



MESSAGE  
FROM  
PRESIDENT/  
CEO

**RYAN  
BARTLETT**

## How We Restore Power Safely and Efficiently

**W**E DO OUR BEST to prevent power outages, but we can't avoid every one. In general, outages are rare and only last a few hours. But when major storms impact our area, extended outages are sometimes unavoidable. When the power goes out, Taylor Electric Cooperative crews are prepared with a plan for safe, efficient power restoration.

When it's safe for our crews to begin the restoration process, they start by repairing power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible.

The process typically begins with repairs to the larger main distribution lines that serve many homes and businesses. After those repairs are made, crews work on tap lines, which deliver power to transformers, either mounted on utility poles (for aboveground service) or placed on pads (for

When widespread outages occur, crews will be out in the field working to repair damage at multiple locations simultaneously. We also coordinate with nearby co-ops to bring in additional crews when necessary.

A proactive approach to maintenance helps minimize the chance of prolonged outages. This is why you see crews periodically trimming trees and clearing vegetation near Taylor EC right-of-ways. We love trees but it only takes one overgrown limb to knock out power for an entire neighborhood. Trimming improves power reliability for our entire community.

In addition to managing vegetation, we regularly inspect utility poles, power lines and other critical equipment to maintain a more reliable system.

If you experience a power outage, don't assume a neighbor already reported it. It's best to report the outage yourself, and we make it easy. The quickest way

by calling our outage reporting number, (325)793-8500, on the Taylor Electric app, or through the member portal at [Taylorelectric.com](http://Taylorelectric.com).

If you have a medical condition that requires electrical equipment, please let us know, and always have a backup plan in place. This plan could include a portable generator, extra medical supplies or moving to an alternate location until power is restored. If you plan to use a generator for backup power, read all safety information and instructions before use.

Mother Nature can be unpredictable, but as a member of Taylor EC, you can feel confident knowing we're standing by, ready to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.



PHOTO BY: WADE HATCH 2025

underground service). Finally, individual service lines that run between transformer and homes are repaired. We can't control the weather, but we can prepare for it.



JACKF | ISTOCK.COM

## Need a New Appliance?

### MAY IS A GREAT TIME TO BUY.

THIS YEAR TEXAS' ANNUAL Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday is May 24–26. During this three-day weekend, ending on Memorial Day, sales taxes are not charged on a variety of energy efficient appliances and products. There is no limit on the number of qualifying items you can buy, and you do not need to give the seller an exemption certificate to buy items tax free.

These Energy Star-labeled items qualify for the sales tax exemption:

Air conditioners (priced at \$6,000 or less)  
Refrigerators (priced at \$2,000 or less)  
Incandescent and fluorescent light bulbs  
Clothes washers  
Dishwashers  
Dehumidifiers

These items do not qualify and are taxable even if they are Energy Star labeled:

Attic fans	Kegerators
Beverage chillers	Stoves
Clothes dryers	Water heaters
Freezers	Wine refrigerators
Heat pumps	

During the holiday you can buy qualifying Energy Star products in store, online or by phone, mail, custom order or any other means. The sale of the item must take place during the specific period. The purchase date is determined by when payment is actually completed (i.e., a credit card charge is processed).

Delivery, shipping and handling charges are taxable. Charges for installing free-standing items are considered part of the item's sales price. If the item you buy is not taxable, then these charges are not taxable. However, for items with a sales price cap, installation fees may be taxable if the total goes above the cap. For more information, visit [comptroller.texas.gov](https://comptroller.texas.gov) or call 1-800-252-5555.

## Taylor Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### CONTACT US

226 County Road 287, Merkel, TX 79536

P.O. Box 250, Merkel, TX 79536

**Phone** (325) 793-8500

**Web** [taylorlectricric.com](https://taylorlectricric.com)

### President/CEO

Ryan Bartlett

### Board of Directors

Cecil Davis, Board Chairman, Zone 1

Kathryn Rainey, Board Vice Chairman, Zone 3

David McFall, Secretary-Treasurer, Zone 2

Craig Bessent, Zone 1

Garland Carter, Zone 2

Richard Petree, At-Large

Gay Simmons, Zone 3

## 24/7

## Outage Hotline

For information and to report outages, please call us.

### LOCAL

(325) 793-8500

### HANDY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

#### ONLINE

[taylorlectricric.com](https://taylorlectricric.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 near the entrance of the building.

**Abilene** office next to the first door on the left.

Payments credited next business day.

#### NOTICE

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

#### VISIT US ONLINE

[taylorlectricric.com](https://taylorlectricric.com)



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

# Member Students Receive Scholarships

**TEN TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER STUDENTS** recently received \$1,000 scholarships. The Taylor Electric Cooperative Scholarship Program provides scholarships to local students who live in a home powered by Taylor Electric each year. The Cooperative has awarded over \$100,000 to local students since the start of the program. Applications for the 2026 scholarship will be available on [TaylorElectric.com](https://TaylorElectric.com) at the end of 2025.



**Keagan Ables**  
Hawley HS



**Lily Fowler**  
Merkel HS



**Ada Hogan**  
Jim Ned HS



**Cutter Keesee**  
Wylie HS



**Allison McCall**  
Wylie HS



**Avery New**  
Wylie HS



**Michael Nunn**  
Wylie HS



**Camryn Stone**  
Merkel HS



**Blaze Valentine**  
Wylie HS



**Maeson Willis**  
Jim Ned HS

  
*Congratulations*  
**CLASS OF 2025**



# Thunderstorm Safety Tips From the American Red Cross

THEY SAY APRIL SHOWERS bring May flowers, but May in Texas often has its own share of showers, so it's a good idea to be prepared for thunderstorms. Here are some safety tips from the American Red Cross.

Listen to local news or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio for emergency updates. Watch for signs of a storm, like darkening skies, lightning flashes or increasing wind.

If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or a vehicle with the windows closed. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds.

Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely to occur, even if it's not raining. Lightning can strike well outside the area where rain is occurring.

If you can hear thunder, you're close enough to be struck by lightning.

If thunder roars, go indoors. The National Weather Service recommends staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.

Avoid electrical equipment and corded phones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead.

Close outside doors securely and shutter windows. Keep away from them once closed.

Do not take a bath, shower, or use plumbing.

If you're driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.

If you're outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground, water, tall and isolated trees, and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are not safe.

# Are You Flushing Away Savings?

TOILETS CAN ACCOUNT for almost a third of an average home's indoor water consumption. You can take steps to conserve water without sacrificing conveniences by fixing leaky toilets or replacing them with a water-saving unit.

Check for toilet leaks by placing food coloring in the tank. If color appears in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak that's well worth tracking down and fixing.

New toilets come in many water-saving options and perform as well or better than older models, while using a fraction of the water. All toilets manufactured after 1995 use no more than 1.6 gallons per flush, while toilets older than 1995 can use as much as 7 gallons. If you decide to purchase a new toilet, consider a high-efficiency model, which may cost a bit more but uses no more than 1.3 gallons per flush.

Also consider a dual-flush model. It offers a light-duty flush option for liquid waste that uses less than 1 gallon per flush and a regular flush option for solid waste that uses 1.6 gallons.

