



# LIVEWIRE

DECEMBER 2011 | VOLUME 62 ISSUE 12 | PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS OF TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## Local Members Lead by Example

**B**ill G. and Louise Smith know the value of electricity and the resources it takes to generate it. They were the first ones to answer the Quarterly Question and their response was thorough.

“I think everyone should do what they can to conserve electricity,” said Louise. She said they used these tips to save on their winter energy bills:


- Use ceiling fans in winter mode to circulate warm air.
- Use an infrared space heater to heat the area used the most.
- Adjust the drapes to make the best use of the sun’s heat
- Use a programmable thermostat or manually adjust the thermostat by turning it down when away from the house for an extended period and at night.
- Turn the water heater off if gone four or more days.

Bill added that they also replaced their windows with more energy efficient ones and have storm doors to help keep cold air out.

“You’d be surprised,” Bill said. “Every little bit helps. Saving for our future is important to us.”

The Smiths have been members of Tri-County Electric more than five years. They reside in Boise City, Okla., where they have lived for more than 34 years.

“As a local electric cooperative, we want to help our members manage their energy use,” said Zac Perkins, vice president of Corporate Services at Tri-County Electric Cooperative. “It’s no coincidence that we’re asking our members how they’re saving on their winter energy bills in the Quarterly Question contest. Helping our members find ways to save matters to us.”

The Quarterly Question is “How do you save on your winter energy bills?” and responses must be received by Dec. 31. To enter, send your response to the question to Tri-County Electric at [info@tri-countyelectric.coop](mailto:info@tri-countyelectric.coop) or P.O. Box 880, Hooker, OK 73945. One member will be randomly drawn to win a \$50 credit on their February electric bill. Full details on the Quarterly Question contest are on the cooperative’s website at [www.tri-countyelectric.coop](http://www.tri-countyelectric.coop). 



**BILL G. AND LOUISE SMITH SUBMITTED THE FIRST ENTRY IN THE QUARTERLY QUESTION CONTEST. ALL ENTRIES ARE DUE DEC. 31.**



**The cooperative’s main office will be closed Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26, as well as Monday, Jan. 2, in observance of Christmas and New Year’s. Members can make payments or report an outage by calling 800-522-3315. Visit [www.tri-countyelectric.coop](http://www.tri-countyelectric.coop) to manage your account anytime. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

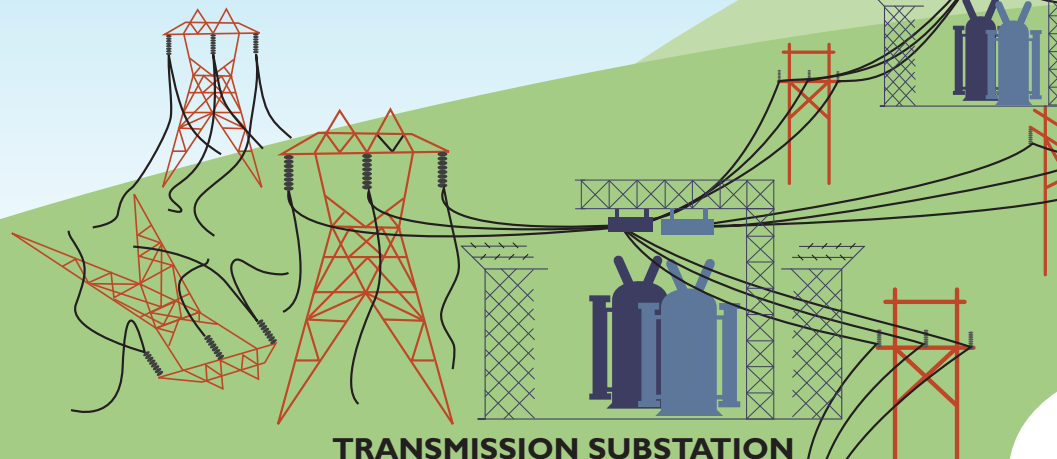
## Winter Storm Safety Tips

1. Never touch a fallen power line. Call Tri-County Electric Cooperative at 800-522-3315 to report it immediately.
2. In the event of an outage, an alternate heating source—such as a fireplace, propane space heater, or wood stove—may be used. Extreme caution should be taken.
3. Fuel- and wood-burning heating sources should be vented.
4. Ensure carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors are working.
5. Do not use a gas-powered oven for heating. A gas oven may go out or burn inefficiently, leading to carbon monoxide poisoning.
6. Do not use a gas or charcoal grill inside the home. Do not use charcoal briquettes in the fireplace.
7. Never connect generators to power lines. The reverse flow of electricity can electrocute an unsuspecting utility worker. Notify Tri-County Electric if a generator is installed.
8. If you use a portable generator to power a heating source, be sure the generator is located outside your house for proper ventilation. Do not use a generator in a garage.
9. Take special care not to overload a generator. Use appropriately sized extension cords to carry the electric load. Make sure the cords have a grounded, three-pronged plug and are in good condition.
10. Never run cords under rugs or carpets. They may cause fire.

Sources: Chris Grammes, NRECA, Consumer Product Safety Commission; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; National Ag Safety Database

## HOW POWER IS RESTORED after the storm

**STEP 1:** Transmission towers and lines provide power to transmission substations. Thousands of people are served by these lines. If one of these lines is damaged, it gets attention first.



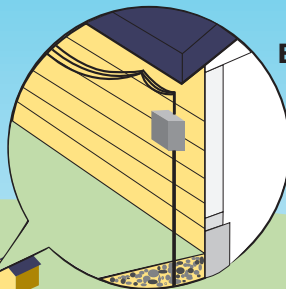
**STEP 2:** Tri-County Electric has dozens of distribution substations. They can serve thousands of members. When an outage occurs, Tri-County Electric checks the local substations first. If the problem can be repaired at the substation level, power may be restored to a large number of people.

**LOCAL SUBSTATION**

**STEP 3:** If the problem can't be repaired at the local substation level, the main distribution supply line must be repaired. This line carries electricity away from the transmission substation to the local substations. If the problem is restored at this stage, all the local substations on that line could see the power restored. If the problem is not fixed at this stage, other problems farther down the line could be repaired first.

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**STEP 5:** Damage can occur on the service line between your house and the transformer on the nearby pole. This can explain why your neighbor has power but you don't. Tri-County Electric needs to know if you have an outage here so crews can repair it.



**ENLARGED:** Members are responsible for damage to the service installation on a building. If this happens, please contact an electrician.

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**LOCAL SUBSTATION**

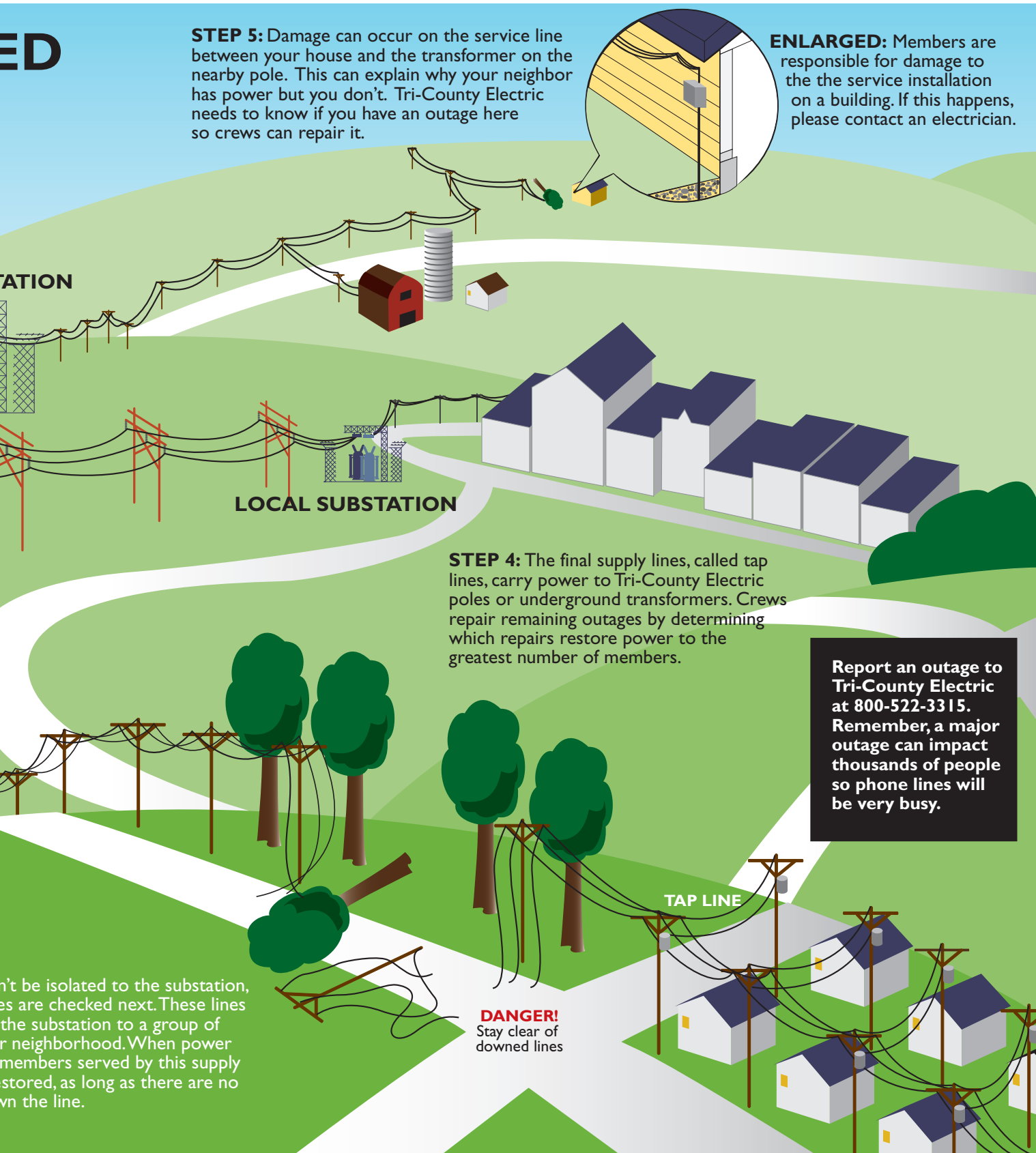
**STEP 4:** The final supply lines, called tap lines, carry power to Tri-County Electric poles or underground transformers. Crews repair remaining outages by determining which repairs restore power to the greatest number of members.

**Report an outage to Tri-County Electric at 800-522-3315. Remember, a major outage can impact thousands of people so phone lines will be very busy.**

...n't be isolated to the substation, ...es are checked next. These lines ...the substation to a group of ...r neighborhood. When power ...members served by this supply ...stored, as long as there are no ...wn the line.

**TAP LINE**

**DANGER!**  
Stay clear of  
downed lines



# Matthew Mendoza Makes the Grade

Matthew Mendoza, a senior at Turpin High School, is Tri-County Electric Cooperative's November Electrifying Student of the Month. He received a \$100 Visa gift card and a certificate from his local electric cooperative.

"Matt is an exceptional student who demonstrates all four values of Touchstone Energy," said Valerie Rider. "If Matt knows of a need, he is there and willing to help – he doesn't wait to be asked."

Matt is a four-sport, four-year letterman in football, basketball, baseball and track. He is also involved with Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Quiz Bowl. He is a member of the Oklahoma Honor Society and the National Honor Society.

"My older brother Moe really inspires me to do what I do. He has muscular dystrophy and faces physical challenges every day but that doesn't stop him from achieving his goals."

Outside of school, Matt is a member of the Turpin Baptist Church where he is involved with the youth program, Operation Christmas Child and volunteers in the nursery. He has volunteered each year with the Special Olympics, PeeWee Basketball, football camps and the Scholastic Book Fair.

In the summer of 2011, Matt went to Canton, Okla., to help clean up after the tornado. Matt has been involved with the Muscular Dystrophy telethon for 12 years.


"My older brother Moe really inspires me to do what I do," said Matt. "He has muscular dystrophy and faces physical challenges every day but that doesn't



stop him from achieving his goals."

Upon graduation, Matt plans to play college football and major in athletic training and sports medicine. He has not yet chosen the college he plans to attend.

Mario and Ranae Mendoza are Matthew's parents.

Anyone can nominate a high school student for the Electrifying Student award. Complete the nomination form online at [www.tri-countyelectric.coop](http://www.tri-countyelectric.coop). The form is located under Community > Youth and Education > Student of the Month. Recognized students receive a \$100 Visa gift card. 

## Contact Us

Tri-County Electric Cooperative  
302 East Glaydas  
P.O. Box 880  
Hooker, Oklahoma 73945

### Office Hours:

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

**Phone:** 580-652-2418

**Toll Free:** 800-522-3315

**E-mail:** [info@tri-countyelectric.coop](mailto:info@tri-countyelectric.coop)

**[www.tri-countyelectric.coop](http://www.tri-countyelectric.coop)**

## Payment Options

### Payment Centers (Self-service kiosks)

Kiosks are located in: Beaver, Boise City, Elkhart, Goodwell, Guymon, Hooker

### Online Bill Pay (Account Online)

Go to [www.tri-countyelectric.coop](http://www.tri-countyelectric.coop)

### Electronic Funds Transfer (Autodraft)

Call 800-522-3315 to enroll!

### Levelized Monthly Payment (LMP)

Call 800-522-3315 to enroll!

### Pay by Phone

Call 800-522-3315 anytime.

### Drop off Payment in Person

302 East Glaydas, Hooker, Oklahoma

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