

Smart Electronics Can Improve Life



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ROBERT A. LOTH III

ONE OF THE THINGS I LOVE MOST ABOUT THE EVER-CHANGING WORLD of electricity and electronics is how so many devices have entered our homes and businesses in useful ways. I get excited when I hear that the latest gadget can save me money, help me monitor the safety of my family or allow me to save on home energy costs. This might sound too good to be true, but there are many products on the market that do all these things and more.

Take, for example, smart lighting. This energy-efficient technology is fun and easy to use, and you can control many systems through the convenience of a smart-phone app. The lightbulbs used with smart lighting systems typically consume less

energy than standard incandescent bulbs, and because the system can be controlled through your phone or tablet, you can turn off your lights from anywhere. No need to worry about wasting money lighting an empty house!

Just like smart lighting, smart security systems allow you to access and control them through an app on your smart-phone. Most smart security systems are customizable, and you can choose whether you want to install the system yourself or hire a professional to set it up for you. Some smart security systems even offer professional monitoring. It is comforting to know your home is safe no matter where you are.

Central Texas Electric Cooperative offers its members the power to monitor their usage online or with our SmartHub

app. When you monitor your usage, you can better reduce your energy consumption, which will decrease your monthly electric bill. With SmartHub, you can also pay your bill and get updates on what is going on at your co-op.

To learn more about how SmartHub can help you and your family, contact our office at 1-800-900-2832. We're here to help!



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Hear the Beep Where You Sleep

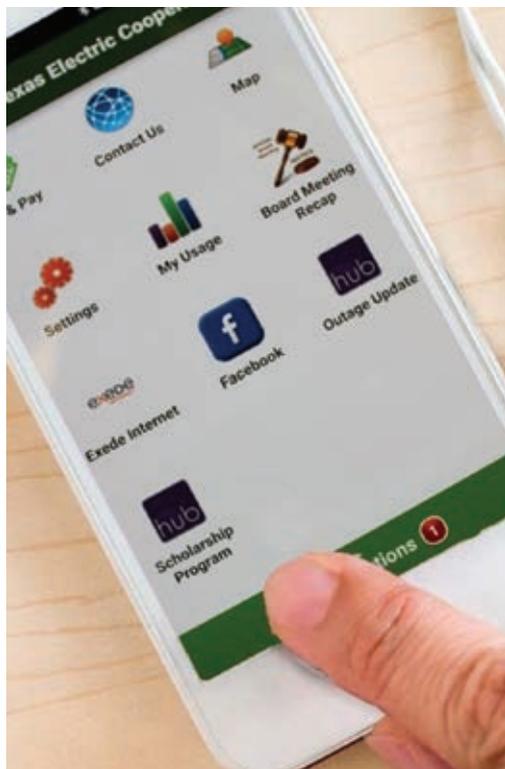
DOES YOUR BEDROOM HAVE A SMOKE alarm? It should.

Every level of a house—and every bedroom in a house—needs to have a working smoke detector. You also should check the batteries in every smoke detector and test their functioning regularly; they can't help you if they aren't working.

In addition, there are many safe practices that can help prevent fires and promote electrical safety in your home.

Follow these tips to keep your bedroom safe from electrical and fire danger:

- ▶ Tamper-resistant receptacles should be installed in all bedrooms. This device allows only plugs to be inserted while preventing access by foreign objects.
- ▶ Never leave heat-producing appliances unattended. Turn these off when you're leaving a room or going to sleep.
- ▶ If using a heating pad or electric blanket, do not place anything on top and don't leave it on unattended or while sleeping.
- ▶ Do not sleep with devices that are charging, such as phones, under your pillow.
- ▶ Never wrap or bundle cords together. This prevents the heat in them from dissipating, leading to a fire hazard.



CTEC Employees Reach 1 Year Without Lost-Time Accident

EMPLOYEES AT CENTRAL TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ACHIEVED ONE YEAR WORKED without a lost-time accident as of the end of business July 18.

This milestone marks the collective effort of four separate offices in an 11-county service area for the 136 employees and managers working at CTEC.

“Safety is always THE primary concern in any electric business,” said James Low, CTEC board president. “On behalf of the board, I want to convey our sincere congratulations to all our employees on one year of work without a lost-time accident. We are very proud of this accomplishment.”

“To put this milestone in perspective: It means more than a quarter of a million man-hours of work without a lost-time accident,” CEO Bob Loth said. “Over the past four years, or almost 1 million hours worked, we have only had two minor lost-time accidents. When you think about the kind of work our employees do—working on high-voltage electric lines, operating all kinds of machinery in all kinds of terrain, driving more than 100 vehicles over a million miles at all hours of the day and night and in all kinds of weather conditions—this accomplishment is remarkable.”

CTEC continues to provide regular safety training for its employees and keeps safety as a top priority. Despite reaching this one-year achievement, our goal is to never have another lost-time accident.

“No matter how long the day is, what matters most is that when we close the gate, everyone goes home safe,” Loth said.

Regular Board Meeting Recap

Central Texas Electric Cooperative, July 11

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

Discussed: Operations Report for June 2017

Approved: Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held June 13

Approved: Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held June 27

Approved: June 6–July 3 membership list and membership conversions

Approved: Safety Report for five months ended May 31

Reviewed: Financial and Statistical Reports for five months ended May 31

Reviewed: CTEC Financial and Statistical Reports for five months ended May 31

Reviewed: Board Policy No. 1

Reviewed: Board Policy No. 7

Reviewed: Board Policy No. 2

Scheduled: Regular Board Meeting for August 1

Approved: Board Policy No. 16

Discussed: Blumenthal Substation progress

Discussed: Committee Reports

Meeting adjourned.



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*
Doyle Bode, Secretary, *Gillespie County*
Stanley Keese, Treasurer, *Llano County*
Rex Brand, *Kerr County*
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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

Common Causes of Outages and Blinks

YOU KNOW CENTRAL TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING RELIABLE, uninterrupted electrical power to its members. But sometimes storms, car accidents and even squirrels can cause power outages. Let's look at some of the most common causes of power outages:

Animals: Critters—especially squirrels—can cause power to fail when they encounter specific parts of the electrical system. The co-op installs guards and barriers to protect sensitive equipment, but sometimes critters still find a way in. When an animal contacts this equipment, it creates an abnormal current, which can disrupt the flow of power.

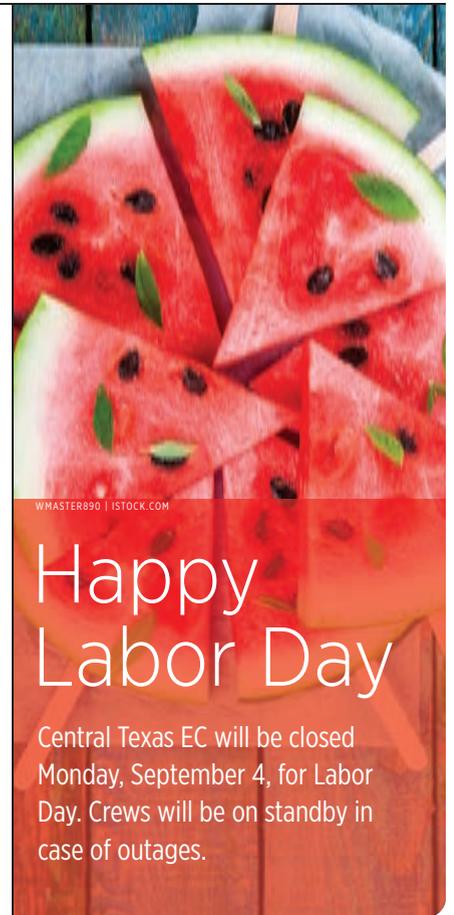
Weather: Mother Nature can be a tough opponent. Severe weather such as thunderstorms and tornadoes, or the accumulation of ice, can cause tree limbs to fall on power lines, resulting in outages.

Vehicles: A power outage also can occur when a vehicle or farm equipment crashes into a utility pole, which easily can bring down power lines and damage other electrical equipment.

Blinks: Has your power ever blinked off and on for a few seconds? This is known as a power blink. It happens when an animal, vegetation or another object comes into contact with a power line that serves your home. When this happens, protective equipment that acts as a circuit breaker interrupts the flow of power for a split second to reduce the possibility of damage to the electrical system.

Many times, the problem on the power lines can be isolated, which limits the number of members without electricity.

Regardless of what causes a power outage or blink, you can rest assured that your co-op always works to get your power restored as soon as possible. Our top priority is to provide you with the safe, reliable electricity you can depend on.



Power Tip

Setting your thermostat to a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.





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www.ctesc.net

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MONTH

\$104⁹⁵
MONTH

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One-time setup fee of \$49.00 and \$7.95/month equipment lease fee applies.

Speeds are "up to" and not guaranteed. Actual speeds will vary.

Call Now

Local (830) 992-2240 or Toll Free (888) 297-1340

Service is not available in all Central Texas Electric Co-op areas. Installation requires a clear view of the southern sky and proper electrical ground bonding. Exede is a service mark of ViaSat, Inc.