

Making Life Better



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ROBERT A. LOTH III

WHAT WOULD MAKE LIFE BETTER IN OUR SERVICE TERRITORY?

More jobs? Better health care? Improved parks? Access to faster internet? Renewable energy options? Those are improvements that could benefit everyone in the area.

Central Texas Electric Cooperative exists to power communities and empower you, our members, to improve your quality of life. The cooperative business model offers the perfect tool for tackling tasks too big for one person to handle alone, but we need a common purpose to effectively wield the power of cooperation.



Think about the impact electricity had on rural areas about eight decades ago. People began living longer because they no longer had to work from dusk to dawn at backbreaking chores. Farm production jumped. Running water, lights and better food storage became possible—and with those leaps, our ancestors had new opportunities.

A few of you might remember our beginnings from your younger days, so you know full well the power of neighbors uniting behind a common purpose. Yet most of our members

weren't around when this area rolled up its sleeves and worked together to get the lights on, when cooperation changed the landscape of the communities we serve.

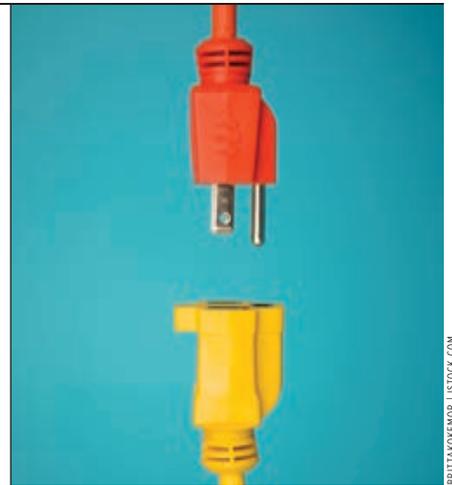
Does that mean we don't need a cooperative anymore? Is our job done? Are there no more challenges left, no roadblocks to a brighter future for our children? What should come next for us?

That's up to you.

Your co-op is more than a power provider. We're proof that when folks unite with a single focus, they can turn dreams into reality and make lives better. So think about it: What's important to you? What would make life better?

Please tell us what you're working on to improve the quality of your own life. We're here to support your efforts, and we want to know how we can help bring people with common needs and interests together. Remember, electric co-ops can be a mechanism you use to make life better. Send your ideas to helpdesk@ctec.coop or 386 Friendship Lane, Fredericksburg TX 78624, or call us at 1-800-900-2832 or locally at (830) 997-2126.

We exist today because co-op members like yourself decades ago believed they could turn darkness into daylight. Thanks for sharing your ideas with us. We can't wait to work cooperatively with you!



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Don't Be Shocked: Counterfeiters Are on the Rise

THE CHEAPEST PRODUCT isn't always the best deal. Sometimes, it's counterfeit. That means one company has packaged a product to look like it was made by a reputable company. You buy it and take it home, and it might not operate as it should. Worse, it might be unsafe.

That's often the case with counterfeit electrical products, which can shock you or start a fire. Over the past decade, these products have become more common in the U.S.

Here's how to keep counterfeit electrical products from shocking you:

- ▶ Be suspicious of electrical cords, circuit breakers and appliances from discount stores that are way less expensive than similar products.
- ▶ Never buy electrical products over the internet from unfamiliar vendors.
- ▶ Learn how to recognize certification marks from Underwriters Laboratories and other safety testing labs. Carefully inspect the electrical products you buy for authentication marks.
- ▶ Shy away from products in shoddy packaging. The product inside won't be much better.
- ▶ Read labels carefully. Counterfeiters often change a letter in a brand name: Nike knock-offs, for example, might show up with a label that says "Mike."

CTEC Operation Round-Up Grants Awarded



RECENTLY THE CTEC OPERATION ROUND-UP Board of Directors approved several grants for local community organizations.

A \$1,000 grant was awarded to the Hill Country Community Action Association's Meals on Wheels program, which provides meals to homebound seniors in Kingsland, Buchanan Dam, Horseshoe Bay and Sunrise Beach. The program serves about 60 clients, of which only about 5 percent can afford to pay. The simple act of a volunteer coming to check in and chat on a regular basis is a gift to many of these seniors, as well. The HCCAA service area covers nine counties, including Llano, San Saba and Mason, which are also included in the CTEC service area.

A \$2,000 grant went to the Gillespie County Committee on Aging, known to locals as the Golden Hub. This organization strives to enhance the quality of life for senior citizens in and around Fredericksburg. The Golden Hub provides nutritious meals at their senior center dining room and hosts a Meals on Wheels program that serves about 90 homebound seniors. The Golden Hub meets social, mental, emotional and physical needs of those in their golden years with a calendar full of educational classes, social club meetings, dances and health-related activities.

A third grant of \$1,000 was given to the Living Well Learning Center in Fredericksburg. This nonprofit organization

offers a chance to thrive for adults of all ages who have developmental disabilities and special needs. By providing a variety of classes, learning opportunities and social activities, as well as the chance to be involved in the community, Living Well positively impacts the lives of adults with disabilities. The students range in age from 19 to 58, and this particular grant will be used toward a three-month art class for these students.

To find out how you can participate in Operation Round-Up and play a part in helping others, call any CTEC office or visit our website at ctec.coop. The average contribution is only 50 cents per month. The more members that are willing to participate, the more significant a contribution the program can make in our area.

All three of these organizations rely on donations, volunteers and grants to continue serving our communities. If you are interested in participating or volunteering for their causes, please contact them.

Hill Country Community Action Association

(325) 388-4608, hccaa.com

Gillespie County Committee on Aging

(830) 997-7131, goldenhub.org

Living Well Learning Center

(830) 998-7446, livingwelllearningcenter.org

▼ The Hill Country Community Action Association receives a grant for its Meals on Wheels program.



◀ The Gillespie County Committee on Aging receives a grant to continue its services as the Golden Hub.



▼ The Living Well Learning Center's grant will support the organization's work for adults with special needs.



Central Texas Electric Cooperative

Fredericksburg (headquarters)

386 Friendship Lane
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Llano

1410 E. St. Hwy. 29, Llano

Kingsland

Nob Hill Subdivision
706 Cottonwood St., Kingsland

Mason

1881 E. State Highway 29, Mason

Office Hours

8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Friday

Website

ctec.coop

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Robert A. Loth III

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James Low, President, *San Saba County*
Jack Asbill, Vice President, *Mason County*
Doylene Bode, Secretary, *Gillespie County*
Stanley Keese, Treasurer, *Llano County*
Rex Brand, *Kerr County*
Tommy Duncan, *Llano County*
Allen Goodwin, *Kendall County*
Mark Hahn, *Mason County*
Tim Lehmborg, *Gillespie County*
Charles E. Pearson, *Gillespie County*
W.C. “Dub” Stewart, *Llano County*

Emergency Contact

To report electric service interruptions, please call the Central Texas Electric Cooperative office in your area at the numbers listed below:

FREDERICKSBURG AREA

(830) 997-2126

1-800-900-CTEC (2832)

including Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, Blanco, Real and Kimble counties

LLANO AND SAN SABA AREAS

(325) 247-4191

THE LAKES AREA
(325) 388-4542

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(325) 247-4191

after business hours

MASON AREA

(325) 347-6314

including McCulloch, Menard and Kimble counties

Deadline for District Meeting Ballot Approaching

THE MARCH 15 DEADLINE is approaching for Central Texas Electric Cooperative members interested in running for a seat on the cooperative’s board of directors. According to the CTEC bylaws, any member seeking to have his or her name placed on the ballot for director nomination at the upcoming district meetings must deliver a completed application and petition to the cooperative before this deadline. Incumbents W.C. “Dub” Stewart (District 4), Charles E. Pearson (District 5) and James Low (District 6) each have filed to run for re-election for another three-year term if elected by majority vote.

Details about the revised director selection process are contained in the bylaw excerpts reprinted on Pages 21–23 of this magazine and are summarized here:

- ▶ Candidates for director must meet bylaws requirements for director eligibility.
- ▶ Candidates must reside in the area served by the cooperative and must receive electric service in the district where they are seeking to be placed on the ballot.
- ▶ Persons seeking the district meeting nomination must submit an application and a petition signed by at least 10 cooperative members who receive electric service in the district in question.
- ▶ Persons who do not submit an application and petition before the deadline will not be eligible to be named as a district meeting nominee, as the bylaws no longer provide for nominations from the floor.
- ▶ All applications and petitions will be reviewed by a Credentials & Election Committee, composed of cooperative members.
- ▶ The names of all candidates whose applications and petitions are approved by the Credentials & Election Committee will be listed on the District Meeting Notice mailed to all cooperative members in the district in question.

The deadline for submitting the required materials is 5 p.m., Wednesday, March 15. Applications and petitions submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Members wishing to be placed on the ballot are encouraged to turn in completed applications and petitions as soon as possible.

If materials are submitted early enough, CTEC staff members will review the materials and make a preliminary determination regarding their sufficiency, giving potential candidates an opportunity to remedy any deficiencies before the deadline. Members submitting petitions are also urged to secure petition signatures from more than 10 members to provide a margin for error in the event that one or more of the signatures submitted is not recognized as valid by the Credentials & Election Committee.

Application and petition forms are available by calling the CTEC headquarters office in Fredericksburg, and completed applications and petitions must be returned there by March 15. Questions about the director selection process should be directed to the CTEC headquarters office. In Fredericksburg, members should call (830) 997-2126; the toll-free number is 1-800-900-2832.



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Excerpts From the CTEC Bylaws on Director Elections

THE CTEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS is composed of 11 co-op members representing six directorate districts in the co-op's service area. This year, director candidates from districts 4, 5 and 6 will be nominated at their respective district meetings, and elections will be held at the 2017 annual meeting, which is scheduled for August 15 in Fredericksburg. A meeting will be held at the co-op's headquarters office at 6 p.m., March 20, attended by members who have been selected to serve on this year's Credentials & Election Committee. Following are sections of the co-op's bylaws that deal with director qualifications, tenure and nominations. To view the complete CTEC bylaws, log on to the co-op's website at ctec.coop or see them at any CTEC office.

Section 2. Qualifications and Tenure.

Directors shall be so nominated and elected that one director from or with respect to each of directorate districts numbers four, five, and six shall be elected for three-year terms at an annual member meeting; one director from or with respect to each of directorate districts nos. one, three, four and five shall be elected for three-year terms at the next succeeding annual member meeting; and one director from or with respect to each of directorate districts nos. two, three, four and five shall be elected for three-year terms at the next succeeding annual member meeting, and so forth, provided that the terms of no two directors from the same directorate district shall coincide. Upon their election, directors shall, subject to the provisions of these bylaws with respect to the removal of directors, serve until the annual meeting of the members of the year in which their terms expire or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified. If for any reason an election of directors shall not be held at an annual meeting of the members duly fixed and called pursuant to these bylaws, such election may be held at an

adjournment of this meeting of the members. Failure of an election for a given year shall allow the incumbents whose directorships would have been voted on to hold over only until the next member meeting at which a quorum is present.

To initiate the staggered terms described above the directors from districts three, four and five shall draw by lot to determine their respective terms of office, a separate drawing being held for each district.

To be eligible for election or appointment to, and to serve on, the Cooperative's Board of Directors, a person shall:

- a. Be an individual with the capacity to enter legally binding contracts;
- b. Be a member of the Cooperative for at least twelve (12) months;
- c. Have within the service territory served by the cooperative (i) his/her principal place of residence for which his/her residence homestead exemption is claimed pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Texas Tax Code; or (ii) if none of the above apply, his/her principal residence, as defined under 26 C.F.R. §1.121-1(a)(2);
- d. Not be engaged in any business, nor employed by or materially affiliated with any individual or entity:
 1. Regularly, directly, and substantially competing with the Cooperative or a Cooperative Subsidiary;
 2. Regularly selling goods or services to the Cooperative or a Cooperative Subsidiary; or
 3. Otherwise possessing a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative or a Cooperative Subsidiary;
- e. Not be an incumbent of or candidate for an elective public office in connection with which a salary is paid, other than members of a School Board or County Commissioner's Court;
- f. Not be an individual that has been an employee of the Cooperative within two (2) years prior to serving on the Cooperative's Board of Directors; and

g. Except as otherwise provided by the Board of Directors for good cause, receive a Credentialed Cooperative Director designation, Director's Certificate, or similar certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association within three years after becoming a director.

Members of the Board of Directors having been elected to four (4) terms of service on said Board (regardless of whether such terms are consecutive) shall be ineligible for election to the Board of Directors. As stated in Article III, Section 2, a term shall last three (3) years. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Member of the Board of Directors with twelve (12) consecutive years of service on said Board shall be eligible for appointment to the Board of Directors for the purpose of filling a Director Vacancy in accordance with Article III, Section 4 of these Bylaws.

Married individuals shall not both be eligible to serve on the Board of Directors at the same time.

Nothing in this Section contained shall, or shall be construed to, affect in any manner whatsoever, the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors shall not authorize the employment of a chief executive officer, assistant chief executive officer, attorney, assistant attorney, who is related in the second degree by affinity or the third degree by consanguinity to any director, retained Cooperative attorney, chief executive officer and/or assistant chief executive officer of the Cooperative.

Director Disqualification: After being elected or appointed, if a Director does not comply with the Director Qualifications existing when the Director was elected or appointed, then except as otherwise provided by the Board for good cause, the Board, by two-thirds vote, shall disqualify the Director and the individual is no longer a Director if: (1) the Board notifies the Director in writing of the basis for, and pro-

vides the Director an opportunity to comment regarding, the Board's proposed disqualification; and (2) within 45 days after the Board notifies the Director of the proposed disqualification, the director neither complies with nor meets the Director Qualification. If a majority of Directors authorized by these Bylaws complies with the Director Qualifications and approves a Board action, then the failure of a Director to comply with the Director Qualifications does not affect the Board action.

Section 3. Nominations and Elections.

Director elections will take place at the annual meeting of members held on the third Tuesday of August of each year. The names of all candidates nominated for election to the board of directors in accordance with these bylaws, and whose eligibility is confirmed by the C & E Committee, shall be published in the notice of meeting mailed to the members of the cooperative, along with a proxy ballot including the names of all such nominated candidates for director.

Methods of Nominating. Nominations to serve as a director may be made: (1) by the members at a district meeting as provided in subsection (a) of this section or (2) by member petition delivered to the Cooperative as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

(a) District Meetings. Between May 20 and June 20 of each year, the Board of Directors shall convene a separate meeting of the members of each district at a suitable place designated by the Board of Directors. Notice of the meeting shall be mailed to each member located in such district and shall indicate the district to which the member belongs. If a director is to be selected from the district, the notice shall state that the members in attendance at the meeting shall select the district's nominee for director. The meeting shall be open for discussion of any other matters pertaining to the business of the Cooperative, regardless of whether or not such matters were listed in the notice of the meeting. However, the district meeting does not constitute a meeting of members of the Cooperative as described in these bylaws, and no formal action may be taken, other than the selection of the district's nominee for director.

On or before March 15 (or the next following day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday) of each year, each member seeking to become his or her district's nominee for director must deliver to the Cooperative a Cooperative-approved application confirming that the member satisfies bylaw requirements to serve as director, along with a petition meeting the following requirements:

1. Listing, on each page, the name of the member seeking to become the district meeting nominee;
2. Indicating, on each page, the director position for which the member will run; and
3. Containing the printed names, addresses, telephone numbers, and original dated signatures of at least ten Cooperative members receiving electric service from the Cooperative in the district in question.

The C & E Committee shall review all applications and petitions submitted by members seeking nomination at a district meeting to confirm that the requirements of these bylaws have been satisfied, and further confirming that each such member satisfies bylaw eligibility requirements to serve as director. The C & E Committee shall report its findings to the President of the Board of Directors in writing on or before March 30 of each year. The names of all candidates seeking district meeting nominations whose eligibility is confirmed by the C & E Committee shall be included in the District Meeting Notice.

The President of the Board of Directors shall designate a chairperson to preside over each district meeting. The district meeting shall be called to order by the chairperson, who shall appoint a secretary to act for the duration of the meeting. Members of other districts present at the meeting may be heard but shall have no vote.

The district meeting shall select one and only one member to be the nominee of the district meeting to serve on the Board of Directors. Such person shall be considered at the meeting of the members as the nominee of the district meeting. Voting by mail and voting by proxy shall not be allowed at the district meeting. If only one candidate is seeking to become the district's nominee for director, he or she may be elected by acclamation. If more

than one candidate is seeking to become the district meeting nominee at the district meeting, voting by ballot shall be conducted. If one candidate receives more than fifty percent (50%) of the vote, that candidate shall be declared to be the official nominee of the district meeting from such district. If no candidate receives more than fifty percent (50%) of the votes, runoff ballots shall be conducted until one candidate receives more than fifty percent (50%) of the vote. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes on the preceding ballot shall be included in the succeeding runoff ballot. In the event of ties, more than two candidates may be included in a runoff ballot. In the event there are three runoff ballots with no candidate receiving more than fifty percent (50%) of the vote, the nominee of the district meeting shall be selected by lot from among the candidates included on the final runoff ballot. One member shall be declared to be the official nominee of the district meeting from such district.

The minutes of each district meeting shall set forth, among other matters; the name of each candidate seeking to become the district meeting nominee and the number of votes received by each, and shall specify the official nominee of the district meeting. A copy of the minutes, signed and certified to by the chairperson and secretary of the district meeting, shall be delivered to the secretary of the Cooperative within ten (10) days after such district meeting. No informality or defect in such minutes, or in the proceedings had, shall void the nominations so made or affect the validity of the election of directors at the meeting of the members of the Cooperative.

District Meeting Record Date. A

"Record Date" is the date for determining the members entitled to (1) receive notice of a district meeting, and (2) vote at a district meeting. In order to exercise these privileges, an individual or entity must be accepted for membership in the Cooperative by the Board of Directors in accordance with Article I, Section 1 of these bylaws on or before the Record Date. Any membership transfer to create a joint membership in accordance with Article I, Section 7(b) of these bylaws must be accepted by the Board of Directors on or before the Record

Date in order for such membership transfer to be given effect at a district meeting. If a member is suspended after the Record Date, that member is not entitled to receive notice or exercise the right to vote at a district meeting.

Unless otherwise designated by the Board of Directors, the Record Date for purposes of determining the members entitled to (1) receive notice of a district meeting and (2) vote at a district meeting shall be the second Tuesday in May immediately preceding such district meeting.

(b) Nomination by Petition. In addition to district meeting nominations, a Cooperative member may place his or her name in nomination to run for election to a director position at an annual meeting of members by member petition and application. On or before June 25 (or the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday) of each year, a member seeking to be nominated in this manner must deliver to the Cooperative a Cooperative-approved application confirming that the member satisfies bylaw requirements to serve as director, along with a petition meeting the following requirements:

1. Listing, on each page, the name of the member being placed in nomination;
2. Indicating, on each page, the director position for which the nominee will run; and
3. Containing the printed names, addresses, telephone numbers, and original dated signatures of at least one percent (1%) of the Cooperative members as of the date the petition is submitted.

The C & E Committee shall review all applications and petitions submitted by

members seeking to place their name in nomination for a director position at an annual meeting to confirm that the requirements of these bylaws have been satisfied, and further confirming that each such member satisfies bylaw eligibility requirements to serve as director. The C & E Committee shall report its findings to the President of the Board of Directors in writing on or before June 30 of each year.

(c) Notice of Nominations. The Secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting, or separately, but at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected and showing the nominations made by the district meetings and nominations by petition. Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors.

(d) Elections. Members present in person and by proxy at the annual member meeting shall elect directors from each directorate district in which a director election is being held. Each member may cast one vote in each such district, without regard to the district or districts where the member resides or receives electric service from the Cooperative. Directors shall be elected from the District Meeting Nominations and Member Petition Nominations. If only one candidate is nominated in a district, he or she may be elected by acclamation. Members may not vote for write-in candidates. The candidate receiving the most votes in each district shall be declared the winner of the election.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH



TVIRBICKIS | ISTOCK.COM

Raspberry Shortbread Thumbprints

- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon almond extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup raspberry jam

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a large mixing bowl, combine sugar, butter and almond extract. Beat at medium speed 2–3 minutes, scraping bowl often, until creamy. Reduce speed to low, add flour and beat 2–3 minutes more, scraping bowl often, until well-mixed.
3. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Place 2 inches apart on an ungreased cookie sheet. With thumb, make an indentation in the center of each cookie (edges may crack slightly). Fill each indentation with about $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon jam.
4. Bake 14–18 minutes or until edges are lightly browned. Let stand 1 minute, then remove from cookie sheet.

A version of this recipe was a winner in the *Cookie Swap* recipe contest for November 2008. Submit your spicy recipes for this month's *Some Like It Hot* contest to *Texas Co-op Power* by March 10 for a chance to win \$100 and be published. Visit texascooppower.com/contests.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at
TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM

Power Tip

The seasons are changing!

Call a heating, ventilation and air-conditioning tech to inspect your HVAC system before switching over from winter heating to spring and summer cooling.



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Regular Board Meeting Recap

Central Texas Electric Cooperative, January 6, 2017

Meeting called to order by Board President James Low and prayer offered

- Discussed:** Operations report for December 2016
 - Approved:** Minutes of the regular board meeting held December 13, 2016
 - Approved:** December membership list and membership conversions
 - Approved:** Safety report for 11 months ended November 30, 2016
 - Reviewed:** Financial and statistical report for 11 months ended November 30, 2016
 - Approved:** Budget for 2017, uncollectible accounts written off in 2016, estate retirements processed in 2016
 - Submitted:** Director selections for the Credentials & Elections and Scholarship committees
 - Discussed:** Policy regarding open meetings and member requests for information
 - Approved:** Early retirement of individual capital credits accounts
 - Discussed:** Location of the 2017 Mason District Meeting
 - Discussed:** Community & Member Relations committee meeting held December 28, 2016
 - Appointed:** Mark Hahn to fill District 3 vacancy
- Meeting adjourned**



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DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 12. Remember to spring forward—set your clocks an hour ahead.

How Does Your HVAC Flow?

YOUR HVAC SYSTEM plays a key role in your comfort, so keeping it in tiptop shape is important.

The connections at vents and registers in your heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system are common spots for air leaks and disconnected ductwork. Make sure these areas are well sealed where they meet floors, walls and the ceiling.

Sealing and insulating ducts can help with common comfort problems, such as rooms that are too hot in the summer or too cold in the winter.

Leaky ducts can reduce heating and cooling system efficiency by as much as 20 percent. Sealing and insulating ducts increases efficiency, lowers your energy bills and can often pay for itself in electricity savings.

Clean the area around the outdoor components of your HVAC system.

As the seasons change, it's a good idea to have a professional inspect and tune up the HVAC system.

Don't forget to change air filters regularly. Dirty filters lower efficiency and increase the cost of operating your HVAC system.



JODI JACOBSON | ISTOCK.COM

Hire a professional to get your HVAC system ready for summer.



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

from Central Texas EC!
Friday, March 17

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Central Texas Electric Co-op

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



STORM SAFETY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

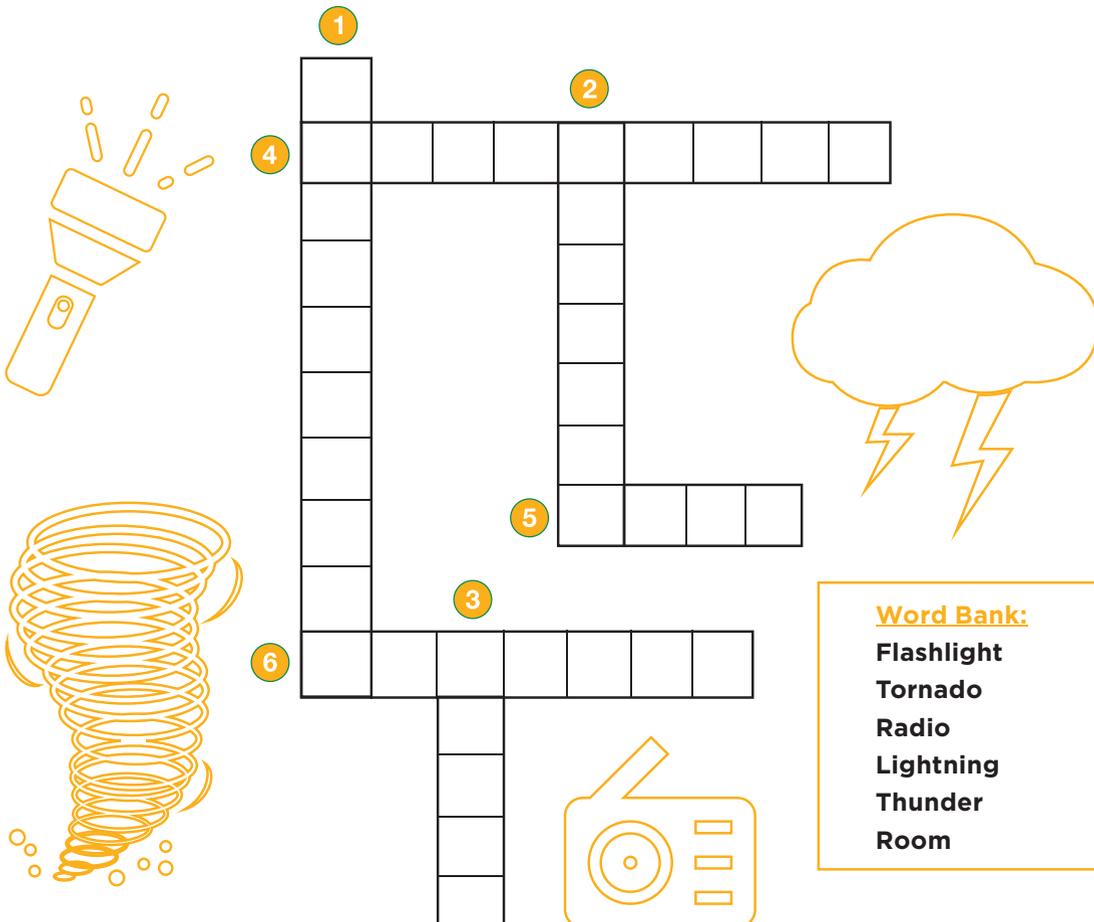
Spring has finally arrived with colorful flowers and warmer weather. But the season can also produce severe storms. The Energy Explorers want to remind everyone to stay safe when severe weather hits. Complete the crossword puzzle below and share these tips with your family and friends.

DOWN

1. Keep a _____ handy in case of a power outage.
2. If you hear _____ go inside. If you can hear it, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning.
3. Have a battery-powered weather _____ nearby so you can keep track of the severe weather.

ACROSS

4. Watch for signs of a thunderstorm, including dark skies, flashes of _____ or heavy winds.
5. If a tornado is heading your way, pick a safe _____ in your home where family can gather. The safest places would be a basement, storm cellar or interior room.
6. Practice a family _____ drill at least once a year.



Word Bank:
Flashlight
Tornado
Radio
Lightning
Thunder
Room