

CEO CORNER



Ryan Bartlett,
President / CEO

Co-ops Prioritize Safety

From the crews at Taylor Electric Cooperative to you, the consumer-members we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes every year. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know firsthand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it every day.

To me, safety is more than a catchphrase. As Taylor EC's CEO and general manager, it's my responsibility to keep co-op employees safe. But we all want to help keep you and our entire community safe as well.

That's why you'll see Taylor EC hosting safety demonstrations at community events and in schools throughout the year, demonstrating the dangers of electricity. We discuss emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car wreck involving a utility pole and downed power lines. We caution students on the dangers of padmounted transformers and overloaded circuits.

I don't need to tell you that electricity is an integral part of modern life. In fact, it's so common that we can sometimes forget the dangers that electricity presents, so I'd like to pass along a few practical safety tips.

Frayed wires pose a serious safety hazard. Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them before they cause a shock.

Label circuit breakers to understand the circuits in your home.

Avoid overloading circuits. Circuits can only cope with a limited amount of electricity. Overloads happen when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle—by having too many devices running on one circuit. Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years old and you need to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.

Use extension cords properly. Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you daisy chain them together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don't exceed the wattage of the cord. Doing so also creates a risk of overloading the cord and starting a fire. Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need more outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

I encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines near where they play outdoors.

Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply year-round. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity.

Contact Taylor EC for additional electrical safety tips or if you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or upcoming community event.



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SAVE THE DATE

Taylor EC's 85th Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 18

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Mail-In Ballot Notice

MEMBERS WHO CANNOT attend Taylor Electric Cooperative's annual meeting April 18 can cast their ballots through the mail. Each cooperative member is entitled to one vote.

Absentee ballots are available upon request. Call (325) 793-8500 to have a ballot sent to your home or business. You will receive a prepaid envelope for the ballot's return. Absentee ballots can be requested beginning March 5 and must be postmarked by 5:30 p.m. April 4 to Taylor EC headquarters. Absentee ballots will be deposited in a secure ballot box, which will be opened by election administrators. ■

Get Your House Ready for Spring

IT MAY BE TIME TO open the windows and start enjoying fresh air and warm weather. Is your house ready?

Here are six items to add to your springtime to-do list that might help your home feel more comfortable and cared for before it gets hot:

Call a qualified service technician to inspect and maintain your air conditioning system. Paying \$100 or so now could prevent a huge expense this summer if your system breaks down on a hot day and you have to have it repaired or replaced in a hurry.

While you're outdoors planting and pruning, trim all the bushes and pull all the weeds near your air conditioner's outside condenser unit.

Remove any fallen tree limbs that landed on it, brush off leaves that have collected on or around it, and pick up trash that found its way there as it sat unused all winter.

While you've got your shovel and spade out, consider planting some shade trees on the sunny side of your house. As they grow, they'll filter the sunrays that can beat so fiercely on your windows in the summer and make your AC work harder.

Use shades, blinds and curtains to help limit heat gain in your home, or use plastic window film to mimic the function of double-pane windows. The films are easy to install, affordable and effective.

Speaking of windows, clean your windows, inside and out. Clean windows let in more sunlight, which means you won't have to turn on as many lights.

Caulk air leaks and seal air ducts. Openings and cracks lead to leaked air. This forces your AC to work that much harder to cool your home. Seal them all using quality caulk. ■

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Taylor Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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24/7

Outage Hotline

For information and to report outages, please call us.

LOCAL

(325) 793-8500

HANDY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

ONLINE

taylorelectric.com

TAYLOR ELECTRIC APP

Available on your Apple or Android device.

BY PHONE

(325) 793-8500. Payments credited immediately.

IN PERSON

Hours Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Merkel 226 CR 287, Merkel 79536

Abilene 7966 Highway 83, Abilene 79602

Payments credited immediately.

DROP BOX

Merkel office located near the entrance of the building.

Abilene office next to first door on the left.

Payments credited next business day.

PAY STATIONS

• Cash Saver, 155 Sayles Blvd., Abilene

• United Supermarket, 2160 Pine St., Abilene

• Check Express, 906 E. Broadway Ave., Sweetwater

Payments credited next business day.

NOTICE

Effective June 1, 2024, all credit/debit card transactions will be assessed a 2.45% convenience fee.

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