

FEC® POWER

Source

Vol. 24 No. 11

Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer

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.

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 monoxide poisoning. Many of these deaths could have been avoided with a simple



See FURNACE on PAGE 4

Manager's Message...**Lance Adkins, GM**

Farmers' Electric (FEC), we were spared much of the damaging conditions as the formation of ice on lines was relatively light and temperatures allowed the weather pattern to transition to snow fairly quickly. With light winds, the snow brought welcomed moisture to the FEC service area as the snow generally stayed where it fell, melting rather than drifting. Our electric cooperative neighbors to the south, and in the Texas panhandle, experienced a little more ice with outages, but nothing like that experienced in Oklahoma.

Most of the information we received for damage and outages in Oklahoma were from area news feeds and from our wholesale power supplier, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC). Weather conditions precipitated the accumulation of ice on October 26, and in a report from WFEC on the morning of October 29, 11 substations remained out of service, with "miles" of transmission line, poles shattered, laying on the ground. Reports and photos of 3 to 4 inches of solid ice proved more than a match for wood, concrete, and steel. One substation continues without transmission service as some 19 miles of line is on the ground. WFEC was able to energize this substation on November 4, some 9 days after the storm began, using tractor-trailer mounted diesel-powered generating units. Making matters more challenging,



available line-workers from across the nation have been busy with repairs during a very active hurricane season.

Come, Rain, Sleet, Snow, or Even Ice... We'll be There

Halloween, trick or treat, came early for electric utilities across portions of New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma and beyond as a rare October ice storm caused wide-spread power disruptions. Difficult travel conditions hampered restoration efforts in the first few days as line crews traveled to the area. For



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To Report An Outage

We are on-call 24 hours each day, 365 days each year, to serve **your** electric power needs.

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 (575) 762-4466
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STORM DAMAGE *from* PAGE 2

On the afternoon of October 27 FEC received a call for assistance from CK Energy, a distribution cooperative headquartered in Binger, Oklahoma, with several thousand members/customers out of power. Several area cooperatives were unable to respond due to loss of employees from COVID illness



or quarantined following exposure. FEC lineman volunteers were preparing to leave early on October 28; however, their departure was delayed to the following day due to poor road conditions along I-40 north and south of Amarillo.

Comments from the FEC line crew volunteers as they rolled into the CK Energy service area was “we didn’t see any poles standing.” Upon arrival, the FEC volunteers attended a safety briefing and were introduced to the CK Energy lineman assigned to work with the FEC crew. This process is designed to keep lineman safe as they work in unfamiliar areas, CK Energy personnel would be responsible for de-energizing and energizing line segments.

FEC volunteers were scheduled to work six days; but, requested to stay additional time as many people were still out of power and the need was great. Fortunately, the weather warmed quickly, and conditions were not too muddy. FEC volunteers noted the satisfaction they felt in being able to restore service to those who had been out of power for so many days, and how grateful folks were for their assistance. At the request of CK Energy, FEC was asked for additional volunteers to replace the first crew. Another six linemen made their way to Oklahoma on November 5, where they continue to work as of this writing.

Until next month,

#STAYSAFENEWMEXICO



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 counselors 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.fecnm.org. All cooperative members and their dependents are eligible to apply for these scholarships.

Don’t Delay! Deadline For Applications Is **February 1, 2021!**



As in the past, there are two different scholarship forms. Be sure when requesting a form that you specify either the “Graduating High School Student Application” or the “Returning College Application.” Both forms are available from any FEC office or are available to download from www.fecnm.org.

This year, the FEC Board of Trustees has authorized (63) \$1,000 scholarships and (1) \$2,000 Glenn Holland Memorial scholarship.

FURNACE *from* **PAGE 1**

check of the heating system.

Here are some additional safety tips for you:

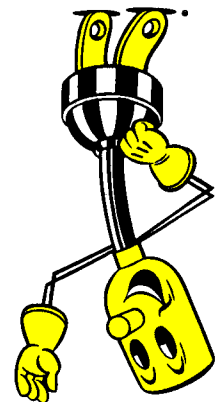
- Never discard hot ashes from your fireplace or wood-burning stove inside or near the house. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house.
- Never use a range or an oven as a supplemental heating source.
- If you use an electric space heater, do not over-load the circuit. Only 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.

ATTENTION: IRRIGATION CONSUMERS
SUBJECT: IRRIGATION ANNUAL
MINIMUM CHARGES

In accordance with Farmers' Electric Cooperative's irrigation rate schedule, certain annual minimum charges apply to all irrigation accounts. Your original minimum charges were calculated through a contract with the Cooperative based on the cost of line extension to the irrigation load. Upon expiration of the contract, the horsepower on that account determines the annual minimum at the rate of \$20.00 per horsepower, but not less than \$110.00 for single-phase service, and not less than \$165.00 for three-phase service.

Under the irrigation rate schedule, consumers have one calendar year, (approximately December 20 through December 20 of the following year), in which to use the annual minimum charges. The December billing will reflect the remaining charges, if any.

If you have any questions regarding the annual minimum charges for your irrigation account(s), please contact the Cooperative's Billing Department at 575-762-4466 or 800-445-8541.



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