



HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC NEWS & VIEWS

December 2023



1.877.394.7804  
hillcountyelectric.coop

Be prepared for winter storms



Craig Gates
General Manager/CEO

When winter temperatures drop and storms hit, it can be challenging to stay safe and warm. Winter storm severity varies depending on where you live, but nearly all Americans are affected by extreme winter storms at some point. Hill County Electric (HCE) cares about your safety, and we want you to be prepared. Heavy snow and ice can lead to downed power lines, leaving co-op

members without power. During extremely low temperatures, this can be dangerous. During a power outage, our crews will continue to work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power, but there are a few things you can do to prepare yourself.

- **Stay warm** – Plan to use a safe alternate heating source, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove during a power outage. These are great options to keep you and your loved ones warm, but exercise caution when using, and never leave the heating source unattended. If you are using gasoline-, propane- or natural gas-burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors. Remember that fuel- and wood-burning sources of heat should always be properly ventilated. Always read the manufacturer's directions before using.
- **Stay fed** – The survival experts recommend having several days' supply of food that does not need to be cooked handy. Crackers, cereal, canned goods and bread are good options. Five gallons of water per person should also be available in the event of an extended power outage.
- **Stay safe** – When an outage occurs, it usually means power lines are down. It is best not to travel during winter storms,

but if you must, bring a survival kit along, and do not travel alone. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live and will harm you. Stay as far away from the downed lines as possible and report the situation to our dispatchers by calling 1-877-394-7804 if possible.

Important Generator Safety Tips:

- **Stationary Generator** – An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a professional.
- **Portable Generator** – Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator. Never run a generator in the house.
- When setting up and running your generator make sure it is in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it is out and away from your garage, doors, windows, and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is deadly.
- Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator. There is a lot of current going through the cord, make sure it is sized correctly.
- Always start the generator before connecting appliances.



If you don't own a generator, please contact Hill County Electric about a Generac Generator. If you have electrical needs, please contact our Master Electrician, Terry O'Leary about your residential or

business needs by calling 406-394-2832. For more information on our Master Electrician Services visit our website at hcelectric.com/services-and-programs/master-electrician.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Hill County Electric Cooperative is committed to the seven cooperative principles, one of which is to provide education and training for its members. As part of this commitment, the Cooperative offers scholarship opportunities to its members and member dependents. Many of these opportunities have deadlines that are approaching fast.

MECA Scholarship

Applications due January 15th

Basin Electric Scholarship

Applications due January 15th

HCE Tell Us Your Story Scholarship

Applications due March 1st

Lineman Workforce Development Scholarship

Applications due March 1st

MSU-Northern Electrical Tech Workforce Development Scholarship

Applications due March 1st

Please help us spread the word by encouraging students to apply for these amazing opportunities. More information and applications can be found at www.hcelectric.com/scholarships

FIRE RESCUE 1

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

You may have heard the phrase "We don't have time to go to the hospital!" around this time of year. These eight tips will ensure you and your family stay safe this year as you trim the tree, hang the lights and spread holiday cheer.

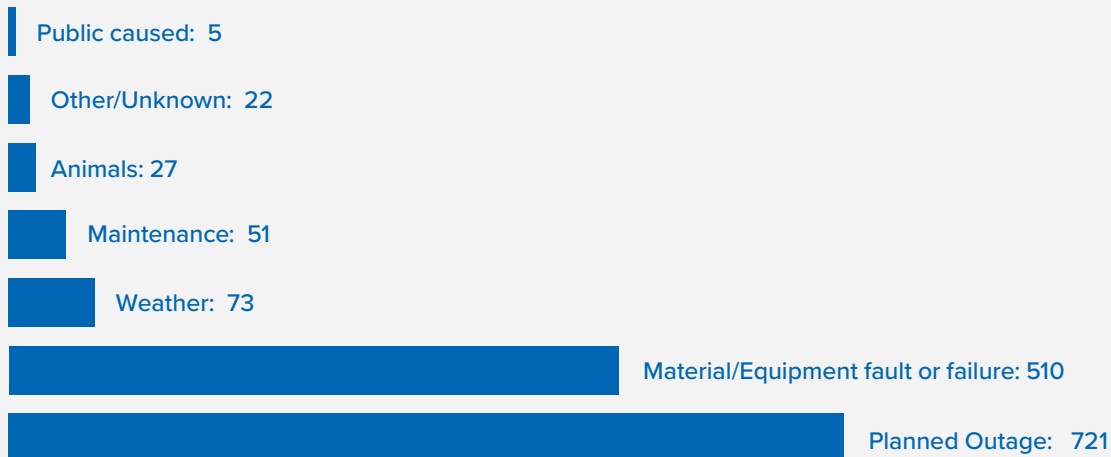
- 1 **DECORATION SPOTTER**
A friendly neighborhood light competition can make the holidays shine – literally – but only if you don't pull a Clark Griswold and end up hanging from the roofline. Always have a Russ ready and waiting, just in case.
- 2 **INDOOR/OUTDOOR LIGHTS**
Double check to make sure the lights you're planning to use for your outdoor bushes are actually meant for outdoor use. UL listings will indicate on the box which lights are safe to use where, so make sure to check before decorating.
- 3 **OVERLOADED OUTLETS**
An overloaded outlet is a fire hazard – something you definitely don't want to deal with during the holidays. Instead of using a complicated and dangerous system of extension cords, switch to a power strip, but be mindful of how many watts you're asking it to power.
- 4 **CANDLE RISK**
It's the time of year that candles are out in full force. While beautiful, they also pose a fire hazard, as well as a burn risk. Be sure to place any lit candles in a location clear of decorations and away from the curious hands of children.
- 5 **COOKING FIRES**
Too many cooks in the kitchen? Make sure to have a fire extinguisher handy for general kitchen fires, as well as baking soda or a Class B dry chemical fire extinguisher for grease fires.



- 6 **CHECK SMOKE/CO ALARMS**
Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms should be checked twice a year, but a good rule of thumb is to do a quick check before the holidays as well. Having more people in the house can increase the chances those safeguards may be needed.
- 7 **FIRE EVACUATION PLAN**
Whether you're planning on only hosting grandma, or your entire extended family, be sure that everyone knows what to do in case of a fire: What's the plan? Where is your outdoor meeting spot? Get everyone on the same page.
- 8 **STOCK YOUR FIRST AID KIT**
'Tis the season for cooking burns and wrapping paper cuts. Be prepared for even the smallest of tinsel emergencies, and keep a stocked first aid kit close by during the holidays.

HCE Happenings

Last month, Hill County Electric (HCE) had approximately **1409** account hours affected by outages. Of these hours:



HOLIDAY SAFETY WORD SEARCH

Remember to keep electrical safety in mind this holiday season!

Read the safety tips below, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.



D	T	T	X	M	L	N	L	W	V	B	H	G	P	M
P	E	Y	E	N	H	S	A	G	E	T	Q	W	C	O
D	C	R	A	K	P	T	C	K	J	X	N	C	J	Q
E	X	R	E	I	O	J	I	T	B	S	L	E	Y	I
M	P	W	W	T	W	F	R	V	V	Z	U	U	V	J
X	R	K	Z	Z	A	T	T	L	X	W	L	M	X	Y
D	T	Z	G	P	N	W	C	C	N	L	Z	A	H	Z
I	N	S	P	E	C	T	E	D	P	F	R	R	Z	T
D	P	G	V	B	E	E	L	L	Q	P	H	V	W	F
A	J	K	F	L	B	A	E	S	K	H	I	Z	W	M
N	M	V	D	T	W	V	X	R	I	R	B	H	U	C
C	O	N	B	B	R	W	O	H	O	W	Q	N	Q	P
X	A	W	X	S	N	O	I	T	A	R	O	C	E	D
C	K	L	B	T	K	R	A	J	B	C	M	D	Y	P
X	C	M	A	Y	S	K	B	O	Y	Q	M	Q	K	Q

- Do not overload electrical outlets with too many **decorations** or appliances.
- Make sure your Christmas tree is **watered** daily.
- Turn off all **electrical** decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.
- Never leave a **candle** burning if you're not in the room.
- Extension cords used for holiday decorations should always be **inspected** for damage or exposed wires.



Swap and Shop

Welcome to our Swap and Shop! Feel free to post and find classifieds from other members! Ads submitted online are usually added within 2 to 3 business days.

Due to print deadlines and space available, some ads may appear in the next month's magazine.

*Denotes photo available on website

Flexicoil S1070 Sprayer

2009 model, 1600-gallon tank, tire size 480/80R38. \$10,500 or best offer, call 406.262.3395.

Two Flexicoil Sprayers

567 XL models, 120 ft booms, 1 in good shape and one use for parts. Asking \$10,000 or best offer. Call 406.262.3395.

Winkel Portable Cattle Chute

Has options, 30-inch swing gate like brand new, stored inside. Asking \$4250 or best offer. Call 406.262.3395.

1984 Styger Panther Series IV

KM360 4-wheel drive, SF4 Hydraulics and 8500 hrs. Stored inside for 10 years, new batteries, runs good. Asking \$33,500 or best offer. Call 406.262.3395.

Rapelje 12th Annual Holiday Fair

The 12th Annual Holiday Fair will take place at the Rapelje School (located in the town of Rapelje) Gymnasium on Sunday, November 12, 2023 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Money raised will go towards scholarships. There will be raffles, door prizes and wonderful food during the event. Admission is \$1.

Ford Escape Parts Vehicle

2001 Ford Escape parts vehicle. Body and all glass in excellent condition, 4 Wheel Drive is good. Engine blown. Asking \$800, call 406.355.4123.

Cooper Tires

Four 225/60/R16 studded snow tires in good condition, asking \$150. Four LT245/75/R16 Open Country tires in good condition, asking \$175. Call 406.355.4123.

In Search of Pickups and Parts

1949 to 1959 Chevrolet or GMC 1/2 ton pickup or just parts. Call 406.326.2287.

Adjustable Bed for Sale

Still in box-new, twin-size adjustable bed (knees, head raise and lower). Price new was \$855, make a reasonable offer. Call 406.262.0603.

Puppies For Sale*

LGD Anatolian/Karakachan puppies. Call 406.931.0225.

Metal Swing For Sale

Metal swing set with slide and quart canning jars. Call 406.379.2695, leave a message with name and number.

7Up Refrigerated Cooler and more

Nice original 7up soda pop refrigerator cooler out of an old grocery store, asking \$650. Also have Cushman scooter parts for sale. Firebird original snowflake wheels, \$350.00. call 406.350.1392.

Craftsman Zero Turn Mower

42", 22 HP, 130 hours, rear bagger. Asking \$1,800, call 406.378.3122.

Boys Bike and Misc For Sale

Boys bike, needs tire repaired, \$100. Brown barrell chair, \$129. Lowry Holiday Organ, Yamaha Digital Piano, \$500. Call 406.366.4625.

2005 Crestliner 1950 Sportfish*

Purchased new in 2009, one owner. Includes a boat cover, 200-horsepower Mercury Motor, one 9.9 Mercury Kicker motor, a 24-volt trolling motor, and 2 depth finders. Many accessories included, call 406.262.4015 or see in person at 700 Cleveland Road.

Sanger Speedboat

Sanger Speed boat with 440 Chrysler engine. Asking \$5,500 or best offer. Call Lenard at 406.378.2572.

2016 Starweld Boat

18 Pro Merc 150 (20 hrs) Merc 9.9 kicker, minn-kota troll, 4 seats, ram mount rod holders, bimini top, travel cover, shorelander trailer. Asking \$32,000, call 406.566.2426.

1980 Case 446 Tractor

1980 Case 446 tractor 2 cycle, 16hp, hydro with 48-inch mower. New battery, always stored inside, nice tires, set and paint. Call Mike at 406.374.2458.

1979 CJ5 Jeep with winch

1979 CJ5 Jeep with winch, steel cab and roll bar. New tires, batter, starter, fuel pump and windshield. Runs good. Also and 1989 Dodge short box V8 auto. All original, great shape with seats and carpet in excellent shape. Very hard to find one like this, runs great. No rust 87K, 2nd owner. 1980 Case 446 tractor with 46 inch mower and hydro, 16 hp. Good tires and paint, always inside, \$1,500. Call 406.350.1392.

Whole & Half Pork For Sale

Farm raised in Havre, processed at the Saco Pay and Save. Processing in June and October. Whole \$450 plus processing and half is \$250 plus processing. You receive appr. 150 lbs of meat per whole hog. I deliver processed meat locally and area between Saco and Havre on pickup day. Contact Twyla at 406.230.2281 (text or call). Also on Facebook.

Hunting Lease Wanted

Respectful, honest group of sportsmen seek long-term yearly hunting lease for elk, deer and other game. We are willing to compensate a landowner well for premier hunting. We will work with landowner to manage game and allow period(s) for landowner and family to hunt, Contact David at 406.263.2133, serious inquiries only.

**Photos available on our website version of the Swap & Shop (www.itstriangle.com/swap-and-shop)*

Swap & Shop is a classified advertising section of the Triangle Communications and Hill County Electric websites and newsletters. It is maintained as a service to customers and communities wanting to buy, sell and announce non-commercial items. To have an ad included, simply enter all the pertinent information on the online form. An administrator will review the information within two business days and if approved, the ad will then appear. It will stay online for 60 days unless you notify us to remove or change it. It will also appear in any of the newsletters printed during that 60 day window. Triangle reserves the right to abbreviate ads and if the section is full, we will display ads on a first come, first-served basis. If you're unable to enter your ad online you may mail or e-mail it to us using the contact info inside the front cover of this magazine. Happy swapping and shopping.