

# This May, Plug Into Safety



MESSAGE FROM  
**GENERAL MANAGER/CEO JERRY BOZE**

**THIS MONTH, I'D LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT** to reflect on the importance of safety. We all depend on electricity to power our lives, but accidents can happen when electricity is improperly used.

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and throughout the month, Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative will work to raise awareness about the dangers of electricity. Visit our website, [tvec.net](http://tvec.net), and our Facebook page to see safety tips and reminders.

## Our Responsibility to You

We care deeply about the well-being of our members and encourage you to plug into safety especially this month. Thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or killed each year as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International.

To promote safety education in our local communities, we conduct safety programs for local schools and other groups. We provide electrical safety content in *Texas Co-op Power*, and we encourage the public to contact us if they see a downed

power line or any other type of dangerous electrical situation. We strive to provide our communities with safe, reliable and affordable electricity and serve as your trusted energy advisor, now and well into the future.

## Our Responsibility to Employees

It is no accident that safety is a top priority at your electric co-op. We are committed to a culture of safety that is integral to our daily operations. We participate in programs and follow specific guidelines and protocols for electrical safety that are considered leading practices. Our lineworkers are required to wear personal protective equipment at all times

when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect from electrical shock. Our safety team regularly discusses important safety issues pertaining to work in our buildings and out in the field.  
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As the general manager/CEO of TVEC, I believe it is my duty and responsibility to raise awareness about the importance of electrical safety. Take a moment to plug into safety. Please visit [www.tvec.net](http://www.tvec.net) for tips about how to keep yourself and your loved ones safe.



TVEC thanks all our veterans and wishes everyone a peaceful

## MEMORIAL DAY

TVEC offices will be closed Monday, May 29.

Crews will be on call for any outages or emergencies.

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## Happy Mother's Day

from

**Trinity Valley Electric Co-op**

Sunday, May 14

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# TVEC Adds Massive Transformer to Accommodate Growth



TVEC | DON JOHNSON

Workers hoist TVEC's newest distribution transformer onto a waiting pad at the Marshall Substation north of Crandall. The unit will serve the rapid population and business growth in the Heartland, Forney and Crandall areas.

A constant flow of concrete trucks, construction supplies, house builders and new homeowners over the past few years has stretched the infrastructure around the Heartland, Forney and Crandall areas. Thankfully, Trinity Valley Electrical Cooperative has had plans in place to meet the power needs and stay ahead of the growth.

TVEC built the Marshall Substation north of Crandall with expansion in mind, so adding a 43,000-pound transformer was just a matter of hoisting it onto a waiting concrete pad. Engineers and lineworkers will now go about assembling and testing the unit, which should be in service by June.

Along with the added capacity, the new transformer also adds a level of redundancy to the system. That gives TVEC more options in the case of damage or equipment failure, with the ability to temporarily re-route and restore power more quickly in some cases.

With a life expectancy of more than 40 years, the new transformer is going to be around for what is sure to be an exciting time of growth in the northern part of the TVEC service area.

## The Ins and Outs of Outlets

**OUTLETS—THE COMMON TERM** for electrical receptacles: You can't enter a modern building without seeing them, and they all seem pretty much the same, right? Wrong! As electrical construction practices have evolved over the years, electrical outlets have evolved along with them, building in greater safety features.

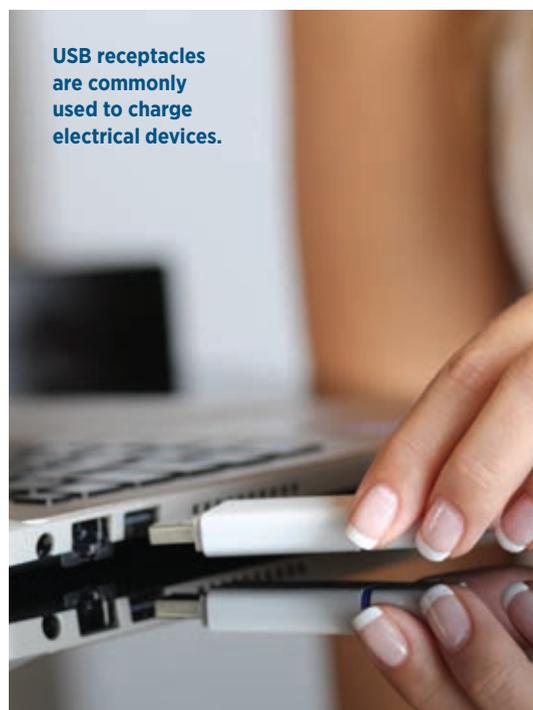
The old-school, two-pronged receptacle that you remember from your grandma's house was installed in residences before 1962 and is no longer recommended for any structure. Since 1971, the National Electrical Code has required at least the standard three-pronged, grounded receptacle, which reduces the risk of electrical shock and protects equipment from damage. From there, receptacle design has advanced to cover a range of safety needs.

**TRRs:** Tamper-resistant receptacles are recommended for homes with children or pets, as outlet covers have been proven not to provide adequate protection. In a TRR, a built-in shutter system prevents objects from being inserted, except when simultaneous, equal pressure to both slots is applied by a plug.

**AFCIs:** An arc-fault circuit interrupter reduces the risk of fire by interrupting power when an arc fault occurs anywhere in the circuit, including within the items plugged into it—even attached cords. The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that more than 50 percent of electrical fires occurring annually in the U.S. could be prevented by AFCIs.

**GFCIs:** Ground-fault circuit interrupters are recommended for installation in areas where water and electricity are in close proximity, such as bathrooms, garages, kitchens, laundry areas and any outdoor receptacles. A GFCI prevents shock by quickly shutting off power (in as little as 1/40 of a second) to a circuit if the electricity flowing into the circuit differs from that returning, indicating current leakage, or a "ground fault."

**USBs:** The newest kind of electric receptacle combines a computer USB port with a traditional outlet. The Electrical Safety Foundation International estimates that more than 10 billion electrical devices in use today are charged via USB cables.



USB receptacles are commonly used to charge electrical devices.

ANTONIO GUILLEN | ISTOCK.COM

# 8 Simple Spring Energy Savers

**FOLLOW THESE SPRINGTIME TIPS** to help save energy and lower your electric bill:

- 1. Call a qualified technician to service your central air-conditioning system. HVAC equipment needs servicing every year to head off major problems and keep the system running smoothly all summer.
- 2. As long as the spring weather is mild, open a window instead of turning on the air conditioner. Draw soft spring breezes into the home by turning on your ceiling fans.
- 3. Cook outside on the grill as soon as the weather permits it. When you don't turn on the cooktop or oven, you don't heat up your house.



PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES | ISTOCK.COM

**Open the windows for some cool air this spring and keep bills low.**

- 8. Change your AC filter. A clogged filter forces your system to work harder and use more energy. It also can send the dust and allergens it collects right back into your indoor air.

4. Close the shades. It's tempting to leave them open on beautiful, sunny spring days. If it's hot outside, that heat can find its way into your house through the windows and tempt you to crank up the AC unnecessarily.

5. If it's sunny but not hot outdoors, throw those curtains open and let the natural daylight illuminate your home. Then, turn off any lights. You won't need them.

6. Don't have a programmable thermostat yet? It's time. Sometimes spring weather calls for heat, and sometimes you need the AC. A programmable thermostat will help you limit how much energy you use for either by automatically turning the temperature up or down as needed.

7. Seal the ducts in your central air-conditioning system. Leaky ducts can push your cooling costs up by as much as 30 percent.

## Win \$25 Just for Reading

Somewhere, hidden on Pages 18–21, is a TVEC account number. Read closely. If the account number is yours, contact the Member Services Department by May 31 to receive a \$25 credit on your electric bill. Don't miss out—you could be a winner.



TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Operating in Anderson, Dallas, Henderson, Hunt, Kaufman and Van Zandt counties

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582 N. Fourth St., Wills Point

### Lobby Hours

Monday-Friday-8:15 a.m.-4:45 p.m.



## Contact Us

For information during office hours and outages after hours

### CALL US

**(972) 932-2214** local or  
**1-800-766-9576** toll-free

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**FIND US ON THE WEB AT**  
**tvec.net**

# Animal Encounters Foster Human Connections



**Casey's Place - \$2,000**  
**Jake E's Riding Roundup - \$2,000**  
**The King's Rein- \$2,000**



A drive through the rural areas that make up most of the Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative service area offers a glimpse at the deep connection between people and their animals. Across all age groups, socioeconomic measures and demographics, from small lots to large estates and from lean-to stalls to horse barns fit for royalty, there is a common bond with man and beast.

Using that connection for therapeutic purposes has shown great promise, ranging from animal visits at hospitals to hippotherapy, which involves riding horses for physical therapy.

Three organizations dedicated to animal-related outreach recently received grants from the TVEC Charitable Foundation: Casey's Place and Jake E's Riding Roundup near Kaufman, and The King's Rein in LaRue south of Athens.

The King's Rein and Jake E's Riding Roundup focus primarily on Equine Assisted Therapy. Combining the physical aspects of riding with the emotional and psychological aspects of interacting with the horses seems to be a great combination.

"It is really for anyone, children and adults, who can benefit with connection to the horses," said Jake E's founder Jana Ewing. "We have people with physical disabilities, but also there is so much we can do with the mental health realm. Veterans with PTSD, depression, anxiety, or people working with anxiety and fear, we can work on that."

A similar dynamic is in play at Casey's Place, but the emphasis is on helping children and adolescents in the care of area shelter organizations.

"There is a natural bond between the kids and the animals that God created long before we came along," said Casey's Place founder Robin Cruz. "These kids are faced with situations where they have suffered abandonment, neglect or abuse from the people who were supposed to love them the most."

The benefits are easy to see, but the challenges are not easy to face, even for volunteers that keep everything running.

"It takes a lot of courage to get on a horse, so you see them gain confidence and self-esteem as they get up there and see what they can do," Cruz said. "As we work through the arena it is amazing how much they feel they can open up and start talking, there is real freedom in it. Sometimes it is maybe stories we don't want to hear, but they are reminders of why we do this. When they aren't holding all of that inside, we are winning the battle."

**Men Unleashed**  
**\$3,000**

Men Unleashed is an organization of men committed to bettering the community through service projects and personal growth.

**The Jesus Connection**  
**\$3,000**

The Jesus Connection in Eustace assists people in need in a number of ways including food assistance, fans, and a school backpack food program.

**Labor of Love**  
**\$5,000**

Labor of Love provides home repairs and modifications for handicapped, elderly or otherwise needy individuals.

**Salvation Army Center Kaufman**  
**\$5,000**

The Salvation Army provides a wide range of assistance from food and clothing to utility payment assistance and lodging.

**Living Alternatives of Palestine**  
**\$1,500**

Living Alternatives of Palestine offers parenting support and educational classes, and counseling services for mothers with planned or unplanned pregnancies.

**Monday Primary Kids Clothes Closet**  
**\$3,000**

MPSKCC provides clothing and shoes for children in need in Kaufman.

Founded in 2013, the TVEC Charitable Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization. The foundation was created to serve the community and help improve the quality of life for residents in our service area. **The foundation is funded entirely by donations from TVEC members who participate in Operation Round Up.** For more information, please call 1-800-766-9576 or visit tvec.net.