



# Current

News from Floresville Electric Light & Power System

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## National Electric Safety Month Calls Attention to Smart Actions

May is designated as National Electrical Safety Month to focus attention on the need to practice electric safety.

Each year, hundreds of lives are lost and thousands more are injured in needless electricity-related accidents. These tragedies occur in homes, schools, the workplace and recreational settings. To reduce the likelihood you and your family will become victims of an electrical accident, be sure you are informed about electricity and its dangers.

Electricity's home is in the earth. When electricity is isolated from the ground, it will always look for the most direct path back to the earth, through any material in its way.

Modern technology and more than a century of experience have given us the ability to use electricity wisely and safely. Just follow a few tips to stay safe:

- When carrying ladders, pipes or other long items, always look up to locate power lines and avoid hitting them.
- Watch where you dig to avoid hitting underground lines. Call for a locator to mark

underground services before planting trees and completing other digging projects.

- Never use electric equipment around water. Take particular care in the kitchen and bathroom when using electric appliances and never use electric tools in the rain or on wet surfaces.
- Never touch a fallen wire or assume the wire is not energized. If a power line is on the ground or hanging loose, call FELPS to report it at 830-216-7000 and select sub-option 2.
- Use ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets in bathrooms and kitchens where water is used and for outdoors.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International provides information about electric safety on its Web site: [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org). Check this important resource for additional ways to protect yourself and your family.

## FELPS Funds Scholarships and Youth Activities

FELPS again will help sponsor summer youth programs in the five cities in the service area and will support scholarships to graduating seniors at each of the five area high schools.

FELPS scholarships of \$750 will be awarded at each of the five high schools—Floresville, Poth, La Vernia, Stockdale and Falls City—to assist students with tuition at accredited colleges, universities or technical institutions.

Scholarship awards and the application process are handled by the school districts. Parents or guardians of scholarship recipients must be FELPS customers and students must have good academic and disciplinary records.

FELPS will donate \$2 per meter as a match for funds dedicated by each city to provide summer youth programs in Falls City, Floresville, La Vernia, Poth and Stockdale.

## FELPS Briefs

- Please note that the FELPS office will be closed on May 29 for Memorial Day and July 4 for Independence Day. Regular office hours will resume in each case at 8 a.m. on the following business day.
- To report outages, including on holidays and after business hours (Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.), please call 830-216-7000 and select sub-option 2.
- Visit [www.felps.us](http://www.felps.us) and follow us on Facebook and Twitter to get FELPS information and to learn about services. You can report outages 24 hours a day on the Web site, a good time-saver, particularly during storms.

# Prepare Now for Summer

Even though the summer heat has begun, it's not too late to take some steps that will help save electricity:

- Have your air conditioning system serviced to ensure that it's clean and operating efficiently. A well-maintained system helps lower operating costs and increases the life of the equipment.
- Check for air leaks that allow air-conditioned air to escape through cracks around windows and doors. Seal these cracks with caulk and weather-stripping.
- Add insulation in the attic to bring the rating to R-30. Insulation can be installed from rolls or loose insulation can be blown into the attic. Check the label to determine the correct thickness to achieve the R-30 rating.
- Inspect air conditioning ducts in the attic for leaks. Minor leaks can be repaired with tape that has the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) logo. You can save 10 percent or more on your utility bill by sealing up air leaks.
- Have a professional replace the insulation and moisture barrier on the air conditioning ducts, if needed.
- Buy a supply of filters so you are prepared to change them every two weeks during the cooling season.

Set your thermostat at 78-80 degrees. This setting will save you money while keeping you cool, particularly if you add the use of a ceiling fan.

If a new air conditioner is part of your plan, consider buying an energy-efficient one. Because air conditioning can account for about 30 percent of the total electric usage for a home, any reduction in the amount of electricity an air conditioner uses can mean money in your pocket.

A programmable thermostat is another energy-saving investment, since it will allow you to change the settings according to times when you are away from home.

## Smart Moves Save Energy

### Check Your Lighting

LED lighting is an efficient way to light your home. Available as fixtures and bulbs, LED lights last longer and cost less to operate than traditional incandescent lighting. Bulbs do not "burn out" like incandescent bulbs but rather produce less light over time. Look for Energy Star rated LED bulbs that have been qualified based on color, durability and energy savings.

## Check Appliances for Energy-saving Features

When purchasing new appliances, consider some with energy-saving features:

- **Dishwashers**—look for a feature that turns off the heating element and circulates air for drying the dishes.
- **Clothes dryers**—moisture sensors will turn off the dryer when the clothes are dry rather than running until the pre-set time has elapsed.
- **Washing machines**—front-loading machines use less water and energy and get clothes as clean as conventional washers.

## Save on Water Heating

- Set the water heater at 120 degrees to save money. The temperature is hot enough for most needs, including dishwashers, which generally are made with booster heaters. The reduced temperature setting cuts down on the energy needed to keep water hot in the tank.
- Use warm or cold water for the laundry when possible and wash when you have full loads, rather than using an entire washer of water for only a few clothes.

## Consider Energy-efficient Windows

Your energy dollars can be going out the window—literally. The average home's windows leak enough air to equal one large open window. So check for leaks around windows and doors.

- Seal the leaks between the door and its frame with weather-stripping.
- Fill leaks between the door or window frame and the wall with caulking.
- Double-pane windows can cut cooling costs by 38 percent, so consider installing energy-efficient windows if you plan to build a new home or wish to replace the windows in an older home.

Plant Trees Now for Later Cooling. A well-watered tree in the landscape can reduce utility bills by shading your property, particularly the house.



### Contacting FELPS

Floresville Electric Light and Power System

1400 Fourth Street, P.O. Box 218, Floresville, TX 78114

[www.felps.us](http://www.felps.us) Twitter: @FELPS\_Electric Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FELPS.OnLine](http://www.facebook.com/FELPS.OnLine)

Phone: (830) 216-7000 • Fax (830) 393-0362

Business hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

After 5 p.m.: (830) 216-7000 (for outages, press sub-option 2)

The Floresville Electric Light and Power System Board of Trustees meets the last Wednesday of each month at 8 a.m. in the utility offices, 1400 Fourth Street, Floresville.