



## Safety and Conservation Get an Early Start

AT WOOD COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, we have a strong and demonstrated commitment to education, and we fulfill it in many ways, such as funding scholarships and sponsoring youth at educational seminars. We also believe it's important to teach our local children about electrical safety and conservation.

At campuses during the school year and in the summer at local camps, we take our show on the road throughout our nine-county service territory. We have presentations tailored to specific age groups from about third grade up.

Nothing teaches a lesson better than a live demonstration, and we have three interesting comparison modules that help us clearly exhibit, to children and adults, the value of lighting selection and insulation choices, and also properly sealing against air leaks.

The insulation model demonstrates air permeability. The lighting comparison module shows, in watts, the amount of electricity each type of bulb uses—to arrive at a revealing conclusion on efficiency. And the infiltration unit demonstrates what happens with airflow in an unsealed wall section.



OPPOSITE: With a memorable and informative safety message, Wood County EC employees demonstrate how dangerous high-voltage power lines can be and describe how to stay safe.

ABOVE: Energy conservation is a popular topic, and WCEC's lighting display is a hands-on instructional tool that makes the point in a visual and interesting way.

Each of these helps create a better understanding of conditions, choices and actions that can affect the amount of electricity used. That knowledge can be used to reduce kilowatt-hour usage and the cost of electric bills.

The cooperative also owns an arcing demonstration unit that has been used to teach thousands of children about electrical safety. This lesson is primarily suited for kids in third and fourth grades. The unit is a replica of a high-voltage power line. A presenter and a lineman show and tell the children what can happen when various objects come into contact with a live power line. Additionally, the kids are taught what to do if they are in an automobile that comes into contact with a power line. (Spoiler alert: Stay in the car!)

In addition to these demonstrations, the cooperative has several PowerPoint presentations that can be tailored for various age groups, including adults. To inquire about a speaker or a presentation, members should go to our website at [wcec.org](http://wcec.org) and fill out the speaker/demonstration request form found under the Programs and Sponsorships tab.



## Wood County Electric Cooperative

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### MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES

- Online account access and bill payment
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- Free bill-paying app
- Visa, MasterCard, and Discover accepted
- SmartPower prepay electric system
- Scholarships and youth programs
- Safety and energy conservation programs

### MOBILE CONVENIENCE CENTER

**Monday**, First Methodist Church, *Van*  
**Tuesday**, Family Dollar, *Mount Vernon*  
**Wednesday**, City National Bank, *Hawkins*  
**Thursday**, Brookshire's, *Winnboro*  
**Friday**, Economy Drug, *Grand Saline*



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Instead of cooking indoors, use the grill this summer and keep cooling costs down.

## Keep-Cool Strategies for Summer

**SAVING MONEY ON** air-conditioning bills is more likely to happen if you have a plan.

Devise a strategy for keeping your home cool this summer without breaking the bank. **Here are five tips to get started:**

**1.** Get a qualified service technician to do an annual inspection of your central air-conditioning system and any window units you might have. A well-tuned air conditioner will operate in the most energy-efficient way.

Wood County Electric Cooperative members can receive a rebate worth a \$50 bill credit by getting an air conditioner inspection. Afterward, submit the rebate form along with a copy of the receipt and the HVAC technician's signature. The form can be found at [wcec.org](http://wcec.org): Use the website's search bar and type in Great Rebates.

**2.** Set your thermostat to 78 degrees while you're home and higher before you leave the house. If you have a programmable thermostat, it can set itself.

**3.** Turn ceiling fans on when you enter a room and off when you leave. A ceiling fan moves the air around so anyone in the room feels cooler. There's no benefit to running a fan when nobody is around.

**4.** Close your drapes or blinds to block the heat when it's sunny outside, but leave them open on cloudy days to get some natural daylight into your rooms.

**5.** Avoid cooking inside on hot summer days. Instead, grill outdoors, serve cold dishes, order takeout or heat food up in the microwave.

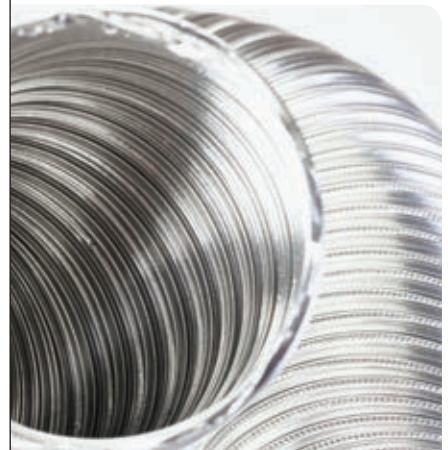


## Did You Know

Lightning has been observed on Saturn, Venus and Jupiter, and space researchers think it may eventually be found on Uranus and Neptune.



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Happy Independence Day  
from Wood County EC

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## Power Tip

Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure that it is not blocked. This will save energy and could prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using rigid venting material—not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages.

# Avoid Circuit Overload

**WITH SO MANY ELECTRICAL DEVICES** in every room of the home, there's a possibility you're overloading your circuits.

That means that either you're plugging too many devices into a single outlet via a power strip or you're plugging in devices that require more power than your home's wiring can handle.

If your circuits are overloaded, it's time to call a licensed electrician to upgrade your electrical system so it can keep up with the demands that new technology places on it.

Here's how to tell if your home's circuits are overloaded, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International:

- ▶ Lights are flickering, blinking or dimming.
- ▶ Electrical receptacles on the walls are warm to the touch or have become discolored.
- ▶ You smell a burning odor coming from receptacles or wall switches.
- ▶ Circuits trip on a regular basis, especially when you turn on "this" appliance at the same time as "that" one.

Here's how to prevent overload from happening:

- ▶ Do not plug large appliances into extension cords or power strips. They each need an outlet all to themselves.
- ▶ Get rid of extension cords. They're meant for temporary use—not permanent. Don't rig up year-round devices, like lamps or TVs, to extension cords.
- ▶ Notice how many extension cords you use. If it's a lot, that could signal that you don't have enough outlets. An electrician can add more.
- ▶ Don't mistake a power strip for extra juice. It doesn't make more electricity available; all a power strip does is allow you to plug more devices into a single outlet—and doing so can overload that outlet.

**When using electronics, keep from overloading outlets and power strips.**



## Make Room for Roadside Crews

**WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT**, so do Wood County EC's restoration crews.

Lineworkers quickly hit the road after an outage occurs, and once in the troubled region, they'll slowly "ride the line" to identify the issue and get power quickly restored. Once the issue is found, often the bulk of that restoration work will take place from the roadside.

If you see one of our line crews on the side of the road, we kindly ask that you move into the far lane if safety and traffic conditions allow. If moving over is not an option, please just slow down when approaching roadside crews.

Just as important as lineworkers, you also may also encounter our right-of-way crews. These are the workers who trim trees and brush away from the power lines and equipment to better ensure reliability. Please give them a break, too.

And, as we all know, emergency responders such as police officers, firefighters and EMTs often can be found working near busy roadways. Texas law requires drivers to either vacate the lane closest to a stopped emergency vehicle or slow down to 20 mph below the speed limit. If the speed limit is below 25 mph, the driver must slow down to 5 mph.

There's plenty of room on the road for everyone. Let's work together to keep our roadways and workers safe.