



The official
publication
of the members of
Indian Electric
Cooperative



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Washington,
D.C. Youth
Tour



Winter's First Storm Leaves Members Without Power

IEC crews work around the clock to restore electricity to members

There's something beautiful about gathering in front of a roaring fire with friends and family to watch by candlelight as the first snow of winter falls. Unless that snow is accompanied by ice. And that ice has taken out your electricity. Such was the situation for over 5,000 Indian Electric Cooperative members after the first storm of winter blanketed much of the area with layers of ice on the evening of Dec. 3.

"An ice storm like the one we saw last month is something we always dread in this business," said Paul Grantham, IEC Manager of Operations.

"Once ice begins collecting on lines and trees, any number of things can happen to damage the system and cause outages. A majority of the problems are caused by trees and limbs falling and taking out lines and poles, but in some cases, just the weight of the ice on the line itself can cause major damage."

The storm caused more than 40,000 power outages across the state, leading Lt. Gov.

Mary Fallin to declare 42 counties disaster areas, including all seven of the counties served by IEC.

IEC crews worked around the clock

after the first call came in at 6 p.m. on Tuesday until power was completely restored across the system on Sunday.

"A majority of our members were back on within 24 hours," reported Grantham.

"What really made our job tough was the fact limbs continued to fall after the storm moved on. There were many times we had to send crews back to an area we had just completed because of a new problem."

IEC office employees also worked day and night, answering phones and dispatching crews and supplies.

"Our commitment to our members doesn't end with office hours," says Karen Davis, Manager of Office Services. "If there's a concern or emergency, we want members to hear a real human voice and not just a list of automated options when they call."

For more information on outages, visit us at www.iecok.com.



Right-of-Way Program Pays Off During Outage

Outages greatly reduced by successful system-wide project now nearing completion

Ice storms are one of the greatest tests of a right-of-way program. Passing a test has never felt quite as good as it did on the morning of Dec. 4.

In an all too similar repeat of the ice storms of last January, the front that swept across most of Oklahoma wiped out literally thousands of trees, taking miles of electric

lines down with them. And although many IEC members experienced periods of power outage, a significant part of the system survived with little or no damage. The reason: an intensive right-of-way program launched in 1996 and now nearing completion, has greatly reduced the threat of ice damage across the territory.

IEC Operations Supervisor Roger McAllister said, "It's virtually impossible to fully defend the system from ice damage."

"As long as ice is forming on the line itself, we are going to face the risk of damage from the weight of the ice."
"Controlling vegetation that poses a threat to nearby facilities is really our best line of defense. The areas our right-of-way crews have worked in fared much better during this storm than those we are preparing to address. As work progresses across the system, we hope to continue to see our tree-related outage numbers be reduced."

In January, crews will begin a new phase of the project, working south of Terlton to Highway 48, west of Cleveland towards the junction of Highways 48 and 64, and in the Peninsula area. Right-of-way crews will also begin working in Cleveland residential areas every Friday.

For more information on the right-of-way project, visit www.iecok.com.

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Roger McAllister, IEC Operations Supervisor

IEC Operations Supervisor Roger McAllister said, "It's virtually impossible to



Photos by Don Lawrence & Kay Rabbitt-Brower

**THE
LAMP**

Office Hours

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Monday - Friday)
(918) 358-2514
www.iecok.com

To Report an Outage

(918) 358-2514 or 1-800-482-2750

24-hour Service Center

(918) 295-9520

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Break out the coats and sweaters, winter is here and according to the *Old Farmer's Almanac*®, our part of the world could experience more ice and snow than normal. That's why we at IEC have pulled together a list of things you can do during the sunny days of early January to help your home and your wallet cope with winter weather.

The U.S. Department of Energy reports the average American household spends over 44 percent of its annual energy budget on heating and cooling. No matter what kind of heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning system you have in your house, you can save money and increase comfort by properly maintaining and upgrading your equipment. But remember, an energy-efficient furnace alone will not have as great an impact on your energy bills as using the whole-house approach. By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with appropriate insulation, weatherization, and thermostat settings, you can cut your energy bills in half.

Want to know more? Stop by our site at www.iecok.com.

Staying Warm with Duct Tape

Leaking or inefficient duct work can account for as much as 25 percent of total house energy loss, and in many cases has a greater impact on energy use than air infiltration through the building shell. Leaks also greatly reduce the efficiency of heating equipment resulting in hot and cold areas of the house and in some cases, dangerous indoor air pollution.

While professional air duct cleaning and inspection is well worth the investment, you can get started with a simple role of duct

tape. Just look for streaks in the dust that naturally collects on duct work. Streaks generally indicate that air is escaping somewhere nearby. A quick duct tape patch on the system could save you literally hundreds of dollars.



Warmer Windows

Insulate windows with thick curtains or blinds to reduce heat loss. Thermal draperies, made with a thick, fiber-filled backing to fit snugly against the entire window frame, can reduce heat loss by as much as 50 percent and save you \$15 per window.

Install storm windows for an extra layer of insulation. If you can't install storm windows, apply a sheet of heavy-duty clear plastic over each window. Check your local hardware store for easy-to-install window insulation kits.



Is Your Exhaust Fan Costing You Money?

Use kitchen, bath, and other ventilating fans wisely. In just one hour, these fans can pull out a houseful of heated air. Turn fans off as soon as they have done the job.

Saving Money with Your Thermostat

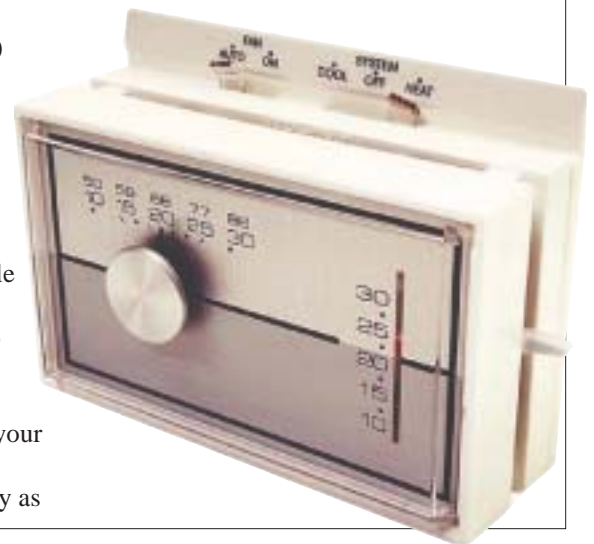
If your house sits empty for part of the day, there's a way to save up to 10 percent on your heating and cooling bill: Install a programmable thermostat.

You can program the thermostat to automatically turn the heat down by 10 percent to 15 percent during hours of the day when everybody's out. Then, it will crank the heat back up right before you're scheduled to return, so it's warm and comfortable by the time you get home.

It works overnight, too; most people sleep comfortably at cooler temperatures than they like during the day. So program your thermostat to cool the house slightly while you're snuggled under the covers for extra savings on your energy bill.

Of course, you can do this manually as

well. Turn the heat down for eight hours a day, and you'll save as much as 10 percent a year. Just don't forget!



We Recommend:

- ◆ www.hgtv.com
- ◆ www.bobvila.com
- ◆ homerepair.about.com
- ◆ www.diyonline.com
- ◆ www.oldhouseweb.com
- ◆ www.healthhouse.org

RECIPE



Mexican Casserole

1 ½ lb. ground beef
1 can celery soup
1 can mushroom soup
¾ cup milk
½ cup onions

1/3 cup green pepper
¾ pkg. taco flavor
Doritos® (small package)
4 Tbsp. picante sauce
8 oz. mozzarella cheese (grated)

Brown meat, onions and green peppers. Spread in greased 9 X 13 casserole dish. Heat celery, mushroom soup, milk and picante sauce. Spread Doritos® on meat then pour the soup over chips and top with grated cheese. Bake 20 minutes at 350 degrees.

Spinach Dip

8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
8 oz. carton sour cream
8 oz. mayonnaise

1 pkg. onion soup mix
1 pkg. frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained

Mix together and chill overnight. Serve with crackers or chips.



Protecting Your Family from CO

It's easier than ever to protect your family against deadly carbon monoxide poisoning. New carbon monoxide detectors plug into any electrical outlet, and many have battery backups in case of a power failure.

If you have a gas or oil heating system, you need a carbon monoxide detector on every floor of the house, especially near bedrooms.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 200 Americans die each year from carbon monoxide poisoning because their homes do not properly vent out toxic gases produced by their heating systems. Other estimates put the number of fatalities closer to 1,600.

The symptoms of exposure to the colorless, odorless gas mimic those of a persistent cold or flu: headaches, nausea, dizziness, fatigue and even depression, so many cases go undiagnosed until the victim suffers brain, heart or organ damage.

If you suspect you have carbon monoxide problem:

- ◆ Immediately open doors or windows to ventilate the house.
- ◆ Get everyone out of the house, and don't go back in until your utility company gives you the go-ahead.
- ◆ Call a professional to inspect your heating system.

High school juniors attending school within the IEC service territory are eligible for the experience of a lifetime – an all-expense paid, week-long trip to Washington, D.C. this June. It's free, it's exciting and it's fun! You'll join some 1,300 high school juniors from across the United States to learn more about government, rural electrification, leadership and electric cooperatives.

Indian Electric sponsors an annual essay contest to select students who will represent their service area as well as the state of Oklahoma during the Youth Tour trip.

The trip begins with a "Get Acquainted Banquet" in Oklahoma City, where everyone meets, makes new acquaintances and has an evening of fun. After arriving in Washington, D.C., the tour of our nation's capital includes days filled with sightseeing, a riverboat trip on the Potomac and breakfast with Oklahoma's Congressional delegation. Students also attend a series of educational seminars to learn more about government, the cooperative form of business and the business of rural electrification.

The contest requires students to prepare and submit an essay over a chosen topic. The topic for the 2002 contest was: "The Local Electric Cooperative and the Unique Role It Can Play in Community Development." Four finalists are selected by an independent panel of judges to compete at the IEC Youth Tour Banquet. Scores are based on subject knowledge, originality, neatness, and grammar. Finalists are required to present their essays orally at the banquet and are each asked a question relating to electric cooperatives from a list distributed before the contest.

Judges at the banquet award the Youth Tour trip to the top two individuals at the conclusion of the banquet.

Information packets will be distributed to all schools in the IEC service territory by mid-January and will be posted online.

Contest details including the topic for this year's essay, trip dates and deadlines are available under the Community Services section of our website at www.iecok.com