

Use Generators Safely

Our lineworkers' lives are on the line



MESSAGE FROM CEO/GENERAL MANAGER CLINT GARDNER

NO SEASON IN TEXAS IS SAFE FROM SEVERE weather. And when one of those destructive storms rolls through our area, lines can go down and members can lose power—sometimes for an extended period.

During an outage, some folks rely on portable generators while power is being restored. If you use a generator, do you know enough about it to operate it safely?

The safety of our members and our employees is a top priority at Coleman County Electric Cooperative, especially during dangerous times. When storms hit our area, we rush to restore power as soon as conditions allow.

Our line crews take necessary precautions before they work on downed power lines, taking care to ensure that a line is de-energized before working on it. But even after these measures, an improperly connected generator can put our workers' lives at risk.

Coleman County EC is proud of our outstanding safety record, but sometimes, no matter how many steps we take to keep everyone safe, the very people we are there to help unknowingly put our lives—and their own—in danger.

Portable generators can prove fatal to lineworkers when used improperly. A generator connected to a home's wiring or plugged into a regular household outlet can cause backfeeding

along power lines and electrocute anyone who comes into contact with them—even if the lines seem dead.

Coleman County EC employees are not the only ones in danger when a portable generator is used improperly. Those who operate generators improperly risk being electrocuted, starting fires, damaging property or being poisoned by carbon monoxide. Portable generators can be very helpful during outages. **But it is imperative that you follow these safety guidelines when using one:**

- ▶ Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring unless your home has been wired for generator use, which includes having a transfer switch installed by a qualified electrical contractor. The transfer switch can be used to disconnect your home from the power grid. Connecting the generator to a house's wiring without such a switch can cause current to flow out of your home's circuitry and along power lines, putting at risk anyone who comes into contact with those lines.

- ▶ Always plug appliances directly into generators or use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords. Make sure extension cords are free of cuts or tears and the plug has three prongs. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage.

- ▶ Ensure your generator is properly grounded.

- ▶ Never overload a generator. A portable generator should only be used when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances.

- ▶ Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.

- ▶ Only operate a generator on a dry, covered surface outdoors, away from windows and doors.

- ▶ Always have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby.

- ▶ Never fuel a generator while it is operating.

- ▶ Read and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation. Never cut corners when it comes to safety.

We encourage you to protect the well-being and safety of your family during outages and safeguard those who come to your aid during emergency situations. When we work together for safety and the good of our communities, we all benefit.



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Capital Credits Allocated for 2019

CAPITAL CREDITS WERE RECENTLY ALLOCATED TO THE ACCOUNTS OF COLEMAN County Electric Cooperative members for 2019.

After each fiscal year, cooperatives must determine what, if any, margins were made during the year and allocate them to members' accounts as capital credits. A margin is any money left over after all operating costs have been paid for the year. Because members are also owners of the cooperative, that money is returned to their accounts.

These capital credits will be returned to members at some time in the future, when doing so will not weaken the financial condition of the cooperative.

In the meantime, the funds remain invested in the cooperative plant while credited to each member's account, even if a member disconnects from Coleman County EC's lines. That's why it is very important that departing members keep the co-op informed of their current mailing address—so that they can receive capital credits allocations when they are paid.

The Coleman County EC 2019 capital credits distribution totaled \$1,083,333.71. Golden Spread Electric Cooperative's generation and transmission capital credits totaled \$1,820,391.84.

A member's capital credits can be calculated by multiplying their total annual electric bill by the appropriate factor listed in the table below. Note that there are two columns in the table: One lists the factors for Coleman County EC's distribution (power sold to our members), and the other shows factors for our generation and transmission co-op (Golden Spread EC, from whom we purchase power). Being a member of Golden Spread EC has enabled us to return G&T allocations to our membership, so every member benefits from both allocations.

2019 PATRONAGE ALLOCATIONS	CO-OP FACTOR	G&T FACTOR
Residential	0.0999	0.1679
Irrigation	0.1055	0.1773
Commercial/Oil Field	0.0902	0.1516
Enterprise—Shin Oak PS	0.0622	0.1045
Dressy—L.P. Special	0.0378	0.0636
CRMWD—M.W.P.	0.0097	0.0163
Ivie Intake—M.W.P.	0.0236	0.0396
Ivie Booster—M.W.P.	0.0443	0.0745
Enterprise—Ivie Lake PS	0.0354	0.0595
Co-op Distribution	\$1,083,333.71	
G&T Capital Credits	\$1,820,391.84	
TOTAL 2019 ALLOCATIONS	\$2,903,725.55	

In calculating your total bill, include the security light charge but do not include any taxes or service and miscellaneous charges. If you have any questions concerning these calculations, feel free to contact the co-op office for your total 2019 allocation.

Coleman County Electric Cooperative

3300 N. Highway 84 • P.O. Box 860
Coleman, TX 76834

Operating in Brown, Callahan, Coke,
Coleman, Concho, Runnels, Taylor and
Tom Green counties

CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Clint Gardner

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Lange, *District 1*

Roger Kruse, Vice President, *District 2*

Darla Wise, Secretary-Treasurer, *District 6*

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Brent McMillan, *District 5*

Bob Fuchs, President, *District 7*

Contact Us

CALL US AT

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1-800-560-2128 toll-free

AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY

1-800-560-2128 toll-free

FIND US ON THE WEB

colemanelectric.org

Co-op Annual Meeting Canceled

The Coleman County Electric Cooperative annual meeting scheduled for July 17 has been canceled due to concerns for the health and safety of our members and employees during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Coleman County EC Bylaws Excerpt

ARTICLE III—DIRECTORS

SECTION L. GENERAL POWERS. The business and affairs of the cooperative shall be managed by a board of not more than nine (9) or less than seven (7) directors which shall exercise all of the powers of the cooperative except such as are by law or by the articles of incorporation of the cooperative or by these bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the members.

SECTION 2. QUALIFICATIONS AND TENURE. The directors elected shall serve for a period of three (3) years from the date of their election, or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified, subject to the provision of these bylaws with respect to the removal of directors. No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the cooperative who is not a bonafide resident in the area served by the cooperative, or while a Director or at any time prior to becoming a Director, either was or becomes convicted of a felony crime, or pleads or has pled guilty to a felony crime, or who is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the cooperative, and no person shall take or hold office as a director who is the incumbent or candidate for an elective public office in connection with which a salary is paid. No employee and/or spouse of an employee shall be eligible to become a Director of the Cooperative who has been employed by any other electric cooperative, municipally-owned utility or investor-owned utility; or has been employed by Coleman County Electric Cooperative, Inc., within five (5) years immediately following the last day of employment. Except as otherwise provided by the Board of Directors for good cause, a Director must attend at least three-fourths (3/4ths) of all regular

and special meetings of the Board of Directors during each twelve (12) month period between annual meetings in order to remain qualified to be a Director. No person shall be eligible to seek a director position if the election for such position is to occur after the individual becomes seventy-five (75) years of age. When a membership is held jointly by a husband and wife, either one, but not both, may be elected a director, provided, however, that neither one shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold a position of trust in the cooperative unless both shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth. Nothing in this section contained shall, or shall be construed to, affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2A. RESIDENCE OF DIRECTORS. Not more than one director may be elected from the same Detail Area of the territory served by Coleman County Electric Cooperative, Incorporated, as such territory and Detail Area are defined and shown on the current map of the cooperative as established by the Board of Directors; such detail areas being drawn off by red pencil. If, after his or her election a director of the cooperative shall, for the purpose of residing therein, move into a Detail Area wherein one other director of said Cooperative is then residing, the office of the director so moving into such Detail Area shall automatically become vacant without further action on the part of the cooperative or its Board of Directors; and such Board of Directors shall at its first regular, or special meeting thereafter name and appoint a qualified member of the Cooperative as director to fill the unexpired term of the director so disqualifying himself or herself.

SECTION 3. NOMINATIONS. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than thirty (30) days nor more than one hundred and twenty

(120) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the geographical areas served or to be served by the Cooperative. No officer or member of the Board of Directors shall be appointed a member of such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least twenty (20) days before the meeting a list of nominations for directors; but any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The Secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting a statement of the number of directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations and the nominations made by petition, if any. The members may, at any meeting at which a director or directors shall be removed, as hereinbefore provided, elect a successor or successors thereto without compliance with the foregoing provisions with respect to nominations. Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors.

SECTION 4. REMOVAL AND DISCIPLINE.

(a) Removal by Board. A director may be removed for cause, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the remaining directors, who are not subject to current challenge, at a regular or special board meeting called for such purpose. The affected director shall be informed thereof in writing at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting at which such a vote is scheduled to take place and shall

have an opportunity to be heard in person at such meeting.

(b) Cause shall include: (1) a conviction or judicial determination involving a felony crime or a crime of moral turpitude; (2) becoming ineligible to serve due to failing to meet the qualifications of Section 2 of this Article; (3) failure, without excuse, to attend a majority of board meetings in a one (1) year time period, and/or failure of health, or other violation of a director's fiduciary duty to such a degree as two-thirds (2/3) vote of remaining Board members finds to warrant such disciplinary action; or (4) the bringing of such disrepute or disparagement to the Cooperative by unacceptable personal conduct to warrant such discipline as determined by two-thirds (2/3) of the remaining Board members.

(c) Director Discipline. The Board shall create a committee to investigate any formal complaint of a director's conduct. The committee shall be composed of the current Board President, or next highest officer if the current highest officer is subject of the complaint, and two (2) other directors selected by the Board. Following investigation, the committee shall make its report to the full Board with recommendations, if any, of discipline of the affected director. The committee and the Board may meet in executive session to consider the complaint or report. The affected director shall not participate in the committee or Board's deliberation except as requested. The affected Director shall be provided a copy of the report and given opportunity to respond prior to the vote on any recommended action. Discipline action may range to include: (1) a verbal warning; (2) a written reprimand; (3) censure; (4) a reduction in director benefits or compensation; or (5) removal pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.



Reminders for National Electrical Safety Month

EVERY DAY, WE RELY ON ELECTRICITY TO POWER OUR HOMES AND OFFICES. HOWEVER, it can be easy to take for granted the safety of electric appliances and equipment and power lines. May is National Electrical Safety Month—a great time to raise awareness of how to avoid electrical hazards.

Indoors

- ▶ Check electric cords for fraying or cracking. Replace cords that may be damaged, and don't overload electric outlets.
- ▶ Extension cords are intended to be temporary. If you find yourself using extension cords regularly, have an electrician add outlets where you need them.
- ▶ Don't run cords under carpets or rugs and don't tack or nail cords to walls or floors.
- ▶ Keep electric appliances and tools away from water. Never reach for or unplug an appliance that has fallen into water; instead, turn the power off at the breaker before you unplug the appliance or remove it from the water.
- ▶ Never put anything other than an electrical plug in an outlet. Use outlet covers or caps to protect children.
- ▶ Keep your home's electrical system in good repair. Contact a licensed electrical contractor if you have flickering lights, sparks or nonfunctioning outlets, or need wiring repairs or upgrades.

Outdoors

- ▶ Never touch downed power lines.
- ▶ Always call 911 or your electric cooperative if you see lines down.
- ▶ Watch for overhead lines every time you use a ladder, work on roofs or in trees, or carry long tools or tall loads. Keep kites, drones and metallic balloons away from power lines.
- ▶ Know what's below before you dig. Call 811 three days in advance of your project to have underground utility lines, pipes and cables marked for free.
- ▶ Avoid planting trees underneath power lines or near utility equipment.