

FEC[®] POWER

Source

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A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative

Winter Weather Travel Tips

If you travel in inclement weather for the holidays, be sure to carry an emergency kit with at least the following items:

- First-aid kit
- Blankets
- Compass
- Flashlight with spare batteries
- Bottles of water
- Flares
- Protein snacks for quick energy like nutrition bars, dried fruit, and nuts.
- A shovel
- Sand, salt, or cat litter for traction
- Spare tire and jack
- Snow/Tire chains
- 12-Volt cell phone charger and/or a power bank portable charger
- Extra gloves



1. When driving in rain, ice, or snow, be sure to increase your following distance by at least two car lengths.
2. Don't forget to leave a copy of your travel plans with someone you trust and periodically check in with that person.
3. Always wear your safety belt and remind passengers to wear theirs as well. Children should ride in properly installed child seats. Have the seats checked at a local hospital, police station, fire station, or your insurance agency.

WARNING!

If you connect an electric generator to the main electrical supply coming into the house, the electrical generator could feed back into Farmers' Electric's system and electrocute workers who are repairing the electrical lines.

To avoid this type of back-feeding onto the system, you must have a qualified, licensed electrician install a double-pole, double-throw transfer switch between the generator and utility power in compliance with all state and local electrical codes. (A minimum of 10-gauge wiring must be used.)

Your generator might not be large enough to handle the load of all the lights, appliances, TV, etc. at one time. To prevent dangerous overloading, calculate wattage requirements correctly.

Merry Christmas!



On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the entire staff of Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years.

Farmers' Electric Cooperative offices will be closed December 22 and 25 and January 1 in observance of the holidays.

In case of an emergency, please call (800) 445-8541.

Our line crews are on call 24 hours a day.

Manager's Message...**Lance Adkins, GM****Be Thankful, Greatful, and Blessed**

It is hard to believe Christmas is almost here. Thanksgiving Day was the warmest, calmest Thanksgiving I can recall. In fact, the weather was so nice, I spent Thursday evening and "Black Friday" raking leaves and cleaning up the yard, rather than battling the crowds in the stores. So, like normal for us, the tree is not up and we've barely begun shopping for gifts.

This past weekend Pam, my wife, and I were planning to attend a Christmas party on Friday night. I had just gotten back in town after several days in Santa Fe, was tired, and not really in the "mood" for an evening of

mingling and chitchat. Each guest was asked to bring a gift suitable for a young child for "Operation Christmas Cheer." Standing in line for my second-round of jalapeno poppers, a young man stationed at Cannon Airforce Base struck up a conversation, stating it was he and his wife collecting the gifts. He went on to say that, over the past several years they have made a special effort to provide some Christmas Cheer to children who are in the hospital undergoing treatment and their families. Their daughter, now a first-grader, was diagnosed with a brain tumor before her first birthday, was in the hospital for surgery and treatment over her first Christmas, and they had been blessed by others who brought gifts and goodies to the hospital.

I found this particularly touching as our granddaughter, Piper, has been in and out of the hospital battling leukemia since she was eighteen-months old. While some of her treatment is done on an outpatient basis, she is currently admitted every three weeks or so for more intense chemo and steroid therapy at Denver Children's Hospital.

We have made a few trips up to visit when she is in for treatment and are amazed at how vast the hospital and outpatient treatment complex is, realizing there are thousands of children undergoing treatment for a variety of illnesses at any given time. While Piper lives relatively close to the hospital, many families travel hundreds of miles from distant states for treatment and are separated from parents, siblings, and extended family for long periods of time. I am thankful for those who remember these families and minister to and comfort children and their families during the Christmas season.

As I pause to consider those things I am thankful for this year, I am thankful for the doctors, nurses, technicians and workers with the skills and training necessary to provide quality healthcare. I am thankful too for those who conduct research and develop treatment options to address illness and disease. I am thankful for the many in our community who continue to pray for Piper and encourage our family. I am also thankful for the many we have met who have already traveled this road, their children survivors, now grown and living completely normal lives! Christmas is about hope and promise.

I also want to thank those in our communities that minister and serve those in need during the holiday season and throughout the year. This past Sunday, our Sun-



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day School Class took up a collection to help an area family in need as well as to send care packages to troops from CAFB who are deployed and away from family. I challenge readers to look for opportunities to serve others during this holiday season and into the new year.

Thank you too, for the support and encouragement you give those who work for you here at Farmers' Electric! Merry Christmas!

Until next month,



Why Seal and Insulate?

Air that leaks through your home's envelope – the outer walls, windows, doors, and other openings – wastes a lot of energy and increases your utility costs. A well-sealed envelope, coupled with the right amount of insulation, can make a real difference on your utility bills.



Increase Comfort.

Sealing leaks and adding insulation can improve the overall comfort of your home and help to fix many of these common problems:

- Reduced noise from outside
- Less pollen, dust and insects (or pests) entering your home
- Better humidity control
- Lower chance for ice dams on the roof/eaves

Most Homes Will Benefit.

Most homes in the United States don't have enough insulation and have significant air leaks. In fact, if you added up all the leaks, holes and gaps in a typical home's envelope, it would be the equivalent of having a window open every day of the year!

Rebates from Farmers' Electric.

Currently FEC offers a **\$500** cash-back rebate for qualifying homes that have added insulation to at least R30. Call for more details.

Scholarship Applications Available Now!

Farmers' Electric Cooperative will be awarding scholarships again this year through the Farmers' Electric Education Foundation. Scholarship applications may be obtained from area high school guidance counsellors or from cooperative office locations in Clovis, Ft. Sumner, and Santa Rosa. Scholarship applications can also be requested by calling the Clovis office at 575-762-4466 or 800-445-8541 or by going online to www.fec-nm.org. All cooperative members and their dependents are eligible to apply for these scholarships.



Don't Delay! Deadline For Applications Is February, 1, 2018!

Energy and Safety Tips – Have Your Furnace Checked Annually

Did you know that your furnace and air conditioner, on average, account for 50% of your utility bill; more in the summer and winter, and lower in the spring and fall. Did you also know that if your equipment is not properly maintained, it could be costing you additional money each month? Each heating season you need to have your furnace and/or heat pump checked by a licensed service company.

There are a few things that you, as a homeowner, can do to help keep your system running most efficiently – like replacing your air filter at least every other month. If gas, visually inspecting the burner flame (it should be blue in color, yellow means it is getting too much gas flow). Also, keep items clear from all sides of the furnace. However, a heating service company can disassemble the furnace and clean it properly. They will inspect the heat exchangers, the flue piping and fittings, test the ignition, ensure proper burning, inspect the electrical components, test all the equipment safeties, and perform a carbon monoxide test. They can also address and check all components associated with electric furnaces.

Because many Farmers' Electric members utilize gas/propane to heat their homes, we suggest this maintenance not only to make your system operate as efficiently as possible, but we want you to be safe as well. Gas has proven to be a very effective heat source, but at the same time, if neglected, can be dangerous. Each year, over 500 people die from carbon

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Attention

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2017. To avoid potential disconnection of services, please contact the Human Services Department for eligibility information for the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at 800-283-4465. Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2017 through March 15, 2018, if you qualify for LIHEAP and have no past due amount or are making the agreed upon payments.

Atención

Proteccion contra la interrupcion de servicio de invierno comienza el 15 de Noviembre del 2017. Para evitar la posibilidad de desconexion. Favor de ponerse en contact con el Departamento de Servicios Humanos para informarse acerca de los requisitos de elegibilidad para el Programa de Asistencia Energetica de Bajos Ingresos (LIHEAP) al 1-800-283-4465, Su servicio no sera desconectado de Noviembre 15 a Marzo 15, 2018 si califica para el Programa de Asistencia Energetica de Bajos Ingresos y no tiene saldo atrasado ni a fallado con su acuerdo de pagos fijos.

Youth Tour 2018



In 2018, FEC will again sponsor two area high school Juniors (summer after Junior year) on the week-long, Government in Action Youth Tour in Washington, D. C. Please call 800-445-8541 for more details on this exciting opportunity! We promise this will be a trip of a lifetime!

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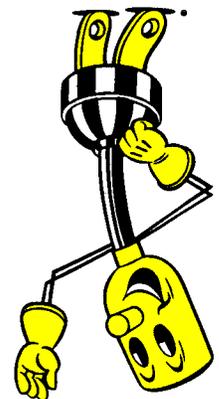
monoxide poisoning. Many of these deaths could have been avoided with a simple check of the heating system.

Here are some additional safety tips for you:

- Never discard hot ashes from your fireplace or wood-burn-ing stove inside or near the house. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house.
- Never use a range or an oven as a supplemental heating source.
- If you use an electric space heater, do not over-load the circuit. Only use extension cords which have the necessary rating to carry the load.
- Avoid using electric space heaters in bathrooms, any other areas where they may come in contact with water.
- Frozen water pipes? Never try to thaw them with a blow torch or other open flame, (the pipe could conduct the heat and ignite the wall structure inside the wall space). Use hot water or a UL labeled device such as a hand-held blow dryer for thawing.
- If windows are used as emergency exits in your home, practice using them in the event fire should start. Be sure that all windows open easily.
- If there is a fire hydrant near your home, you can assist the fire department by keeping the hydrant clear of snow so that when it is needed, it can be located easily. In the summer keep weeds clear of the hydrant.
- Be sure every area of your home has working smoke alarms. If utilizing gas, make sure you have carbon monoxide detectors as well.



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