

# CEO CORNER



Ryan Bartlett,  
President / CEO

## You're Not Alone In the Dark

**E**LECTRICITY POWERS OUR LIVES. We depend on it for nearly everything we do, so your electric cooperative understands 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 co-op employees during these inconvenient and often frustrating times.

At Taylor Electric Cooperative, we work hard to restore your electric service when outages occur, but there's a method to our process that ensures power is restored to the majority of members as quickly—and safely—as possible.

After a major storm, line crews must first identify which towers, poles and lines have incurred damage. In the case of a major storm, transmission towers can be damaged in addition to co-op facilities. If that's the case, tens of thousands of people could be affected, making repairs to transmission lines the top priority.

High-voltage transmission stations feed power to distribution substations, which serve thousands of members. If there's no damage done to transmission infrastructure, then 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.

Sometimes the issue can't be isolated to a substation. If that's the case, crews inspect supply lines between substations and the meters they serve. If the supply lines can be repaired, power can be restored to homes and businesses served by those lines, as long as there's no damage to the tap lines.

Tap lines carry power to transformers 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.

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

- » **Report the outage as soon as possible.**
- » **Stay clear of downed power lines. Contact with these lines could be life-threatening.**
- » **Make sure to inform us immediately if loss of power to your home affects life-support systems or could cause any additional threat to the health of anyone in your home.**

We appreciate your patience and cooperation whenever an outage occurs.



**TAYLOR**  
ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE

# CEO CORNER



## Decorate Early, Decorate Safely

HOMEOWNERS HAVE STARTED decorating their homes for Christmas earlier and earlier—sometimes before Thanksgiving or often right after.

If you're ready to start hanging lights in November, take safety precautions. On average, nearly three people per hour are treated in hospital emergency rooms for decorating-related injuries during every holiday season, according to the National Safety Council.

Here are some ways to keep yourself safe if you're on decorating duty this season:

Inspect last year's lights before using them again this holiday season. Discard any with frayed or exposed wires, loose connections, or broken sockets.

Decorate the tree with kids in mind. Place breakable ornaments and those with metal hooks near the top of the tree, where little ones can't reach them.

Keep children away from decorations that contain batteries, and firmly secure battery hatches to prevent them from being opened. Batteries, especially button or coin varieties, can cause harmful burns if swallowed.

Likewise, some holiday plants, including some varieties of poinsettias, can be harmful to children and pets. Keep them out of your home—or at least out of reach. And keep the number for the Poison Control Center handy: 1-800-222-1222.

Use sturdy ladders when decorating outdoors, and always check overhead for power lines so you can steer clear. Indoors, climb onto stepladders instead of chairs, which aren't designed to support someone in a standing position.

Don't hide extension cords under rugs or furniture. They can overheat and catch fire. When you take the tree down, unplug extension cords. They're not designed for permanent use.

Keep your live Christmas tree well-watered to prevent it from catching fire. Make sure your artificial tree is labeled as being fire resistant.

Opt for LEDs instead of flames in candles and centerpieces to prevent the risk of fire.

## Taylor Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### CONTACT US

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### President/CEO

Ryan Bartlett

### Board of Directors

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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](http://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. Located at the southeast portion of the parking lot. 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, 2023, all credit/debit card transactions will be assessed a 2.45% convenience fee.

#### VISIT US ONLINE

[taylorelectric.com](http://taylorelectric.com)



Check us out at  
[TexasCoopPower.com/taylor](https://TexasCoopPower.com/taylor)

# Taylor Electric Unveils Its New “Digs”

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**IN A GROUNDBREAKING MOVE** for rural energy infrastructure, Taylor Electric Cooperative has unveiled its first-ever brand-new customized digger trucks, marking a significant milestone in the organization’s history. This pivotal addition not only highlights Taylor Electric’s commitment to improving service efficiency but also demonstrates the cooperative’s forward-thinking approach to modernizing its operations.

## A NEW ERA FOR TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

For eighty-five years Taylor Electric Cooperative has been a cornerstone of reliable electricity in the region, delivering power to thousands of homes and businesses. Historically, the cooperative relied on a mix of traditional methods and smaller equipment to handle its extensive maintenance and infrastructure needs. However, the arrival of these new digger trucks represents a major leap forward, reflecting Taylor Electric’s dedication to enhancing operational capabilities and service quality.

## WHAT ARE DIGGER TRUCKS?

Digger trucks, also known as auger trucks, are specialized vehicles equipped with a powerful drill that can bore holes into the ground to install or replace utility poles. These trucks are a game-changer for utility companies, significantly speeding up the process of infrastructure repairs and installations while improving safety and efficiency. The customizations benefit the line crews in ways that make production both efficient and innovative.

James Grimes, Transportation Manager of Taylor Electric Cooperative, has been working with manufacturers on this involved process for quite some time and is excited for the progression this allows the co-op. He knows this has been a long-awaited step in the direction of advancement.

Anytime we can work more efficiently it improves our standard of service to our membership as well as to the community we serve. Taylor Electric is excited to continue these efforts and anticipates even more improvements in the future.

“This is a major step forward for us,” said James Grimes, “The modernized digger trucks are not just an upgrade; they symbolize our ongoing commitment to providing exceptional service and staying ahead of the curve in utility management.”



## WHY THE UPGRADE MATTERS

Before the introduction of the new and improved digger trucks, Taylor Electric's maintenance crews faced numerous challenges. Tasks that could take hours or even days now promise to be completed more swiftly and with greater precision. The new trucks are expected to streamline operations in several key ways:



**Enhanced Efficiency:** The new and improved digger trucks will allow Taylor Electric's team to complete projects more rapidly.

**Improved Safety:** By automating much of the drilling and lifting processes, these trucks minimize the risk of accidents associated with manual pole setting.

**Increased Reliability:** Faster response times for infrastructure repairs mean even more reliable service for Taylor Electric members.

We had the opportunity to see the digger trucks in action alongside our Safety & Training Manager, Tyler Newberry, and the line crews working in the field, ensuring that all our teams are prepared to effectively utilize these machines. The acquisition of the digger trucks is just one component of Taylor Electric's broader strategy to modernize and expand its capabilities. As the cooperative looks to the future, there are plans to integrate even more advanced technologies and practices to meet the evolving needs of the service area.

