



Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER

A Supplement of Oklahoma Living Published by Lake Region Electric Cooperative for its members.

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Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

According to the Consumer Electronics Association, the average household owns 24 consumer electronics products, which are responsible for 12 percent of household electricity use. ENERGY STAR-certified audio/video equipment is up to 50 percent more efficient than conventional models.

Source:
EnergyStar.gov

Update Your Account Phone Number

- *New Cell Phone Number, Disconnect a Land Line, Let us Know*

Please help us keep your account information up-to-date. Our goal is to minimize outages, but when events happen beyond our control such as automobile accidents, winter storms, freezing rain, or other occurrences of nature take place, it is impossible to guarantee

uninterrupted service.

Lake Region Electric Cooperative has made outage reporting a faster, more efficient process. Simply dial the number **918-772-2526** or toll-free at **1-800-364-LREC** and your outage will be reported automatically based on your phone number. If we have your correct phone number on file. It's one more way LREC is putting technology to work to serve you better.

If we do not have your correct phone number on file LREC's automated phone system will not recognize your account when you call. The automated system has caller ID which will match your phone number listed on your account to the number you are calling from.

We would like to have cell phone numbers 2087022 so you can report an outage with the automated phone system without having to speak with an operator, as well, your co-op can contact you if needed. During large scale outages, and high call volume, members may be waiting on the phone for a while. The automated phone system can speed up the outage reporting process.

You can update your phone number by contacting our offices or on our website at www.lrecok.coop/update-phone-number-address



New at this year's Annual Meeting. We are asking the members to bring a copy of your bill. We will scan a bar code on your bill to register you at this year's Annual Meeting to vote and enter your name in the prize drawing. Prepaid account members can login to the Smarthub App and we can scan your phone. This will speed up the registration process with less time waiting in line. LREC's Annual Meeting will be April 29, 2017, at Hulbert Public Schools.



NEW

Prepare Your Home for Old Man Winter

Ice and Heavy Snows Can Produce Prolonged Power Outages

Heavy accumulations of ice and snow coupled with fluctuating winter temperatures can bring down utility poles, trees and limbs with the ability to disrupt power for days. With this comes a threat to property and also to life itself.

Lake Region is devoted to restoring power to members, but severe damage can take days or weeks to repair. LREC wants you to know how to stay safe and comfortable during winter power outages. Preparation for power outages begins before cold temperatures set in. Your home should be properly insulated with caulking and weather-stripping around doors, windows and other cracks. If you have trees with limbs that could fall on power lines, the limbs should be trimmed by a professional. If the trees are near the power lines LREC will trim them. You can request tree work online at <https://goo.gl/CkL9Ps> or by calling 918-772-6912.



You should also have an emergency kit ready to go. The kit should have flashlights, a radio, batteries, nonperishable food, water, medicines, and extra blankets.

If you have done all this preparation, a winter power outage will be less stressful for you and your family. When a storm hits and you are without power, keep the following in mind:

- Avoid going outside. Power lines and other energized equipment could be hidden by snow, ice and debris.
- Treat all downed lines as energized, and dangerous. Downed power lines do not have to be sparking, arcing or moving to be dangerous.
- Switch off lights and appliances to prevent damaging appliances and overloading circuits when power is restored. Leave one lamp or light switch on as a signal for when your power returns.
- To prevent water pipes from freezing, keep faucets turned on slightly so that water drips from the tap. Know how to shut off water valves just in case a pipe bursts.
- Check on elderly or disabled friends and neighbors.
- Stay inside and dress in warm, layered clothing.
- Close off unneeded rooms.
- When using an alternative heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards and be sure to properly ventilate. Always keep a multipurpose, dry-chemical fire extinguisher nearby and know how to use it.
- Stuff towels and rags underneath doors to keep the heat in.
- Cover windows at night.
- Keep a close eye on the temperature in your home. Infants or persons over age 65 are more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends, relatives or in a shelter if you can't keep your home warm.
- Consider installing ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) for electrical outlets in areas that might be affected by melting snow or ice. This will help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries. Portable GFCIs that do not require tools for installation can also be purchased for winter emergency supply kits.

Lake Region hopes you will not have to endure an extended power outage this winter. If you do, a little knowledge and preparation can make the experience less stressful. To report an outage please call 918-772-2526 or 800-364-5732 or use your SmartHub App.

In-Home Fiber Installs Continue in Zone 5 - Perk

Exciting times are happening for Lake Region! We have begun scheduling in-home installation for new fiber optic services, high-speed internet, HD cable television & home phone. If you are a new user in Zone 5 – Perk, welcome to the rural broadband revolution.

We love hearing from those who are now using the service and encourage those who are waiting to pre-register - Do Not Wait. Once crews are finished in Zone 5 - Perk, crews will relocate to the next zone and it may be awhile before we can get back to this area. Remember, your electric cooperative is stepping up to the plate to bring the gold standard of broadband internet. We are working hard for you! You can stay up to date on everything related to fiber by following us on our Facebook/LakeRegionTechnology & Communications or visit our website at register.lrecok.net.



5 DISTRACTED DRIVING STATS YOU SHOULD KNOW



3,179



Number of people killed each year in vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers

(Federal Communications Commission, 2014)



1 in 4

The probability that a vehicle crash involved a cellphone

(National Safety Council, 2014)

60%

Percentage of people who use cellphones while driving

(Harris Poll, 2011)



21-24

Age group most likely to send a text or email while driving

(Distraction.gov, 2012)

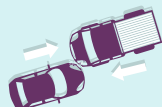


4X↑

RISK

How much using a cellphone increases your risk of crashing

(National Safety Council, 2014)



Shop for post-holiday deals on LED Christmas lights and trees

The best time to plan for an energy-efficient 2017 Christmas light display is before Valentine's Day. Online and in stores, retailers are offering rock-bottom prices on holiday decorations as they make room on their shelves for the spring gardening season. So it's a great time to look for deeply discounted LED lights to decorate your house and tree later this year. LED lights aren't cheap, so buying them during post-holiday sales makes them more affordable. If you wait until November or December to make the switch, you'll pay approximately twice as much for LED lights than for more traditional lights. But they'll pay for themselves over time because they use up to one-third less power than the incandescent lights that still

brighten most Christmas trees and homes. That means you'll save some money on your holiday energy bill. And you'll save in the long run because LED lights last up to 10 times longer than traditional lights, and they're more durable.



Energy Savings for the Winter Season

While saving money through greater energy efficiency may be a year-round objective for many consumers, the way to achieve this goal will vary by season. There are a number of factors that impact energy efficiency, including weather, the age and condition of the home, and desired comfort levels. During winter months, when the outdoor temperature is chilly, consumers desire a warm home and seek to keep the cold air out.

To maintain a warm indoor environment in chillier weather, there are simple steps you can take to increase energy efficiency. Fall and winter is a great time to examine seals on doors and windows to check for air leaks. Caulk and weatherstrip as needed to seal in warm air and energy savings. Similarly, examine outlets for air leaks, and where necessary, install gaskets around the outlet to prevent drafts. During the day, open curtains or drapes on south-facing windows to enable sunlight to heat your home naturally. Close curtains or drapes at night for an added layer of window insulation.

As the temperature drops lower with the onset of winter, schedule a service appointment for your heating system to ensure it is operating at an optimal level. Low-cost or no-cost steps for energy savings include taping or affixing heavy, clear plastic to the inside of your window frames to create an additional barrier against cold air. Ensure that the plastic is tightly sealed to the frame to help reduce infiltration. Use a programmable thermostat to set the temperature as low as is comfortable when you are home (ideally around 68 degrees). When you are asleep or away, turn the temperature down 10-15 degrees for eight hours. According to the Department of Energy, this small adjustment can help you save approximately 10 percent a year on heating and cooling costs.

To learn more about additional energy-saving tips and programs, contact Lake Region Electric Cooperative at 918-772-2526 or online at www.lrecok.coop.

3 STEPS to ENERGY EFFICIENCY



Identify ways to save energy when using appliances and electronics in your home. Buy ENERGY STAR-rated appliances when possible and turn off electronics, such as computers and gaming consoles when not in use.

2



DIY projects can help you save energy. Caulk around drafty windows, use LED bulbs and check insulation levels in your home.

3



Check with your electric co-op about energy saving programs.

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Hidden Account Number

Look for your account number hidden in this issue of the *Powerline Press*. If you find your number, Lake Region Electric will credit your next bill.

To claim your credit, notify LREC's Hulbert office by phone or mail during the month of publication.

The amount increases by \$10 with each issue your prize goes unclaimed to a maximum of \$50.

For more information, call 800-364-LREC or 918-772-2526

Cooperative bylaws are available upon request at Lake Region Electric Cooperative's office in Hulbert.