled devices, like drones and other aircraft, which can be a great way to have fun outdoors. But these gadgets also bring new safety concerns. Never fly them near power lines, substations or other electrical equipment.

Remember these safety tips when flying a drone:

- ▶ Keep a safe distance from electrical equipment when you fly. If contact is accidentally made with a power line or a transformer inside a substation, many members of your community could be left without electricity.
- ▶ Keep the drone in your 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 will share the message of electrical safety so that you and others can enjoy plenty of summer days filled with fun!



Taylor Electric Cooperative

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PRESIDENT/CEO

Ryan Bartlett

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HANDY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

Online

taylorelectric.com

Taylor Electric App

Available on your Apple or Android device

By Phone

(325) 793-8500

Visa, Mastercard, checks accepted.

Payments credited immediately.

In Person

Main office hours:

7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

226 CR 287, off I-20, west of Abilene Wells
Lane exit 274 between Tye and Merkel

Abilene office hours:

7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Monday–Friday

7966 Highway 83, Abilene 79602

Visa, Mastercard, checks, cash and money
orders accepted.

Payments credited immediately.

Drop Box

Main office drop box at front gate: 24/7

Abilene office drop box (next to first
door on the left): 24/7

Checks and money orders accepted.

Payments credited next business day.

Pay Stations

- United Supermarket, 521 S. Access Road, Clyde
- Food Plaza #4, 109 S.E. Fifth St., Cross Plains
- Cash Saver, 155 Sayles Blvd., Abilene
- United Supermarket, 2160 Pine St., Abilene
- Check Express, 906 E. Broadway Ave., Sweetwater

Cash, checks, money orders and debit
cards accepted.

Payments credited next business day.

UTILITY POLES ARE NOT Bulletin Boards

Help us keep our linemen safe.

Electric cooperative workers find all kinds of no-nos on utility poles such as yard sale signs, basketball hoops, deer stands, satellite dishes, lights and birdhouses.

These obstructions are dangerous for lineworkers. Unwelcome clutter on utility poles can compromise linemen's safety equipment, leaving them vulnerable to electrocution.

Anyone posting items on utility poles also is at risk of exposure to thousands of volts of electricity pulsing overhead. Always stay at least 10 feet away from utility lines.

Think before you post that sign!

Taylor Electric Cooperative encourages you to always practice safety.



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HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday, May 12



ANNA BIZO | ISTOCK.COM

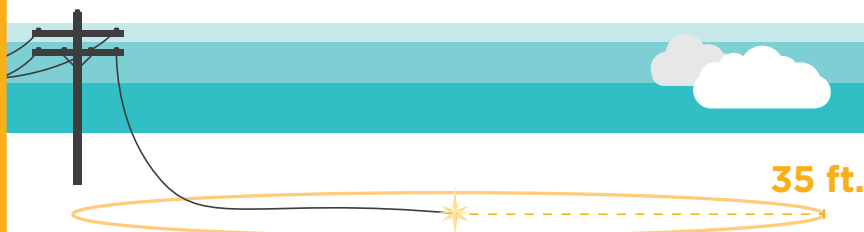
Power Tip

Keep it cool for free. Open your windows in the evening to flood indoor space with cooler air, then close them in the morning before the day heats up.

DAVE SHAFER

Downed and Dangerous

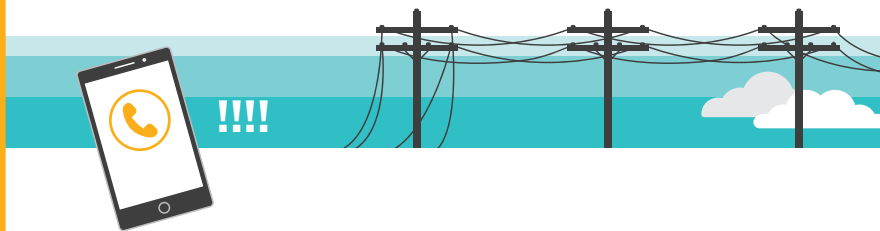
If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 feet** away—so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



If you see a downed line, notify local authorities immediately.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is de-energized or if you think you're using nonconductive protection—this cannot prevent injury or death.

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HAPPY CINCO DE MAYO!

Sunday, May 5



HYUNAH KANG | ISTOCK.COM

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!

Taylor Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, May 27, in observance of the holiday.