



TRI-COUNTY

Electric Cooperative, Inc.

"A Commitment to Service and Savings"

Winter Rolled into the TCEC Service Area on December 24, 2017

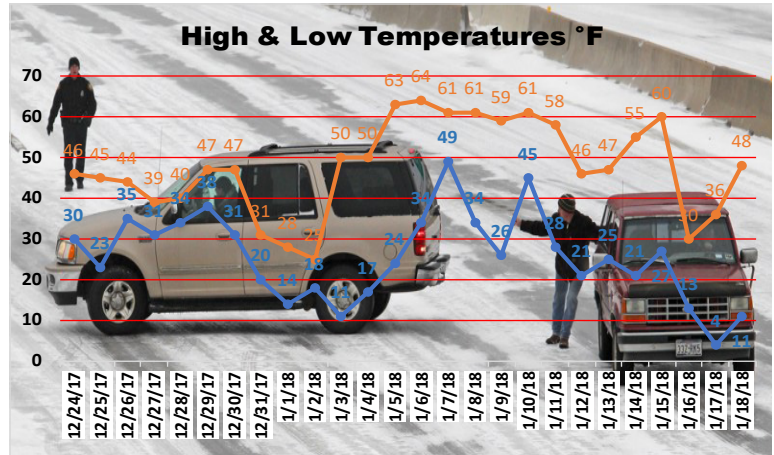
Most of our 16 county service area was covered with ice and snow making driving difficult. The schools were closed for the Christmas holiday and most of the kids felt like they were cheated out of a snow day. New Year's Eve events were hit and miss because some events were canceled and others were under staffed because employees stayed home rather than risking a traffic accident.

800607967

Trees were heavy with ice causing trouble with power lines when they broke and fell. The wind was blowing very hard with gusts in excess of 40 miles per hour.

TCEC members utilized electric space heaters to prevent freezing in well houses and to protect animals. Our service crews kept busy balancing load between different substations as the temperatures bottomed out around 4 degrees on January 17. On the same morning, TCEC hit an all-time system peak. **62001**

The sustained cold temperatures caused our homes to become cold soaked as the difference between the outdoor and indoor temperatures grew. If you have tile floors in your home you can feel the cold working it's way into your home through the concrete foundation. Concrete is a poor insulating material and that is why the floors along the outside walls get so cold.



Northern states have basements to provide a freeze resistant environment to run water and sewer throughout the home. The basement is dug below the frost line to protect the pipes. **800693426**

Texas homes are engineered for cooling. Registers and air vents in most homes are placed in the ceiling and refrigerated air will settle toward the floor. However, when we heat our homes, the hot air tends to stay near the ceiling.

This is where ceiling fans can come into play to enhance air distribution. A quick flip of a switch on the ceiling fan changes blade rotation. A clockwise rotation at a low speed brings the heated air down for increased warmth throughout the room. The air is gently pulled up toward the ceiling and force the warm air down.

Here are additional tips to increase energy efficiency:

- The ideal winter thermostat setting is 68 degrees
- Close window coverings to increase insulation
- Make sure doors and window are sealing properly
- Dress warm! Remember spring is on the way!

800726365

It Pays To Stay Informed!

Find your account number in our Member Information Bulletin and you will receive a \$20.00 credit on your electric bill. Simply contact one of the offices listed at the right and make them aware of your discovery.

It Pays to stay informed!

Don't Forget the 3 P's

Just about everyone had the need to apply a little heat to **People**, **Pets** and **Pipes** over the past couple of weeks. **800811056**

People

An electric space heater can provide comfort during cold months, especially in garages, bedrooms and other areas that may not have central heating. Using space heating requires some attention to safety as well as comfort. Check space heaters for the following safety features.

- An automatic safety switch that will turn the unit off if it is tipped over
- An overheat sensor that shuts off the heater if it gets too hot
- A label or tag noting the heater has been tested and approved by an independent testing lab

Check the power cord for worn insulation, look carefully for weather cracks or hard brittle areas along the length of the cord. If you find a problem, don't try to repair it with tape and never attempt to replace the cord yourself. **800812484**



- Never use an extension cord with an electric space heater
- Keep the heater away from water sources or damp places to avoid electric shock
- Keep the heater at least three feet away from curtains, sofas, magazine racks or any other potentially flammable surface

Remember: a small 1500 watt space heater is capable of using 1,080 kWh if placed in an area where it will run continuously for 30 days. At a cost of 8 cents per kWh, one heater can use \$86.40 worth of electricity. A 1,500 watt space heater should only be used on circuits with a 20 amp breaker and only minimal additional load on the circuit.

Pets

A heat lamp is a great way to focus heat on a small area. The fixture can be clamped to the cage or suspended from a hook from the ceiling or rafter. Heat is determined by bulb wattage. Be mindful of the maximum wattage rating. A 20 amp circuit should not exceed 2,500 watts of connected load. **800785060**



- Keep wiring away from pets and small children
- Check lamp periodically for secure mounting
- Always maintain a safe distance from combustible materials

Pipes

Heat tape is the best way to keep plumbing from freezing for water wells and pressure tanks. Heat tape strips are sold in varying lengths and are engineered to come on when the temperature gets close to freezing. Adding insulation around the exposed pipes and storage tanks is another great way to prevent freeze damage and reduce the demand for electricity.

Other ways to protect pipes are

- Open cabinet doors below sinks located on outside walls
- Leave water dripping in faucets
- Put foam covers over outside water faucets
- Add insulation around pipes in the attic or garage **800804614**



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