

# Thank a Lineman April 11

**AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES DESIGNATED** the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

The resolution, adopted unanimously by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Board of Directors, says this about linemen and the proper recognition of their contributions:

“Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on; Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure; Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen;

Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the second Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives, materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America’s Electric Cooperatives.”

On April 11 this year, Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative will honor the dedicated people who work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on. We proudly recognize all electric linemen for the services they perform around the clock in dangerous circumstances to keep power flowing and protect the public’s safety.

Your co-op’s linemen maintain more than 3,700 miles of line in our service territory.

“Our lineworkers are the first responders of our electric



The next time you see a lineman, take a moment to thank him for all he does to keep the lights on.

distribution system, and they work around the clock on high-voltage lines,” HOTEK General Manager Rick Haile says. “Conditions can be dangerous, but they power through to ensure reliable service for our members.”

We invite all our members to take a moment and thank linemen for the work they do. If you see a lineman at the grocery store or a local ball game, shake his hand and let him know you appreciate his work. If you post on social media, use #thankalinenman to show your support for the heroes who light our lives.

## Statement of Nondiscrimination

**HEART OF TEXAS ELECTRIC** Cooperative is an equal-opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form found online at [ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) or at any USDA office, or call 1-866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form.

Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, by fax to (202) 690-7442 or email at [program\\_intake@usda.gov](mailto:program_intake@usda.gov). Privacy will be maintained to the extent possible.



HAPPY EARTH DAY!

APRIL 22

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## Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative

Operating in Bell, Bosque, Coryell, Falls, Hamilton, McLennan and Milam counties

### CEO AND GENERAL MANAGER

Rick Haile

### DIRECTORS

- Garland Cook, District 1
- DeWayne Draeger, District 6
- Kermit Dreyer, District 7
- Paul Edge, District 2
- Dan Foster, District 9
- Kenneth Hollas, District 3
- Bobby Nawara, District 4
- Allen Shows, District 5
- Larry Stock, District 8

# Idle or Abandoned Services

*Maintenance costs can be a burden on all co-op members*

**HEART OF TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** services more than 20,600 meters and 3,700 miles of power line. The cooperative strives to provide the best possible service at the most economical cost to all its members. Keeping to a minimum idle or abandoned services on the system reduces the potential for outages and liability claims.

To better serve its members, Heart of Texas EC reminds members of the cooperative's policy on idle or abandoned service lines.

Idle services are accounts that have been disconnected and are not paying an electricity bill or service fee. An account is considered to be abandoned when it has remained inactive and has had no service fees paid for one year.

Even though these accounts are disconnected, Heart of Texas EC continues to maintain the wires, transformers and meters that serve them. Because no service fees are being paid at these locations, the cost for this maintenance must be shared by the active bill-paying members of Heart of Texas EC.

Heart of Texas EC may remove these services without notice at its discretion.

If a property owner potentially served by the line wishes to have the line left in place, the property owner must agree to pay to return the line to a safe and usable condition, not to exceed the price per foot for new construction, and pay at least the monthly minimum for a meter. To avoid being deemed abandoned, any service that is disconnected must immediately begin paying the minimum service charge, which is \$18 a month for a residential account.

If a service has been removed, returning service to the property is subject to the line extension policy in effect at the time.

The purpose of enforcing the minimum account fee is to keep active members from having to pay for the upkeep and maintenance necessary on inactive services.

As maintenance costs increase, it is more and more necessary that those costs be allocated properly and paid by all services contributing to these costs.

Heart of Texas EC has about 1,600 idle or abandoned service accounts.

This policy allows the cooperative to remove some of these inactive accounts or at least recover some of the costs associated with maintaining them.

Heart of Texas EC is dedicated to providing electricity to its rural members in the Central Texas area. For more information regarding the co-op's policy on idle or abandoned service lines, call the Heart of Texas EC office at 1-800-840-2957.



## Contact Us

### McGREGOR OFFICE

**(254) 840-2871** local

**1-800-840-2957** toll-free

1111 S. Johnson Drive • P.O. Box 357  
McGregor, TX 76657

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Drive-thru 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

### ROSEBUD OFFICE

**(254) 231-0444** local

**1-800-840-2957** toll-free

159 Loop 265 • P.O. Box 598  
Rosebud, TX 76570

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

### CREDIT/DEBIT CARD PAYMENTS

Online at [hotec.coop](http://hotec.coop)

By phone at 1-855-399-2688

### FIND US ON THE WEB

[hotec.coop](http://hotec.coop)



# Safety Notice About Underground Utilities

**BEAUTIFYING OUR HOMES IS IMPORTANT** to many of us. If your home is served by underground electric cable, you may be tempted to hide the transformer cabinet from sight by planting shrubs or flowers around it. Please refrain from doing so.

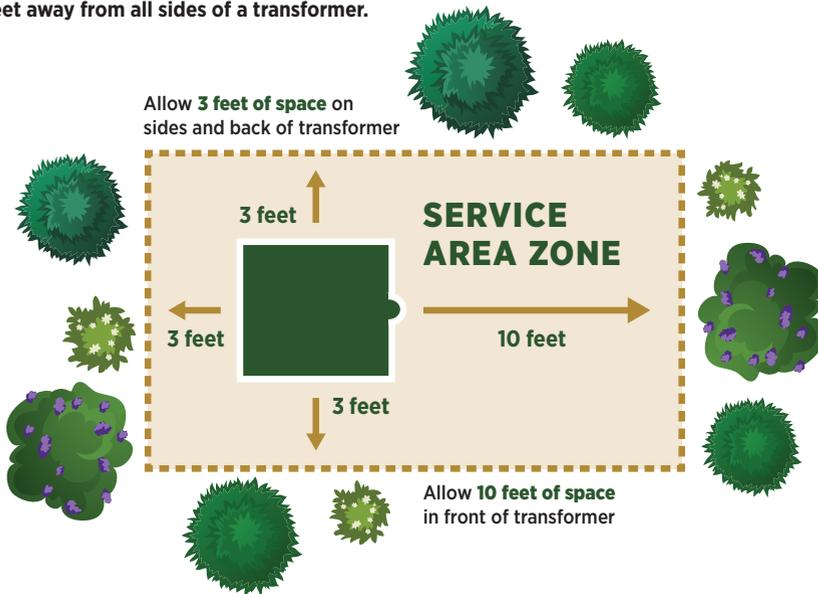
Aside from the possibility of damage from overheating, it also is important that you avoid covering or blocking the cabinet to ensure that Heart of Texas EC employees can easily access it for maintenance and repairs.

Digging or working close to the unit can be dangerous and even life-threatening. These cabinets contain high-voltage lines that should be avoided. We ask that you emphasize the dangers of these units to your children and other family members, and keep them clear.

For the safety of your family and ours, please abide by our underground policy. Give transformer cabinets a wide berth and keep them free from debris or cover.

For questions or concerns, please contact your local Heart of Texas EC office.

**Shrubs and other structures must be at least 10 feet away from the door opening and at least 3 feet away from all sides of a transformer.**



**If circuit breakers trip or fuses blow repeatedly, contact a qualified repairman.**

## Restoring Power

**THE ELECTRICITY THAT POWERS** your home can be a best friend or a deadly enemy—the difference is understanding. With a basic understanding of your home’s electrical system, you can address short circuits or blown breakers and keep the power flowing safely.

Your home wiring is just a number of loops, or circuits. A “live” wire brings current to a light, appliance or outlet. A “neutral” wire returns current to its source. Between your home’s inside wiring and the outside power lines is a service panel.

The service panel contains fuses or circuit breakers that interrupt power to specific circuits in case of a short circuit or overload. If this happens:

1. Unplug all affected appliances.
2. Switch off power at the main switch.
3. Try to determine the cause of the problem and correct it if possible (an overloaded circuit, a faulty plug, etc.).
4. Switch the circuit breaker that’s off back to “On.”
5. If you have fuses instead of breakers, replace the fuse that has a broken metal strip with a new fuse of the same rating—typically 15 amperes. Never use anything other than a fuse to replace a fuse; you could cause a fire.
6. Restore power at the main switch.



## Call Before You Dig

**HEART OF TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

McGregor (254) 840-2871  
 Rosebud (254) 231-0444  
 Toll-Free 1-800-840-5957

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## HEART OF TEXAS BYLAWS EXCERPT

# Director Nominations and Elections

## SECTION 4.4—DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS.

For each Director position nominated by Members using a Cooperative Service at a Location within the Cooperative Service Area (“Nominating Members”) and scheduled for election by Members at a Member Meeting, the Nominating Members shall nominate individuals as provided in this Bylaw. At least thirty (30) days before the nomination of individuals for Director Positions, the Cooperative must provide Members with this Bylaw section.

**(a) Nominating Committee Nominations.** At least sixty (60) days before the Member Meeting, the Board shall appoint a Member Committee consisting of at least one (1) Member from each Director District (“Nominating Committee”). Nominating Committee members may not be an existing, or a Close Relative of an existing, Cooperative Official or known Director Candidate.

At least thirty (30) days before the Member Meeting at which Members are scheduled to elect Directors, and on behalf of the Nominating Members, the Nominating Committee shall:

- (1) Nominate at least one (1) individual to run for election for each Director position nominated by the Nominating Members and scheduled for election by Members at the Member Meeting (“Nominating Committee Nominations”); and
- (2) Display the Nominating Committee Nominations at the Cooperative’s principal office.

If, before the scheduled election, a Nominating Committee Nominee dies, becomes incapacitated, or ceases to be qualified to be a Director, the Nominating Committee may nominate another individual. As determined by the Board, the Cooperative may reasonably compensate or reimburse Nominating Committee members.

**(b) Member Petition Nominations.** In addition to Nominating Committee Nominations, Nominating Members may nominate, through petition, individuals to run for election for a Director position nominated by Nominating Members and scheduled for election by Members at the Member Meeting (“Member Petition Nominations”). Nominating Members make Member Petition Nominations by delivering to the Cooperative at least eighty (80) business days before the Member Meeting in writing for each Member Petition Nomination (“Member Petition”):

- (1) Listing, on each page of the Member Petition, the name of the Member Petition Nominee;
- (2) Indicating, on each page of the Member Petition, the Director position for which the Member Petition Nominee will run; and
- (3) Containing the printed names, addresses and telephone numbers, and original dated signatures signed within sixty (60) days of the first signature, of at least fifty (50) Nominating

Members from the District being petitioned for. After verifying that a Member Petition complies with this Bylaw, the Cooperative shall display the Member Petition Nomination in approximately the same location as the Nominating Committee Nominations.

**(c) Nominations from the Floor.** Nominating Members may not nominate from the floor of a Member Meeting an individual to run for election to a Director position scheduled for election at the Member Meeting.

**(d) Notice of Director Nominations.** At least ten (10) days before a member Meeting at which Members are scheduled to elect Directors, the Cooperative shall notify Members of the:

- (1) director positions scheduled for election by Members;
- (2) names and corresponding Director positions of all Nominating Committee Nominations; and
- (3) names and corresponding Director positions of all Member Petition Nominations.

## SECTION 4.5—DIRECTOR ELECTIONS.

At each Member Meeting at which a Director position is scheduled for election by Members using a Cooperative Service at a Location within the Cooperative Service Area (“Electing Members”), the Electing Members shall elect the Director from the Nominating Committee Nominations or Member Petition Nominations by a plurality of votes cast by Electing Members with a Member Quorum present in person or voting by Mail Ballot or by Email Ballot. Electing Members may not vote for write-in candidates. In the event of a tie vote, the election will be determined by a coin flip. It is the Board’s discretion to determine if an election will be by vote of the members at a meeting or by mail and/or email ballot. At least thirty (30) days before the nomination of individuals for Director positions, the Cooperative must provide Members with this Bylaw section.

In addition to other information required by these Bylaws, a Mail Ballot or Email for electing Directors must:

- (1) list the names, corresponding Director positions, and manner of nomination for Nominating Committee Nominations and Member Petition Nominations; and
  - (2) identify a Director whose Director Term is expiring.
- A drawing by lot must determine the order, listing, and placement of names on a Mail Ballot, Written Ballot, or similar ballot.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee will meet June 2 in Bruceville to nominate individuals to run for election to serve the following districts: **District 1**, Garland Cook; **District 3**, Kenneth Hollas; and **District 7**, Kermit Dreyer.

# Power Outage FAQs

## WHAT CAUSES BLINKS?

**POWER INTERRUPTIONS THAT** might have gone unnoticed years ago are noticed today by the many electric devices all around us. Before digital clocks, we never noticed many power interruptions. Now these aggravating events seem to happen more often. In reality, they are not more frequent; we are just more aware of them.

Some power-quality problems begin in the home or business. A spike (transient surge) might occur in a building's wiring when electric motors, such as those on a refrigerator or air conditioner, start up. Other problems might come from faulty wiring, loose connections, poor grounding and/or inadequate wire size. These conditions can cause partial power, momentary interruptions (blinks), dimming and/or too-bright lights.

Most times, having the power interruption is better than the alternative: having it go out completely. Power interruptions are most often caused by exterior devices installed by Heart of Texas EC to protect the electrical system. These devices are called reclosers. Reclosers essentially act like the circuit breakers in your home, with one major difference: They reset themselves after breaking the circuit.

The intent is that if a tree touches the line or other problem occurs, the recloser will open. The device will reset itself and power will once again flow down the line. If the problem has cleared the line, power will stay on. If the problem still exists, the recloser will operate, or "trip," again. After trying three times, most reclosers are designed to stay open until the problem is fixed, and the device is manually reset. The opening and closing of the recloser is almost instantaneous and is often not even noticed, except by electronic devices such as digital clocks.

The alternative to using a recloser is to use fuses on each line. While greater use of fuses would result in fewer power interruptions, it would also create more outages, as a fuse can only operate once.

HOTEC is continually evaluating our power lines to identify potential problems so that blinks and outages can be avoided. We will never be able to prevent all blinks, but please let us know if your home or business experiences an excessive number of power interruptions or other power

problems, so that we can investigate the issue to better serve you.

## OUTAGES Q&A

### Does HOTEC automatically know when I have lost electric service?

Advanced meters can send outage information in addition to recording your energy use. However, we ask that you continue to call HOTEC when you are experiencing a power outage and do not assume that it has already been reported. With the advanced meters and your help, HOTEC's line crew can quickly pinpoint the areas affected by the outage and get your power back on as soon as possible.

### What can I do to help get my power back on quickly?

► First, check your fuses or circuit breakers to make sure that they have not blown or tripped. If your meter is located away from the house, be sure to check the fuses or breakers below the meter. If HOTEC responds to an outage and the trouble is with your electric service, you might be charged for a service call.

► If you are still without power, it is helpful if you check with your neighbors to see if they have power.

► Call HOTEC to report the outage at 1-800-840-2957. Phones are answered 24/7. Have your account/location number ready when calling and let us know if you have seen or heard anything that might have caused or accompanied the outage, such as sparks, loud noises or trees/limbs on the power lines. This will help our line crews find the problem more quickly to get your power restored.

► Keep away from downed power lines and power poles. Do not cut or clear trees and branches near power lines. Report these hazards to HOTEC immediately at 1-800-840-2957.

### How do you decide whose power to restore first? (See diagram on next page.)

The outage restoration process begins at the substation, where power is supplied to HOTEC's system. After these repairs have been made, crews work on lines serving the greatest number of members until electricity is restored to all main lines. Then, crews begin repairing lines to individual members.

### Why would a crew pass by my house without restoring the power?

Our No. 1 goal is to restore power to as many members as quickly and safely as possible while making the most efficient use of line crews. If you see a HOTEC service crew pass by without stopping, it could be for various reasons:

- Crews might be working to restore main lines.
- They might be responding to an emergency, such as fallen power lines on a road.
- They might need to go past your location to access lines and substations serving your area.

### Why does my neighbor have power and I do not?

It depends upon the cause and location of the problem. Remember to check and make sure your power is not out because of an electrical problem inside your home, such as a tripped breaker or blown fuse. If your neighbor has electricity and you do not, more than likely, your neighbor's home is on a different line.

### What about members with special medical needs?

HOTEC maintains a critical care list. This documentation identifies members who have special medical or protective service emergency needs. Following severe wind, snow, ice or thunderstorms, it's important to remember that damage to HOTEC's distribution system may be extreme. In some cases, it can take many hours or even days to complete repairs. In the case of severe storms, members who must have electricity should be prepared with an emergency backup plan. The plan could include arrangements to move to an alternative location, use a portable generator or install battery backup on important electrical devices. Please notify HOTEC if you have a critical need for electricity by calling 1-800-840-2957.

### Why can't you tell me how long it will take to restore my power?

Each outage is a result of different circumstances. During the process of restoring power, our crews encounter many factors that affect the time it takes to find the problem and make the necessary repairs. Please call HOTEC at 1-800-840-2957 for the most up-to-date information.

**What should I do if a power line falls in my yard?**

Consider all fallen wires to be energized and dangerous. Make sure children, pets and neighbors stay away from the power line and any object(s) it might be touching. Report the fallen power line to HOTECC immediately by calling 1-800-840-2957.

**How should I prepare for outages?**

► Organize a survival kit that includes a hard-wired phone, cellphone, battery-powered radio, clock or watch, flashlight, extra batteries, tap or bottled water, nonperishable food, a manual can opener, first-aid supplies, medicines, matches or lighter, candles and a fire extinguisher. Store the kit in a designated place so that it's easy to find.

► Notify your electric co-op in advance if you or a family member require electricity to operate lifesaving medical equipment.

► Protect valuable electronics and appliances with surge-suppression devices and uninterrupted power supply systems.

► Have a plan for loss of power on your farm or business. Before installing a generator, contact your co-op for safety and installation information.

**How do I protect appliances in my house?**

A lightning strike or downed power line can send a surge of electricity through your home, potentially damaging appliances and electronics. Computers, TVs and other equipment are expensive investments worthy of protection from storm-related damage. Surge protectors provide a defense against power spikes and surges. For information about surge devices, contact the HOTECC Member Services Department at 1-800-840-2957.

**If power goes out, do I need to throw out the food in my refrigerator and freezer?**

To minimize the loss of food during a power outage, limit the number of times you open your refrigerator and freezer doors. If the doors remain closed, refrigerated food can stay cool for about six hours and frozen food can remain safe for two days.

**Is a generator safe to use when I lose power?**

A generator can be a wonderful tool during an outage, especially for helping keep your food fresh and water available. It can also be extremely dangerous if used improperly. Be aware that it's against the law and a violation of electrical codes to connect a generator to your home's electrical circuits without a generator transfer switch automatic-interrupt device.

Without a transfer switch, a generator can become a major fire hazard if it's on line when electrical service is restored by HOTECC. In addition, improper connection of a generator to your home's electrical circuits endangers service crews working to restore power in your area. Connecting an extension cord from your neighbor's home to your electrical system would have the same effect as a running generator.

**Powering Up**

When electricity goes out, most of us expect power will be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm causes widespread damage, longer outages may result. Co-op line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark.

**1 High-Voltage Transmission Lines**

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

**2 Distribution Substation**

Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist down the line.

**3 Main Distribution Lines**

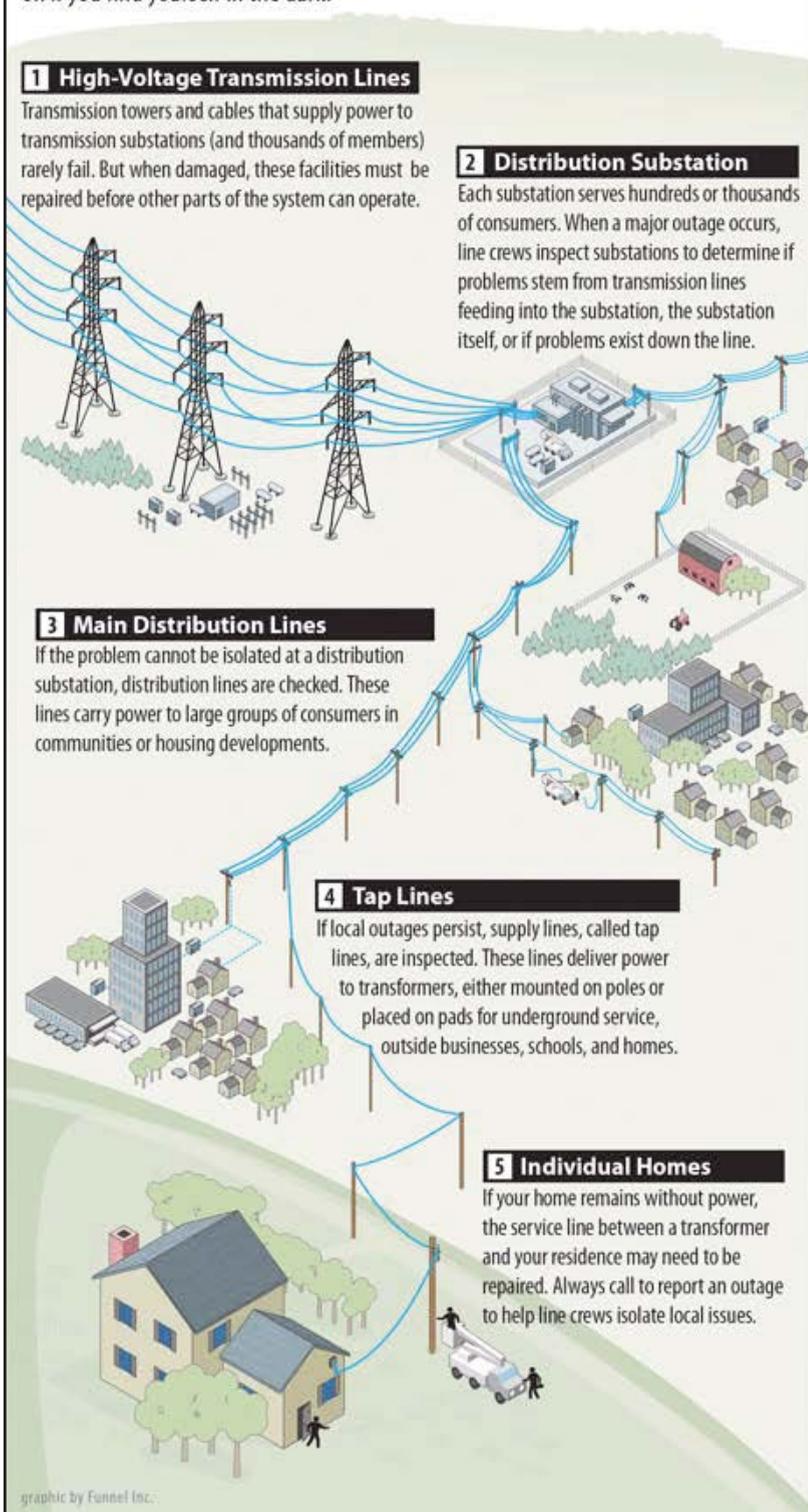
If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

**4 Tap Lines**

If local outages persist, supply lines, called tap lines, are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools, and homes.

**5 Individual Homes**

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issues.



graphic by Funnel Inc.



As part of your spring cleaning, hire a professional to conduct annual maintenance on your AC unit.

# Enjoy Springtime With Energy Savings

**SPRING HAS SPRUNG!** Put mild springtime temperatures to work for your energy bill with these easy suggestions:

**Hire a heating and air-conditioning professional** to check out your air-conditioning system and window AC units. Annual spring maintenance can keep your AC running smoothly. Ask the pro to change or clean the filters while there. Heart of Texas EC offers a \$75 rebate on an HVAC audit and tuneup. Proof of the audit and completed work is required.

**Open the windows.** As soon as it's warm enough to feel comfortable indoors without heat, turn it off and invite inside the warm outdoor air. Natural breezes will freshen a stuffy house that's been closed up all winter. Keeping the heat and AC turned off for as long as possible can save you a bundle on energy.

**Let in the sunshine.** Throw open the drapes or blinds to let bright, warm sun rays into your rooms on mild days. When summer heat arrives, close those drapes during the day to keep the sun from overheating your house.

**If you have a programmable thermostat, use it.** Set it to automatically adjust the temperature so you're not cooling an empty house.

**Switch the direction of ceiling fans.** During spring and summer, fan blades should rotate counterclockwise, pushing cooler air down into the room. Using ceiling fans will allow you to increase your thermostat's temperature setting by up to 4 degrees without sacrificing comfort.

**Have a cookout.** Prepare dinner on your outdoor grill on nice evenings rather than using the stove or oven. Appliances that create heat tend to heat up the whole house.

**Run the dishwasher and clothes dryer after dark.** No need to add heat to your home's air during the day when it's warm outdoors.

**Caulk and weatherstrip windows and doors.** You read about this every spring because you should do it every spring. Caulking doesn't last forever.

**Dress for the weather.** Shed the sweaters and socks when it's warm outside so you can delay the start of air-conditioning season inside.

**Turn down the water heater.** If you snuck it up a couple of degrees during the winter to make your showers extra steamy, it's time to lower it to 120 degrees. Not only is that hot enough, it's also a safer temperature than anything higher, especially if kids or older family members are showering in your home.



Tamper-resistant receptacles have a safety feature to keep objects and tiny fingers out.

## Tamper-Resistant Receptacle

*A permanent safety solution*

**NEARLY SEVEN CHILDREN A DAY** in America are shocked or burned when they slide keys, pins, paper clips and other small objects into electrical outlets in their homes, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International. Up to a dozen of these kids die monthly from the resulting injuries.

That means every room in your house that has an electrical outlet—and that's probably every single room—presents a danger to children who might be tempted to play with outlets.

It costs about \$2 per outlet to replace a home's old receptacles with updated, tamper-resistant versions. These new outlets are designed with a built-in shutter system that prevents objects besides electrical plugs from entering the slots. The shutter won't open as little fingers poke them with small objects, but plugs can open it and fit into the slots because they apply equal pressure simultaneously to both sides of the shutter.

Tamper-resistant receptacles are safer than removable outlet caps because they are built in, and children are unable to detach them.

The National Electrical Code requires new homes to be built with tamper-resistant receptacles, but it's up to the owners of older homes to upgrade their outlets.

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# Understanding Your Utility Bill

**HAVE YOU OPENED YOUR BILL LATELY AND HAD QUESTIONS** about some of the charges listed? To help members better understand their statements, Heart of Texas EC answers some frequently asked questions. The examples used in this article are for residential service. A complete rate schedule can be found online at hotec.coop.

The bill has two separate lines, showing “Wholesale Power Cost” and “Residential Service,” which has led to the most commonly asked question:

## What are the Wholesale Power Cost and the Residential Service Charge? Am I being billed twice?

If your rate starts with a (1), your meter is classified as residential service. If your rates start with a (4), your meter is classified as nonresidential. The Wholesale Power Cost, Residential Service Charge, PCRf (power cost recovery factor) and Availability Charge apply to both kinds of meters. However, there is a difference in cost.

You are not being billed twice for your usage. The Wholesale Power Cost line shows the cost of power purchased from Brazos Electric Power Cooperative, Heart of Texas EC’s power supplier. This charge includes the cost of generating power and transmitting it to the substation, as well as independent system operator fees. This portion of your bill represents a pass-through charge that goes directly to Brazos EPC.

The Residential Service line shows the local costs that the cooperative incurs for distributing power from the substation to the member’s meter. This cost is equal to 1.771 cents per kilowatt-hour. This section also includes an availability charge, which covers the fixed costs of having poles, lines and meters in place.

## What Is the Availability Charge?

All electric utilities have certain fixed expenses associated with providing safe and reliable electric service. These expenses are incurred whether the service is used every day or just a few days or weeks per year, and they cover:

(1) Ongoing operation and maintenance of the electrical distribution system required to bring you electricity at the flip of a switch (hence the name, Availability Charge); (2) annual depreciation of these facilities; (3) principal and interest payments on the long-term debt to build the facilities originally; and (4) expenses related to member accounting, meter reading and billing.

The Availability Charge lets the member know up front what it costs to have electricity available at your meter each month. This fixed amount also prevents an undue financial burden from being placed on active members using regular amounts of electricity by those members who want electricity available, but may not use much.

If you have other questions or concerns in regard to your bill, please contact your local HOTECCOOP office at 1-800-840-2957.



1111 S Johnson Dr PO Box 357  
McGregor TX 76657  
128 Main St PO Box 598  
Rosebud TX 76570

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

McGregor Office Hours 8:00AM - 5:00PM M-F  
Drive Thru 7:30AM - 5:30PM M-F  
Rosebud Office Hours 8:00AM - 5:00PM M-F  
www.hotec.coop

Account Summary Page 1 of 2

**Account Information**

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Cycle # 20  
Service Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Payment Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
Map Location \_\_\_\_\_

**Rate** 11A

Statement Date August 12, 2010

**Current Charges**

Wholesale Power Cost	161.57
Residential Service	56.13
(Includes 18.00 availability charge)	
Operation Round Up	0.30
<b>Total Current Charges</b>	<b>218.00</b>

**Amount Due**

Prior Balance -90.88

us. Please Call: 1-800-840-2957 or 877-468-3269

**Your Heart of Texas EC bill breaks down the various components that make up your monthly service costs.**



RICK PATRICK

## Triple Tomato Chicken

- ¼ cup oil for frying
- 2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs (about 8 thighs)
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- ½ cup red wine (substitute broth or water)
- 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning
- 1 can (14.5 ounces) chopped tomatoes
- 1 can (6 ounces) tomato paste
- Salt to taste
- ¼ cup sun-dried tomatoes
- Cooked pasta or rice to serve

1. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat for about a minute, then add chicken.
2. Fry until done on one side, about 3 minutes, then flip and add garlic. Continue cooking until second side is done.
3. Deglaze pan with wine, broth or water. Reduce heat to medium-low.
4. Add seasoning, chopped tomatoes and tomato paste, and stir.
5. Cover pan with lid and allow to simmer about 10 minutes or until chicken is cooked through. Taste sauce and add salt as desired.
6. Top chicken pieces with sun-dried tomatoes. Serve over pasta or rice.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at **TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM**