

# CEO CORNER



Ryan Bartlett,  
President / CEO

## 10 Things You Might Not Know About Power Restoration

**A**s THE CEO of Taylor Electric Cooperative, I'm accustomed to members' questions about power outages and why it can take time to get the lights back on. Given our reliance on electricity, there's simply never a good time to be without it.

This month I'd like to shed light on our restoration process to help our members understand what can happen behind the scenes. Here are 10 things you might not know about restoration.

**1. We need you.** When your power goes out, it might be just your home or a small section of a neighborhood that's affected. There's a chance we don't know about it and that no one has reported it. Let us know if your power is out.

**2. Our employees might be affected.** Because Taylor EC is a local business, our employees are local too. When you're without power, our people might be too.

**3. It's a team effort.** Every one of our employees are working to get your power restored as soon as possible. Our member services representatives take your calls, engineers and field staff survey damage, our tree trimming team clears hazards, dispatchers organize crews, and communicators keep everyone informed of progress or potential dangers. When your power goes out, we all work together as quickly and safely as possible.

**4. We assess the situation first.** Every outage is different, bringing different dangers and damaged equipment. We first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need and make a plan for how to fix the problems.

**5. We have priorities for restoring power.** Our crews focus first on public safety issues and critical services like hospitals. Then we complete work that impacts the largest of number of people.

### **6. Our employees face many hazards.**

Besides working around high-voltage electricity, our crews are on alert for wild animals, active weather, falling trees and fast-moving cars.



**7. Flickering lights are a good thing.** "Blinks" are sometimes mistaken for outages, but they actually indicate our equipment worked and prevented a possible outage.

**8. You need a backup plan.** We always do our best to help those who need it, but if you depend on electricity for life support purposes, you must have a backup plan.

**9. Our employees have to plan and eat.** If you ever see our trucks in a restaurant parking lot while your power is out, know that sometimes our employees huddle in a safe common area to map out their plan for getting your power back on. Also, our crews work long, hard hours during outages and need to take time for meals.

**10. Sometimes it's a waiting game.** Our portion of the power grid is connected to other electric utilities. If our outage is due to an issue from their feed into our system, we must let them do their repairs to get the power flowing again.

If the lights go out, know that your co-op team is working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power.

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# Beware of Lightning Strikes

**TEXAS TALLIED MORE** lightning strikes than any state in 2023, with summer being the most active period for bolts, according to a report by USA Today. The summer season also recorded the most fatalities from lightning strikes, which killed 13 people in 2023.

Knowing and following proven safety guidelines can help reduce the risk of injury or death during a storm. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration describes what to do to stay safe from lightning.

## Where to Go

The safest place to be during a thunderstorm is in a large building like a home, shopping center, school, church or office. If lightning strikes the building, the plumbing and wiring will conduct the electricity more efficiently than the human body. Many buildings are grounded to protect them from lightning. If a large building is not a viable option, stay in a vehicle.

## Where Not to Go

Some buildings aren't safe during thunderstorms. Unsafe shelters include metal sheds, picnic pavilions, carports and baseball dugouts. Porches aren't safe either. Even though most vehicles are safe, remember that convertibles (even with the top up), golf carts and tractors do not protect from lightning.

## What to Do

Once inside a secure building, stay away from electrical appliances and plumbing fixtures. For even more protection, seek an interior room. If in a vehicle, roll up the windows and don't touch anything that conducts electricity such as the radio or the ignition.

## What Not to Do

Especially in rural areas, lightning can travel long distances—so don't assume the lightning storm is far enough away that you're safe. Stay off corded phones and don't use electrical appliances. Additionally, don't take showers or baths because water and metal are good conductors of electricity.

## Taylor Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### CONTACT US

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### President/CEO

Ryan Bartlett

### Board of Directors

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For information and to report outages, please call us.

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(325) 793-8500

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#### TAYLOR ELECTRIC APP

Available on your Apple or Android device.

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(325) 793-8500. Payments credited immediately.

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

**Merkel** 226 CR 287, Merkel 79536

**Abilene** 7966 Highway 83, Abilene 79602

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#### DROP BOX

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**Abilene** office. Located at the southeast portion of the parking lot.

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• Cash Saver, 155 Sayles Blvd., Abilene

• United Supermarket, 2160 Pine St., Abilene

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

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#### NOTICE

Effective June 1, 2023, all credit/debit card transactions will be assessed a 2.45% convenience fee.

#### VISIT US ONLINE

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Check us out at

[TexasCoopPower.com/taylor](http://TexasCoopPower.com/taylor)



left to right: Gerald Wilson, Joe Wilson and Reid Wilson

## A Legacy of Service: Three Generations of the Wilson Family

**THE WILSON FAMILY'S** enduring commitment to serving Taylor Electric Cooperative's members spans three generations and stands as a glowing example of the cooperative spirit in action. Their dedication, talent, and passion have transformed lives within the community and propelled the cooperative forward, ensuring its continued success and positive impact for years to come. Not only is this a testament to how much Taylor Electric values family and community, but also to the incredible talent and dedication this family has brought to the cooperative.

As Taylor Electric celebrates the past 85 years and looks to the future, the Wilson legacy serves as a reminder of the incredible power of community and cooperation to affect positive change.

We'd like to thank and celebrate the Wilson family for being a part of the Taylor Electric Cooperative Team.

### THE WILSON FAMILY

**GERALD WILSON**

Facility Maintenance Personnel - 9 years  
(Retired January 2024)

**JOE WILSON**

Director of Fiber Operations - 26 years

**REID WILSON**

Apprentice Lineman (Level 1) - 1 year





# Operation Round-Up

**OPERATION ROUND-UP** is a shining example of the cooperative difference. The voluntary program directly affects the communities served by Taylor Electric Cooperative by giving back to local volunteer fire departments, the ones who never hesitate to rush to the membership during emergency situations.

The Round-Up fund is created by rounding up member's monthly bills to the nearest dollar. The additional change is then collected to create the Operation Round-Up account. The annual average contribution to the individual member is small at approximately \$7.00 per year, but the cooperative effort is large!

Each April, checks from the Round-Up fund are presented to area volunteer fire departments. The following 26 area volunteer fire departments received donations in April 2024 :

Baird VFD	Hawley VFD	Oplin VFD
Blackwell VFD	Jim Ned VFD	Potosi VFD
Buffalo Gap VFD	Lake Sweetwater VFD	Putnam VFD
Clyde VFD	Lawn VFD	Texas Forest Service
Cottonwood VFD	Maryneal VFD	Trent VFD
Cross Plains VFD	Merkel VFD	Tye VFD
ECCA VFD	Moro/Bradshaw VFD	View VFD
Eula VFD	Mulberry Canyon VFD	Wingate VFD
Hamby VFD	Nolan VFD	

Together, the Taylor Electric membership has donated over 1 million dollars to local volunteer fire departments.

If you are interested in participating in Operation Round-Up, simply call the Taylor EC offices at 325-793-8500 to sign up. It's a great way to come together to support these valuable volunteers!



*Taylor Electric Board Member Gayla Simmons (third from right) presents the Nolan Volunteer Fire Department with an Operation Round-Up check.*