

Be a Safety Champion on Super Bowl Sunday

A SAFETY IS WORTH TWO POINTS IN A FOOTBALL GAME, BUT PRACTICING ELECTRICAL safety during your Super Bowl festivities—and all year long—could be worth a lot more. It could spare a loved one from a fire or accident.

No matter who you are rooting for or if you're just in it for the commercials, make sure electrical safety is in your lineup this Super Bowl Sunday—and always.

A Cold Snap

If you need to add a little warmth to your home with space heaters, place them at least 3 feet away from all flammable materials and plug them directly into wall outlets. Never use extension cords of any kind with a space heater and never leave a heater unattended when in use.

Tight Belts and Tight Ends

Super Bowl Sunday ranks second for food consumption after Thanksgiving. (Fans will consume more than 1 billion chicken wings!) Practice safety by arranging all countertop appliances away from the sink and keeping cords, potholders and towels away from hot surfaces. Even if it means missing a play or two, stay in the kitchen when food is cooking on the stovetop, and turn off burners if you have to leave the room.



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Don't Gamble on Safety

Save your risky bets for the ballgame. Smoke alarms should be on every floor of your home and outside all sleeping areas. Test them monthly. Ensure that any appliances, space heaters and extension cords that you plan to purchase have a safety label from a recognized testing laboratory. Don't overlook this important practice. Only shop with reputable stores. 2902000008

Offensive Line

You might need extension cords to power slow cookers or electronics. Never attempt to extend the length of an extension cord by connecting it with another extension cord, and make sure cords are not

pinched. Do not place cords in high-traffic areas or under carpets, rugs or furniture, and don't nail or staple them to anything. Use a surge protector to protect your TV and other electronics from damage, and keep all liquids away from electrical items.



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Give Your Washer and Dryer a Longer Life

YOU CAN EXTEND THE LIFE OF YOUR washer and dryer—and your clothes—by treating your appliances with care on laundry day. Here's how:

Clean your dryer's lint filter after every use. Occasionally vacuum the chute that houses the filter.

Unfasten the duct from the dryer at least twice a year and vacuum it.

Cut down on drying times if your clothes consistently come out wrinkled—an indication that you're overdrying.

On nice days, skip the dryer completely by installing and using a clothesline. 5582600001

Avoid overloading your washing machine with comforters, rugs and large blankets. Check your owner's manual to learn how much weight your washer's tub can safely handle.

Balance your load of laundry. Washers can fail when heavy loads bang around in an unbalanced machine.

Replace your water intake hoses every five years, even if they look OK. Older hoses are prone to bursting.

Kill a What?

EVER PRETENDED YOU KNEW WHAT AN ELECTRICIAN WAS TALKING ABOUT WHEN HE or she told you what needed to be fixed? If so, or if you just want to expand your electrical vocabulary a bit, **here's a glossary of common electrical terms:**

Amperes, or amps, are a measure of the rate of flow of electricity—comparable to the flow of water through a hose. Fuses and circuit breakers are rated in amps to indicate the amount of electricity they can carry safely.

Circuit breakers and fuses are safety devices that automatically cut the flow of electricity when a circuit is overloaded.

In a fuse, an element melts when overloaded, stopping the flow of electricity. In a circuit breaker, a switch is tripped when it is overloaded. After the cause of an overload has been corrected, a fuse must be replaced, but a circuit breaker can simply be reset.

Circuit breakers and fuses are preset to appropriate amperage ratings, and it is important for the safety of your home or business that the amperage ratings in the main service panel be observed.

The electric service entrance normally consists of wires enclosed in conduit, a proper ground, your electric meter base and the main service panel—essentially the entire apparatus necessary to safely bring electricity into your home.

The main service panel (referred to as the “fuse box” in many homes) is a metal box that houses the circuit breakers or fuses. The main service panel serves as the point from which electricity is distributed to branch circuits throughout your home for appliance, equipment and lighting outlets.

Overload is when a circuit has carried a bigger flow of electricity than it can handle, causing the wires to dangerously over-heat and the circuit or breaker to trip.

Volts are a measure of electric force. Volts are the force behind the current, or amps, flowing through a wire. Just as the amp can be compared to the amount of water flowing through a hose, the volt can be compared to the amount of pressure pushing that water.

Watt is a unit of power that does work electrically. Mathematically, the watt is the product of amperes multiplied by volts.

Watt-hour is the measurement of electrical energy used—measured as 1 watt of electricity used for one hour.

Kilowatt-hour is 1,000 watt-hours, abbreviated kWh. On electric bills, this indicates the amount of electric energy used. A 100-watt lamp operated for 10 hours (100 watts x 10 hours) uses 1,000 watt-hours—or 1 kWh. 8001444101



Tri-County Electric Cooperative

600 NW Parkway, Azle 76020

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COOPERATIVE OFFICES

Central Headquarters

600 NW Parkway, Azle, TX 76020
(817) 444-3201

Southwest District Office

1623 Weatherford Highway, Granbury 76048
(817) 279-7010

Northeast District Office

4900 Keller Hicks Road, Fort Worth 76244
(817) 431-1541

B-K District Office

419 N. Main, Seymour 76380
(940) 888-3441

IT PAYS TO STAY INFORMED!

Find your account number in pages 18–25 of *Texas Co-op Power*, and you will receive a \$20 credit on your TCEC electric bill. Simply contact one of the offices listed above and make them aware of your discovery!



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Tri-County EC To Award 16 Scholarships

TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ESTABLISHED A SCHOLARSHIP program to encourage and assist in the educational pursuits of our member-consumers and their families. Scholarship awards are based on academic performance, extracurricular activities, community involvement, academic focus and career aspirations.

This year, Tri-County EC will award eight \$4,000 scholarships and eight \$2,000 scholarships to graduating students who plan to pursue an academic degree or certification from an accredited university, college, junior college or technical school.

Eligibility Requirements

Scholarships can be received only once by an applicant.

To be considered for a Tri-County EC scholarship, an applicant must:

- ▶ Reside with parents or legal guardians who are members of Tri-County EC and have an active account at their permanent residence. 800652798
- ▶ Be a current high school senior graduating in the current school year.

- ▶ Submit the completed scholarship packet by 5 p.m. Friday, March 1. **No late applications will be accepted.**

Guidelines

Please complete and submit the written application, along with the following, to Tri-County EC:

- ▶ Two letters of recommendation.
- ▶ An official high school transcript.
- ▶ A 300- to 500-word essay on the following topic: What is the importance of the electric cooperative model?
- ▶ High-resolution headshot (school photo preferred).

Judging Criteria

Applicants will be judged on the following:

- ▶ Academics.
- ▶ Extracurricular activities and community involvement.
- ▶ College and career focus.
- ▶ Overall commitment.

Completed applications are due by **5 p.m. Friday, March 1.**

Tri-County Electric Cooperative Scholarship Application

PERSONAL DATA

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MI
MAILING ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP
PHONE	DATE OF BIRTH	
EMAIL ADDRESS		

FAMILY INFORMATION

NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN	TRI-COUNTY EC ACCOUNT NO.
NAME AND ADDRESS ON TRI-COUNTY EC ACCOUNT	

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL	CLASS RANK:	OF
DATE OF GRADUATION	GPA (4.0 SCALE):	SAT: ACT:

FUTURE

COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY, TECHNICAL SCHOOL OR OTHER INSTITUTION

<input type="checkbox"/> APPLIED	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPTED
<input type="checkbox"/> APPLIED	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPTED
<input type="checkbox"/> APPLIED	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPTED

INTENDED FIELD OF STUDY

CAREER GOAL

STATEMENT OF LIFETIME GOALS

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (If necessary, attach separate sheet with all activities/honors/community involvement listed.)

SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES IN WHICH YOU HAVE PARTICIPATED. (Include dates of participation and any offices held.)

HONORS RECEIVED AND OFFICES HELD

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

NONSCHOOL, COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN WHICH YOU HAVE PARTICIPATED

WORK EXPERIENCE

DATES DURING WHICH ANY JOBS WERE HELD, WITH COMPANY NAME AND NAME OF SUPERVISOR

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I hereby acknowledge that the attached application was prepared and written by me, and I agree to permit the review of this application by members of the Tri-County Electric Cooperative Scholarship Committee.

If selected, I authorize Tri-County Electric Cooperative to use my picture in various publications.

Applicant Signature:

Date:

Completed applications are due by **5 p.m. Friday, March 1**, in person, postmarked by mail or emailed to amcginnis@tcectexas.com.

Please send completed application to:

Tri-County Electric Cooperative
Attn: Annie McGinnis
600 NW Parkway
Azle, Texas 76020

Or in person at any Tri-County EC office:

Azle
600 NW Parkway
Granbury
1623 Weatherford Highway
Keller
4900 Keller Hicks Road
Seymour
419 N. Main

If you have any questions about the scholarship or the application, please contact Annie McGinnis at (817) 752-8116 or amcginnis@tcectexas.com.

Advancing Automation: An Improved Future



FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS, TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE has operated on an automatic meter reading system with digital meters. This system requires meter reader personnel to travel to member-consumers' homes each month with portable data collectors to manually retrieve monthly kilowatt-hour usage.

Just like the technology on your cellphone or computer becomes outdated, so has the co-op's meter system. That's why we began to look to advanced metering infrastructure to provide a more reliable, sustainable and useful system.

In October 2017, Darryl Schriver, Tri-County EC general manager and CEO, formed a committee designed to launch our cooperative into the 21st century. This group of 33 employees came together to decide how to replace the cooperative's current AMR system, which is approaching its 2021 end of life. 800845028

After committee deliberation and research by numerous team members, staff decided on a replacement system. The team spent hours upon hours reviewing vendor proposals and sifting through research to provide the most beneficial and safest service to you, our member-owners.

Now, Tri-County EC is working with Landis+Gyr, a global industry leader in advanced meters, to deploy more than 110,000 new meters across the co-op's 16-county territory. This new AMI system operates on a two-way communication plat-

form rather than the current one-way communication AMR system. The new platform will allow meters to talk to the co-op and the co-op to talk to any meter. The new system uses a radio frequency communication network to read all residential and commercial Tri-County EC meters. 800817578

The new AMI system will offer:

- ▶ Improved efficiency. Reading more than 110,000 meters remotely will be more cost-effective than having Tri-County EC personnel drive to each meter location every month.
- ▶ Improved reliability. Two-way communication with the meters will enhance Tri-County EC's outage management system by letting co-op personnel know when and where an outage occurs without requiring members to call it in.
- ▶ Improved power quality. The AMI system will provide data for voltage and load studies, meter tampering and system load to help maintain a more reliable distribution system.
- ▶ Improved member service. The new AMI system will provide near real-time usage reads, allowing Tri-County EC member-owners to monitor kilowatt-hour usage through the online membership portal or mobile member app.

Tri-County EC continues to evaluate current practices at the co-op. System upgrades help the cooperative run more efficiently, and launching a new metering system is just one way to improve co-op operations and provide increased value to you, our member-owners.

Warning: Beware of Downed Power Lines

WEATHER AND CAR ACCIDENTS ARE THE MAIN CAUSES OF DOWNED POWER LINES.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative warns members to use extreme caution should they encounter a downed power line, which can carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or death. 800612602

Assume that any downed line you see is energized and report it immediately to the police, fire department and your electric cooperative.

Here are some tips to help you stay safe around downed power lines:

- ▶ If you see a downed power line, move away from it and anything touching it.
- ▶ The proper way to move away from the line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the chance for a human path of electric current and minimize the hazards of electric shock. Electricity moves from zones of high voltage to zones of low voltage—and it could do that through your body.
- ▶ Do not drive over downed power lines.
- ▶ If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with a downed power line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. Call 911 instead.



▶ Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object, such as a broom or stick. Even typically nonconductive materials such as wood can conduct electricity and electrocute you.

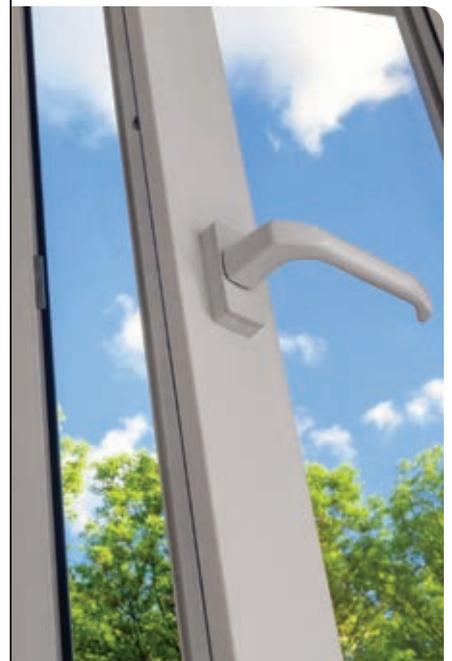
- ▶ Be careful not to put your feet near water where a downed power line is located.
- ▶ If you are in your car and it is in contact with a downed line, stay in your car. Honk your horn and call 911 for help. Tell others to stay away from your vehicle.
- ▶ If you must leave your car because it's on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together to avoid simultaneous contact with the live car and the ground, then use small shuffling steps to get away from the car. This way, you reduce the risk of becoming part of the path of electricity.

Did You Know?

A spark of static electricity can measure up to 3,000 volts, while a typical lightning bolt packs 100 million volts.



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Power Tip

Reduce drafts by locking all your windows. A tighter seal is formed when the windows are locked.

Cranberry Layer Bundt Cake

THERESA LINDSAY | WEATHERFORD

CAKE

- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 1 package white cake mix
- ¼ cup flour
- 1½ cups orange juice
- 3 eggs
- ½ cup canola oil
- 1 tablespoon grated orange zest
- 1 cup finely chopped macadamia nuts

FROSTING

- 8 ounces cream cheese
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon orange extract
- Juice from 1 orange
- 3½ cups powdered sugar
- ½ teaspoon grated orange zest
- ¼ cup chopped macadamia nuts



- 1. CAKE:** Apply cooking spray to a Bundt pan. Soak cranberries in water and roll in flour so they will not sink to the bottom of the cake while baking. Cut into small pieces.
- 2.** In a large bowl, combine cake mix, flour, orange juice, eggs, oil and orange zest. Beat on low speed 30 seconds then beat on medium 2 minutes. Stir in cranberries and macadamia nuts. Transfer batter to prepared pan.
- 3.** Bake at 350 degrees 30–35 minutes or until a toothpick

- inserted in center comes out clean. Cool cake in pan 10 minutes before removing. Let cool completely on wire rack.
- 4. FROSTING:** In a large bowl, beat cream cheese, butter, vanilla, orange extract and orange juice until blended. Gradually beat in powdered sugar and orange zest until smooth. Spread frosting on top of cake. Sprinkle with macadamia nuts. Enjoy! Refrigerate leftovers. 7732700001



Tri-County EC Member Recipe Submission Form

NAME

CITY

EMAIL or PHONE NUMBER

RECIPE NAME

Please return to:

Email: Please include the above information with your recipe and send to pr@tcectexas.com.

Mail: Please detach and submit this form with your recipe and mail to:

Tri-County Electric Cooperative
Attn: Recipe Submission
600 NW Parkway
Azle, TX 76020