

Why We Plan Outages



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

HAVE YOU EVER RECEIVED a notification from the folks here at CECA informing you of a planned outage? You may have wondered, “What is a planned outage?” and “Why does my electric co-op need to schedule an outage?”

Occasionally, the equipment we use to bring power to your home needs to be replaced, repaired or updated. The necessary work often cannot be done without de-energizing the lines and cutting power temporarily. When we need to do such work, as a way to keep our crews and you safe, we plan an interruption to electric service.

We do our best to plan these outages during times when members will be least inconvenienced, so we often perform planned outages during school and business hours. We also try to avoid planning these outages during winter or summer months. We understand that these are the times of the year when you depend most heavily on running your heating and cooling units.

Although slightly inconvenient, a planned outage is actually beneficial to you. Regular system upgrades are necessary for optimal performance, and they increase reliability. Repairing and upgrading our equipment is also critical to maintaining public safety. If older lines need to be replaced, we plan and schedule the work, notify the members who will be affected, then repair or replace the equipment—and that helps keep everyone safe.

Planned outages also allow us to keep you informed of when and how long you will be without power. We can notify you several days before an outage, so you can be prepared. We also keep you aware of when line crews will be working in your area.

Here at CECA, we want to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep you safe and keep our system running smoothly. So the next time you hear about a planned outage, know that it is one of the best ways we can provide you with quality electric service.



Program for Comfort and Savings

A PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT is ideal for individuals and families who are away from home during set periods of time throughout the week, such as during work or school. Through proper use of preprogrammed settings, the average American household can save about \$180 every year in energy costs.

The same efficiencies can be achieved at night by lowering the temperature when everyone is snuggled up under blankets and then having the thermostat warm the house up a bit when morning comes.

It is a common misconception that it takes more energy to heat up a cold house than it does to keep a house warm all the time. Turning down the heater will always save energy (as will turning up the air conditioner temperature in summer).

Heat moves from hot to cold, and the rate of heat transfer increases with greater temperature differences between inside and out. Smaller temperature differences between your house and outside generally means you'll lose less heat (or air conditioning) from inside the house to the outside. Therefore, you will save energy by only heating or cooling as much as necessary for the occupants and time of day.

A programmable thermostat can begin to heat or cool your home 30–60 minutes before you get home, so the temperature is just right when you arrive.

Sometimes, when electrical equipment needs to be replaced or repaired, your co-op plans an outage—and we notify you beforehand so you can prepare.





“NOT WHAT WE SAY ABOUT OUR BLESSINGS, BUT HOW WE USE THEM, IS THE TRUE MEASURE OF OUR THANKSGIVING.”

—W.T. PURKISER

CECA wishes you and yours a richly blessed Thanksgiving.

Our offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 26–27, to allow our employees time to celebrate the holiday with their families.

CECA

P.O. Box 729
Comanche, TX 76442

Operating in Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Mills, Shackelford and Stephens counties

HEADQUARTERS

201 W. Wrights Ave.
Comanche, TX 76442

EARLY OFFICE

1801 CR 338
Early, TX 76801

EASTLAND OFFICE

1311 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448

OFFICE HOURS

Comanche Office: Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Early Office: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed from 1 to 2 p.m.

Eastland Office: Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

YOUR LOCAL PAGES

This section of Texas Co-op Power is produced by CECA each month to provide you with information about current events, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Shirley at the Comanche office or at sdukes@ceca.coop.

Contact Us

CALL US

1-800-915-2533 toll-free

FIND US ON THE WEB

www.ceca.coop



facebook.com/CECA.coop



Making safety one of your holiday traditions can help ensure a truly joyful holiday season.

PAMELA MOORE | ISTOCK.COM

Holiday Entertaining Safety

AS THANKSGIVING AND Christmas approach, use these tips to ensure that your home is ready for all of the festive activities of the holiday season.

Fire Safety

Test your smoke alarms monthly and make sure that your house is protected by an adequate number of working alarms.

Smoke alarms should be installed in each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home.

Share your fire escape plan, including the location of your outside meeting place, with your overnight guests.

Keep halls, stairs and doorways properly illuminated and free of clutter and other objects that could hinder an escape during a fire emergency.

Decorating Safety

Avoid overloading electrical outlets, which can overheat and cause a fire.

Do not place extension cords where they could be tripping hazards.

Do not run extension cords under rugs or furniture.

Keep all decorations at least 3 feet away from heat sources, including space heaters and fireplaces.

Keep young visitors in mind: Place cords, breakables, candles and other potentially dangerous items out of children's reach.

Turn off and unplug all decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.

Use only weatherproof electrical devices for outside activities. Protect outdoor electrical devices from moisture.

Heating Equipment Safety

Have your heating system inspected annually by a licensed professional.

Use space heaters properly and safely. Keep them out of high-traffic areas and at least 3 feet from anything that can burn.

Do not leave a space heater running unattended. Turn off space heaters and unplug them when you leave the room or go to sleep.

Never leave an open flame, including a fireplace, unattended.

Child Safety

When hosting small children, be sure to put items out of reach that might present a choking hazard—coins, jewelry and especially small batteries, which carry an added risk if ingested.

Move all cleaning products and other dangerous items out of reach of children and store them in a locked area.

Set your water heater temperature to 120 degrees to reduce the risk of scalding.

Install tamper-resistant receptacles to prevent electrical shocks and burns, and use safety covers on unused outlets.

Never allow children to play with electrical decorations or cords.

Electrical Safety

Outdoor outlets should be protected with GFCI technology to reduce the risk of electric shock.

Avoid overloading electrical outlets, which can overheat and cause a fire.

Check outlets regularly for problems, including overheating, loose connections, reversed polarity or corrosion.

Cooking Safety

Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling or broiling.

Keep young children at least 3 feet away from cooking appliances.

Keep towels, potholders and curtains away from hot surfaces.

Wear short or close-fitting sleeves. Loose clothing can catch fire.

YOUTH TOUR

20 STUDENTS!
JOIN US IN
WASHINGTON D.C.
JUNE 8-17

*This isn't your typical tour
of Washington, D.C.
This is a trip of a lifetime!*

When is it? June 8-17, 2016

How much does it cost? \$0! Students' expenses are funded entirely by CECA.

Who Can Apply? Any student, Sophomore through Senior, who attends a school in one of the twenty five schools served by CECA.

How do I apply? You may obtain an application from your school counselor, download an application from our website at www.ceca.coop, or contact our Member Service Department at 800-915-2533.

When do I need to apply? The deadline for entries is November 30, 2015.



For more information contact Shirley at 800-915-2533 or sdukes@ceca.coop

Day 1: Tour the Texas State Capital and the Bob Bullock Museum in Austin

Day 2: Arrive in D.C. and visit the Washington Zoo, National Cathedral, and Pentagon City Mall

Day 3: Visit the Tomb of the Unknown, Kennedy's Grave Site, Arlington Cemetery, Lincoln Memorials; Driving Tour of Washington at night

Day 4: Tour Mount Vernon and Theodore Roosevelt Memorial; Shop Old Town Alexandria

Day 5: Tour Ford Theater, Air & Space Museum, Old Post Office Pavilion; Visit the Hard Rock Cafe

Day 6: Photo Session on Capital Hill; Visit Congressmen; Tour House and Senate Chambers, Supreme Court, Library of Congress, Union Station; Attend Sunset Parade at Iwo Jima

Day 7: Photo Session at White House; Visit Smithsonian Museums; Dinner/Dance

Day 8: Return to Austin; Closing night dinner



Save BIG with Your Co-op Connections Card

Have You Checked Out the Co-op Connections Card Lately?

CECA'S COMMITMENT TO YOU GOES BEYOND providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity. We're always looking for ways to provide value to our members and our community, especially during tough economic times. CECA's Co-op Connections card is a money-saving tool we're proud to offer our membership. The card connects you with discounts on everything from hotel stays to prescription drugs.

Healthy Savings

The Co-op Connections card offers a Healthy Savings discount and has saved CECA members more than \$95,000 on prescription drugs. The card now contains even more benefits, including significant savings on lab and imaging services, chiropractic, dental, vision and hearing care.

The Healthy Savings package is available at no cost to members who carry the Co-op Connections card and present it to participating providers. This benefit is part of CECA's commitment to giving back.

"The Healthy Savings package will help our members stretch their paychecks and underscore that CECA is always looking out for its members," said Alan Lesley, CECA general manager.

To locate providers that participate in the Healthy Savings program, call 1-800-800-7616, or visit healthysavings.coop. Savings examples include 20–60 percent off eyeglasses, contact lenses and eye exams; 20–40 percent discounts on a range of dental care services; and 30–50 percent off chiropractic treatments.

"Many insurance plans do not include provisions for dental, hearing and vision care," Lesley said. "With the Healthy Savings package, CECA members get no-cost access to five discounted health benefit areas: vision, dental, hearing, lab and imaging, and chiropractic care."

Coupons

Thanks to a partnership agreement with Coupons.com, CECA members holding the Co-op Connections card save big on trips to the grocery store and shopping online. All you



have to do is visit ceca.coop and click on the Co-op Connections card link. From there, just click on the "Coupons" link, and let the savings begin!

CECA's customized website gives you access to hundreds of coupons that you can print to use for groceries, household and personal products, and pet care. You can find coupons for favorites such as Cheerios, Tyson chicken, Caribou Coffee and Keebler crackers. You can even sign up for a virtual savings card that allows you to get larger coupons and daily deals that offer up to 90 percent savings on family fun, restaurants and more.

There's even something for you online shoppers. In addition to printable coupons, there is also a gallery of promotional codes from popular retailers such as Target, Best Buy and Macy's.

Make sure to check back often as new coupons are added every day. Don't forget to visit connections.coop to discover all the ways you can save.

Pet Care

For many of us, pets are a beloved part of our family, but caring for them can be expensive. The Co-op Connections card now offers you access to Pet Assure at reduced rates.

Some of the benefits of Pet Assure include:

- ▶ 25 percent off all in-office medical services performed by a network veterinarian
- ▶ 5–35 percent savings at participating online and local merchants on pet supplies such as food, pharmaceuticals, beds, toys and vitamins

- ▶ Free pet ID tags and 24-hour location service for lost pets
- ▶ Separately, cardholders receive 10 percent off online purchases at 1-800-petmeds.com for prescriptions and other things to keep your pet healthy and strong. Don't forget to check out the pets category on connections.coop for more than 200 offers on pet resorts and grooming, as well as supplies for horses, birds and other animals.

I guess you could say that man's best friend has a new best friend.

Online

Just in time for the holidays, the Co-op Connections card can also be used when you shop online and at nearly 23,000 businesses nationwide. To search for discounts or to find out more about your card, visit the Co-op Connections website.

This Card Is Everywhere, Man!

Like the old song goes, the Co-op Connections card has been everywhere, saving CECA members money across the country. From rental cars and gas to lodging in all 50 states, the card will make your next getaway more affordable.

The Co-op Connections card offers discounts on Hertz, Alamo and National rental cars. So as soon as you get off the plane, your "deal on wheels" will be waiting. For large hotel chains such as Wyndham, Ramada, Days Inn, Motel 6 and Best Western, we have secured the best prices around. Just visit ceca.coop and click on the Co-op Connections card to book in

CECA's Co-op Connections card offers discounts on everything from hotel stays to prescription drugs.

advance. We even have discounts at Six Flags and other great theme parks for weekend fun that the whole family can enjoy.

If you are visiting neighboring towns or states, remember that our card is good wherever Co-op Connections discounts have been established. There is a network of more than 24,000 discounts throughout the country. Our national discounts will work for you wherever you may be headed.

CECA is a part of the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives brand, a nationwide alliance of more than 745 consumer-owned electric cooperatives dedicated to serving their members and communities with integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

We're eager to answer any questions you have about the card and how to take advantage of the discounts it provides. For questions, or to get a new card, contact us at 1-800-915-2533.



Get 10-60 percent off health-related costs and services.

Find all the ways to save at connections.coop.



This is not insurance, nor is it intended to replace insurance. This plan provides discounts at certain health care providers for medical services. This plan does not make payments directly to the providers of medical services. The plan member is obligated to pay for all health care services, but will receive a discount from those health care providers who have contracted with the discount plan organization. For full disclosure, visit healthysavings.coop. Or write to: Discount Medical Plan Organization New Benefits, Ltd., Attn: Compliance Department, P.O. Box 671309, Dallas, TX 76367-1309.