



# Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative

## Member Handbook

## *Seven Cooperative Principles*

*Voluntary and Open Membership*  
*Democratic Member Control*  
*Members' Economic Participation*  
*Autonomy and Independence*  
*Education, Training and Information*  
*Cooperation Among Cooperatives*  
*Concern for Community*

Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative is a non-profit electricity provider to rural areas in ten northeast Texas counties. Our goal is to provide service to better the lives of our members. We provide power to light the homes and businesses in our rural communities. While striving to provide the most affordable rates possible, we work to educate our members on energy efficiency which not only helps our members manage their bills; it benefits the environment.

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ACCOUNT NUMBER(s):

Member Account Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Record your account number (or numbers if you have more than one account) here so it will be handy in case you might have a question on your statement or in the event of a power outage. Outages may be reported through our SmartHub App or by calling the Outage Reporting numbers listed in the Contact information listed below.

ACCOUNT VERIFICATION:

With phone scams on the rise, please be aware that Upshur Rural will never call you requesting account or credit card information. We have identification requirements that are put in place to protect you when *you call in*. If you receive a call from someone stating that they are an Upshur Rural Electric employee requesting information, please call one of our Member Service Representatives.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AND ELECTRICAL SERVICE:

An application for membership may be downloaded off our website at [www.urecc.coop](http://www.urecc.coop), you may contact a Member Service Representative and have an application mailed or faxed to you, or you may come to our office at 1200 West Tyler Street in Gilmer, Texas.

BANK DRAFT:

Members may choose to have their bill automatically drafted on the bill's due date through their bank or financial institution. To sign up for this program, simply fill out the "Bank Draft Form" and return the form with a voided check. "Bank Draft Forms" may also be downloaded off our website at [www.urecc.coop](http://www.urecc.coop). Click on the "Residential" tab, click on "Reports & Forms" then select "Bank Draft Authorization" or Members can click on their "SmartHub" app (which can be downloaded off our website) and sign up there without having to send a voided check.

Please note: Any billing generated prior to bank draft instructions being activated on an account will NOT draft. Once set up on bank draft, you will continue to receive your bill marked "Bank Drafted" at the regular time showing the exact amount and date of the draft.

## BUDGET BILLING:

Budget Billing helps Members budget for their electric bills by averaging their payments on a monthly basis. It helps absorb the highs and lows of summer and winter. More information regarding Budget Billing and the criteria for signing up can be downloaded on our webpage at [www.urecc.coop](http://www.urecc.coop). Click on the “About Us” tab, click on “Reports & Forms” then select “Budget Billing”.

## BY-LAWS:

It is the aim of Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation to make reliable electric energy available to its member-owners at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management. A complete copy of our By-Laws can be downloaded on our website at [www.urecc.coop](http://www.urecc.coop). Click on the “About Us” tab, click on “Reports & Forms” then select “By-Laws”.

## CAPITAL CREDITS:

Since Upshur Rural is a non-profit organization whose members are in essence the owners, any monies collected above what is necessary to operate the business are returned to our members in the form of patronage capital credit. This benefit flows to a member-owner in the amount of energy that is used by each member-owner in that past return year instead of basing it on who has invested more in the company. The Board of Directors decide the percentage to refund taking into consideration the possible fluctuation of the cost of power and the financial strength of the cooperative.

## CONTACT US:

Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation  
PO Box 70  
1200 W. Tyler Street  
Gilmer TX 75644

### Member Service Numbers:

903.843.2536

800.259.2536

### Outage Reporting Numbers:

903.680.2100

866.804.1674

### Automated Pay By Phone Number:

888.223.2056

### Email Address:

[memberservice@urecc.coop](mailto:memberservice@urecc.coop)

SmartHub App:

The SmartHub App can be downloaded off our website or by searching for SmartHub in your app store. Select URECC when prompted.

Website: [www.urecc.coop](http://www.urecc.coop)

COOPERATIVES:

Cooperatives are private, non-profit businesses governed by their member-owners. Two federal requirements for all co-ops

are democratic governance and operation at cost. Specifically, every member-owner can vote to choose local boards that oversee the co-op, and the co-op must, with a few exceptions, return to member-owners revenue above what is needed for operation. Under this structure, electric co-ops provide economic benefits to their local communities rather than distant stockholders.

DEFERRED PAYMENTS:

If you are a residential member and cannot pay your entire bill, you may enter into a deferred payment plan if the Cooperative has not issued more than two termination notices on your account in the previous twelve (12) months. You should contact the Cooperative before the due date of the bill if you need a deferred payment agreement. Your service will not be cut off if you pay current bills and a reasonable amount of the outstanding bill and the balance in reasonable installments until the bill is paid. You will not be required to pay more than 1/3 of the total deferred amount when entering into a deferred payment plan. If you do not meet the terms of a deferred payment plan, your service may be terminated after proper written notice.

If you contact the Cooperative to discuss your inability to pay a bill or request payment assistance, the Cooperative must fully inform you of the availability and eligibility requirements of all alternative payment and payment assistance programs.

DEPOSIT INFORMATION:

- A. To secure payment of electric bills, the Cooperative may require applicants/members to provide deposits if applicant cannot show satisfactory credit. Generally you do not have to pay a deposit if you can prove that:
- \*You have been a customer of any utility for the same kind of service within the last two years
  - \*You are not delinquent in payment of any such utility service account
  - \*You have had no more than two late payments during the last twelve (12) consecutive months of service
  - \*You have never had service disconnected for nonpayment.

You also do not have to pay a deposit if you are 65 years of age or older and have no outstanding account balance with the Cooperative or another utility for the same service during the past two years.

- B. Instead of paying an initial deposit, you may furnish the Cooperative a written guarantee sufficient to cover the amount of deposit you otherwise would have to pay by a cosigner. The amount of guarantee shall be clearly indicated on any documents or letters signed by the guarantor.
- C. Initial deposits shall be equivalent to two (2) times the average billing or a minimum of \$230.00.
- D. During the first 12 months of service, or anytime thereafter, an additional deposit amount of up to two (2) times the highest bill in the previous months billings may be required due to any one of the following:
  - \*Member has paid late two or more times
  - \*Account has been disconnected for non-payment
  - \*An account has a payment returned due to insufficient fundsAn additional deposit may be required to be made within ten (10) days after issuance of written notice of termination and requested additional deposit.
- E. The Cooperative shall pay interest on member deposits based on the average yield on twenty-six (26) week Treasury Bills during the past twelve (12) months, as established by the Public Utility Commission of Texas. The rate is set each December for the following year. Interest accrued during the year shall be paid monthly as a credit posted to the member's account. Interest is earned from the date of the deposit through the date the deposit is refunded.
- F. Deposits are refunded upon disconnection of service and when members have paid twenty-four (24) consecutive residential, commercial or industrial billings without having service disconnected for non-payment of a bill and without having more than two occasions in which a bill was delinquent, and when the member is not delinquent in payment of current bills. The Cooperative will promptly refund the deposit and accrued interest in the form of credit to the member's account.

DISCONNECT WITH NOTIFICATION:

A member's electric service may be disconnected, after proper notice has been given for any of the following reasons:

- A. Failure to pay a delinquent account or failure to comply with the terms of a deferred agreement.
- B. Violation of the Cooperative's rules pertaining to the use of service in a manner which interferes with the service of others or the operation of non-standard equipment, if a reasonable attempt has been made to notify the member and the member is provided with a reasonable opportunity to remedy the situation.
- C. Failure to comply with a deposit or guarantee arrangement when required by the Cooperative's tariffs.

If the Cooperative for any reason has disconnected service, it will be necessary for the member to contact the Cooperative and comply fully with the Cooperative's tariffs before service will be reconnected.

DISCONNECT WITHOUT NOTIFICATION:

A member's electric service may be disconnected, without notice, for the following reasons:

- A. When a known dangerous condition exists for as long as the condition exists.
- B. Tampering with the Cooperative's meter or equipment or by bypassing the same.

If the Cooperative for any reason has disconnected service, it will be necessary for the member to contact the Cooperative and comply fully with the Cooperative's tariffs before service will be reconnected.

DISCONTINUING SERVICE:

To discontinue service with Upshur Rural Electric, the member must call or come by our office. The following information is required:

- A. The service address, meter number or account number
- B. Two forms of personal identification
- C. The date electric service should be discontinued
- D. Your forwarding address

ETREYS:

Upshur Rural Electric participates in a unique program for Sophomore and Junior students. The East Texas Rural Electric Youth Seminar (ETREYS) gives students a chance to enhance their leadership and problem-solving skills in a positive learning environment while experiencing life on a college campus. While there, students have the opportunity to compete for scholarship monies.

Applications are available at all school districts in our service area each spring. Deadline for applications to be submitted to our office is May 1. If May 1 falls on a weekend, applications will be due the following Monday. For more information, you may contact one of our Member Service representatives or visit our website at [www.urecc.coop](http://www.urecc.coop). Click on the "Community" tab then select "ETREYS".

By attending ETREYS, you have the opportunity to be selected to attend Youth Tour. For more information on Youth Tour, visit the Texas Electric Cooperatives website at [www.texas-ec.org/youth-programs/tour](http://www.texas-ec.org/youth-programs/tour).



FEES:

Connect/Transfer Fee:	\$ 25
Trip Charge	\$ 50
Returned Item Fee:	\$ 30
Administrative Fee for Meter Reset	\$ 50
Lightning Arrestor	\$ 50
Security Light Connect Fee	\$ 25

GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS:

Portable generators are useful when temporary or remote electric power is needed, but they also can be hazardous. The primary hazards to avoid when using a generator are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution, fire and burns.

\***Know your generator!** Read all the information on installation, safety and maintenance, and follow instructions regarding maintenance and testing. When a generator is not properly installed, it can “back feed” through the transformer and produce an output of 7,200 volts on the distribution line. As a result, a line crew working on the system would be put in danger.

\***Isolate your generator** from the Co-op’s power lines. Connect appliances and other devices directly to the generator with the appropriate-sized cords. If you connect it directly to your building’s wiring, a transfer, double-throw switch is required to separate your generator from the co-op’s system.

\***Take care when fueling your generator.** Never try to refuel the unit while it is operating. Avoid spilling gasoline or other fuels on hot components.

\***Provide adequate ventilation** and air cooling for the generator to prevent overheating and the accumulation of toxic exhaust fumes. Do not install your generator in a basement or any closed area. Exhaust gases contain carbon monoxide, which is an odorless, invisible, poisonous gas.



Table from Consumer Product Safety Commission

## HOURS OF OPERATION:

Our lobby at 1200 W. Tyler Street in Gilmer is open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. each day, Monday through Friday, for your convenience. Our kiosks are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. One is located to the left of our main entrance and the other is located in our drive thru area and can be accessed from your vehicle. They will accept cash, debit cards, credit cards (Visa or Mastercard) and electronic checks.

We are closed for the following holidays: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day (July 4<sup>th</sup>), Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and the Day Following, and Christmas Day.

## IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Individual: (Require all 3) Full social security number, driver's license or state issued ID number, and date of birth. The social security number must be verified with either a credit check through Online Utility Exchange, or with a copy. The signature on the ID must match the signature on the membership application and must be returned to our office and approved before we release the connection.

Organization: Require the Federal ID number and Incorporation Date (if applicable). Also require ONE of the following: copy of the Articles of Incorporation, copy of Bylaws/Partnership Agreement OR a notarized letter on official company letterhead from the CEO/President/Owner of the organization.

We require the full social security number, driver's license or state issued ID number and date of birth on the person that signs the document or letter that is provided as a request.

## LINE LOCATES:

Make sure to call 811 before you dig. Your location may contain underground utility lines. Knowing where utility lines are buried before you begin digging can help you avoid injury, service outages, and repair costs. Call ahead of time so there is proper time to mark your utilities. Also you should be aware of your own septic tanks and irrigation lines.

Call 811 and you will be routed to your local call center. Tell the operator where you will be digging, what type of work you will be doing, and when. Within just a few days, your local utility companies will visit your site and mark the location of any underground lines, free of charge. Each utility type is marked with a specific color: red for electric, yellow for natural gas, orange for telecommunications, blue for water and green for sewage.

## MONEYGRAM:

Members may pay their bill using MoneyGram.

How It Works:

- A. Find a location at [moneygram.com/billpaylocations](http://moneygram.com/billpaylocations)
- B. Bring the following items:
  - a. Receive Code **15153**
  - b. Account Number
  - c. Cash to pay your bill and fee of \$1.50
  - d. For faster payment posting, make sure to use the BLUE Express Payment form. If you are paying at a form free location, use the RED MoneyGram phone.
- C. Complete your transaction at the cash counter.

## OUTAGES:

Upshur Rural Electric makes every effort to provide members with reliable service at the lowest possible cost; however, there will be power outages due to circumstances beyond our control. If you experience an outage, please follow the steps below before reporting an outage:

- 1) Check your fuses or breakers. If you have a partial outage, then the problem is probably with your own fuses, breakers or wiring and you may need to call an electrician.
- 2) If all of your power is out, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
- 3) After you have determined there is an electrical power outage, report it immediately through one of the following:
  - SmartHub App (which can be downloaded off our website)
  - Our Website: [www.urecc.coop](http://www.urecc.coop)
  - By Phone: 903.680.2100 or 866.804.1674

In the event of a catastrophic outage, updates may be checked through the outage map on our website.

## OUTAGE PREPARATIONS:

Upshur Rural Electric wants you to be prepared in the event of an outage. Listed below are a few basic things we encourage you to do when there is an anticipated outage:

- \*Charge your cell phone, extra batteries and any needed electronic devices
- \*Have flashlights or battery-powered lanterns available
- \*Make sure flashlight and radio batteries are fresh (or have spares)
- \*Keep a 3-5 day supply of drinking water and non-perishable food
- \*\*If you have a special needs person in your home, be sure you have a plan in place in case the outage becomes extended.

In an outage situation, it is very difficult for us to give you a timeline for service to be restored. The amount of time it takes to restore service is based solely upon the amount of damage to our system. Please know that our employees are here and working around the clock in very adverse conditions to restore service to all our members as quickly as possible.

### OUTAGE RESTORATION:

The steps to restoring power are as follows:

**Step 1.** Transmission towers and lines supply power to one or more transmission substations. These lines seldom fail, but they can be damaged by a hurricane or tornado. Tens of thousands of people could be served by one high-voltage transmission line, so if there is damage here it gets attention first.

**Step 2.** A cooperative may have several local distribution substations, each serving thousands of members. When a major outage occurs, the local distribution substations are checked first. A problem here could be caused by failure in the transmission system supplying the substation. If the problem can be corrected at the substation level, power may be restored to a large number of people.

**Step 3.** Main distribution supply lines are checked next if the problem cannot be isolated at the substation. These supply lines carry electricity away from the substation to a group of members, such as a town or housing development. When power is restored at this stage, all members served by this supply line could see the lights come on, as long as there is no problem farther down the line.

**Step 4.** The final supply lines, called tap lines, carry power to the utility poles or underground transformers outside houses or other buildings. Line crews fix the remaining outages based on restoring service to the greatest number of members.

**Step 5.** Sometimes, damage will occur on the service line between your house and the transformer on the nearby pole. This can explain why you have no power when your neighbor does. Your cooperative needs to know you have an outage here, so a service crew can repair it.

### OUTDOOR LIGHTING:

Outdoor lights are available to all members of the Cooperative. A list of sizes of lights and pricing is located in the Tariffs. The Tariffs can be downloaded on our website at [www.urecc.coop](http://www.urecc.coop).

### PAYMENTS:

Payments for your electric bill may be made in several ways. Please select the way that will ensure your bill is paid on time and is most convenient for you.

**Online** – You can pay through our SmartHub App which can be downloaded off our website at [www.urecc.coop](http://www.urecc.coop) or through the app store.

**By Bank Draft** – You can sign up through our SmartHub App or a form is available on our website at [www.urecc.coop](http://www.urecc.coop).

**By Phone** – Use our free and secure, automatic pay by phone system. Simply dial 888.223.2056 and follow instructions. We accept Visa and Mastercard or you can pay with an electronic check.

**MoneyGram**-Go to [www.moneygram.com/billpaylocations](http://www.moneygram.com/billpaylocations) to find the closest bill pay location to you. For faster posting, make sure to use the BLUE Express Payment Form and use receive code **15153**. If you are paying at a form free location, use the Red MoneyGram phone.

**By Mail** – Use the envelope provided with your bill.

**In Person (during business hours)** – Our offices are located at 1200 W. Tyler Street in Gilmer. Our cashiers accept cash, money orders, or checks. Debit cards, credit cards (Visa or Mastercard) or electronic checks may be used at any of our three kiosks. One is located in the lobby, one outside to the left of our main entrance and the third is located in our drive thru area.

**In Person (after hours)** – Our kiosks are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. One is located to the left of our main office doors and the other is located in our drive thru area and can be accessed from your vehicle. They will accept cash, debit cards, credit cards (Visa or Mastercard) and electronic checks.

### PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Cooperative may make payment arrangements in which you pay an outstanding bill after its due date, but before the next bill is due. Your service may be disconnected if you fail to meet the payment arrangements.

### PEAK MONTH ENERGY ADJUSTMENT

The Peak Month Energy Adjustment (PMEA) clause contained in URECC's Rate Schedules A and B recovers the ratchet demand portion of URECC's purchase power cost. If customers understand the PMEA concept, savings can be achieved both in energy usage and URECC's maximum summer peak kilowatt capacity requirements, thereby reducing annual purchase power costs. In this event, Members would benefit not only in lower monthly bills through conservation but also from lower purchase power adjustments.

### *Peak Month Energy Adjustment*

In addition to all other charges, the amount of the charges computed under the foregoing rate will be increased by an amount equal to 6.7 mills (.67 cents) per kilowatt-hour, for each kilowatt-hour that the current month's kilowatt-hour usage is less than seventy five percent (75%) of the Member's largest kilowatt-hour usage for a billing period during the most recent summer months of June, July, August or September. In the event that the largest month's kilowatt-hour usage is for a period more or less than a thirty (30) day period, the kilowatt-hour usage will be prorated to thirty (30) days usage for the purpose of this clause.

This clause applies to all bills that are billed under rate Schedule A "Residential Service" and rate B "Small Commercial and General Service." To explain PMEA and its electric rate design concept, we will do so by answering some questions members have asked.

### *What is the ratchet demand component of URECC's purchase power cost?*

Under URECC's purchase power contract, the Cooperative is required to pay for 100% of the maximum kilowatt capacity required during the previous June, July, August or September. What this means is that if the Cooperative's previous summer peak kilowatt capacity requirement was 100,000 kilowatts, the Cooperative must pay for the 100,000 kilowatts even though there are several months of the year the Cooperative's kilowatt capacity requirements are less than 100,000 kilowatts.

### *How does PMEA equitably distribute this ratchet kilowatt capacity cost?*

It does so by requiring those Members most responsible for creating the cost to pay most of the cost. To illustrate this we can take an example of two typical Members. The first Member we will call Member A and the second Member B. Member A has a high kilowatt-hour usage during the summer months, say a high of 3000 kWh, but during the fall, winter, and spring, the usage drops to 1000 kWh. It naturally follows that Member A's kilowatt capacity requirement during the summer far exceeds the requirements in the other months, thereby creating a ratchet capacity cost to the Cooperative. Member B, however, only uses a high of 600 kilowatt-hours during the summer and a low of 400 kilowatt-hours during the rest of the year. It is obvious that Member B's peak summer kilowatt capacity requirements are approximately the same as all other months, and in fact contributes very little to the ratchet capacity cost of the Cooperative. From this illustration you can easily see that Members such as Member A contribute more to the ratchet capacity cost than Member B and therefore should pay more of the cost.

### *Are there any other benefits to Members through the PMEA clause?*

Yes, we think so. Most utilities have what is called a summer/winter differential rate. This type of rate has a higher base rate kilowatt-hour charge during the summer months (usually May, June, July, August, September and October.) In our opinion, the

disadvantages of this rate is that all Members share in paying the high summer capacity cost and they pay it at the time their electric bills are at their highest. In addition, they pay in advance of when the utility pays its ratchet capacity cost. With PMEA, the base rate kilowatt-hour charge remains the same in all months and Members pay through the PMEA clause at the same time the Cooperative is paying. Also, Members are paying at a time when their kilowatt-hour usage is lowest, instead of having extremely high bills in the summer and much lower bills in other months.

***Conservation of energy saves dollars on electric bills and with the PMEA concept in rates, if you conserve during the summer months you not only reduce your summer electric bills but also reduce your bills in all the following months.***

#### PRE-PAID METERING:

Our **Power2Go** Metering program allows members to “pay as you go”. With this program, there is no deposit requirement, no late fees, no reconnect fees and no monthly bill. **Power2Go** gives the member control over their energy costs and budget. Contact a Member Service Representative for more information.

#### RATE SCHEDULES:

Schedule “A”	Residential Service
Schedule “B”	Small Commercial and General Service
Schedule “C”	Commercial and Industrial Power Service
Schedule “LPI”	Large Power Service – Industrial
Schedule “S”	Security Light
Schedule “SL”	Municipal Street Lighting
Schedule “PCRF”	Power Cost Recovery Factor
Schedule “C-1”	Contract Power Service
State College and University	Rate Rider
Schedule “G”	Generation Rider
Schedule “PPA”	Prepaid Residential Service
Schedule “PPB”	Prepaid Small Commercial and General Service

#### RIGHT OF WAY EASEMENTS:

The Member gives authorized agents of the Cooperative permission to enter upon the Member’s premises at all reasonable times for any purpose incidental to the supplying of electric service, including maintenance, repairs, meter reading, removal or relocation of the meter, tree trimming and tree removal. The Cooperative requires access to all of its lines, facilities, and equipment during all reasonable times and at all times in cases of emergencies. A right of way easement form must be on file in our office before a service will be set.

## SAFETY:

Listed below are a few Electrical Safety Tips. Visit [www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org) for more information on ways to stay safe.

- \*Qualified electricians should install and check wiring
- \*Homes should be 100-amps; 200+-amps for homes heated by electricity
- \*Electric appliances should have a three-prong plug
- \*Keep cords away from water and heat
- \*Never wrap cords around metal-keep them away from foot traffic
- \*Weatherproof outdoor electrical outlets
- \*Major electrical appliances should have their own circuits
- \*Never use appliances when you are wet or on a wet surface
- \*Never use electric tools/appliances outdoors if it is raining or wet
- \*Use power tools with durable, grounded or double insulated cords
- \*Never operate an electric lawn mower in wet grass
- \*Teach your children to not fly kites near power lines
- \*Never touch fallen power lines-they might be energized
- \*Never enter an electrical substation
- \*Never use any type of metal near power lines
- \*Teach your family where the main fuse/circuit breaker is located
- \*Inspect cords-do not use a damaged cord
- \*Never pull a plug from a wall outlet by the cord
- \*Unplug irons and heat appliances when not in use
- \*Plug power tools or heavy appliances into wall outlets only

## SCHOLARSHIPS:

Since the passage of HB3203 in 1999, Upshur Rural Electric has been able to fund scholarships for students in rural areas from unclaimed capital credit monies. Each year applications are mailed out to all school districts in our service area. The deadline for scholarship application submission will be April 15. If April 15 falls on a weekend, applications will be due the following Monday.

For more information, you may contact one of our Member Service Representatives or visit our website at [www.urecc.coop](http://www.urecc.coop). Click on the "Community" tab then select "Scholarships".

## SERVICE AREA:

Upshur Rural Electric provides electric service to members in all or portions of the following ten counties: Upshur, Wood, Gregg, Harrison, Smith, Marion, Cass, Rusk, Morris and Camp. Our territory covers 2,180 square miles.



## SMARTHUB:

SmartHub is the free app that is available to help you monitor your account. Some of the things you can do with your SmartHub app is view or pay your bill, see your usage history and **report an outage**. You can also sign up for bank draft. It can be downloaded off our website or you can search for SmartHub in the app store. Simply enter Upshur Rural Electric when prompted. Tutorials for Apple and Android are available on our website if you need help or you can contact a Member Service Representative.

## SPEC SHEETS:

Spec sheets for different applications can be downloaded from our website at [www.urecc.coop](http://www.urecc.coop). Click on the “About Us” tab, click on “Reports & Forms” then scroll down to the description of the spec sheet you need.

## TARIFFS:

A complete copy of our Tariffs can be downloaded off our website at [www.urecc.coop](http://www.urecc.coop). Click on the “About Us” tab, click on “Reports & Forms” then scroll down to the description of “Tariffs”.

## TREE TRIMMING-Dead Tree Issues:

Contact our office in regards to dead trees needing to be trimmed. If the dead tree/limb is near the:

**Service Line:** We will trim limbs only or disconnect the service temporarily by dropping the line for the Member so they can be cut. The member is responsible to clean up any limbs/trees cut.

**Primary Line:** We will send a serviceman to determine if the tree is a threat to the main service.

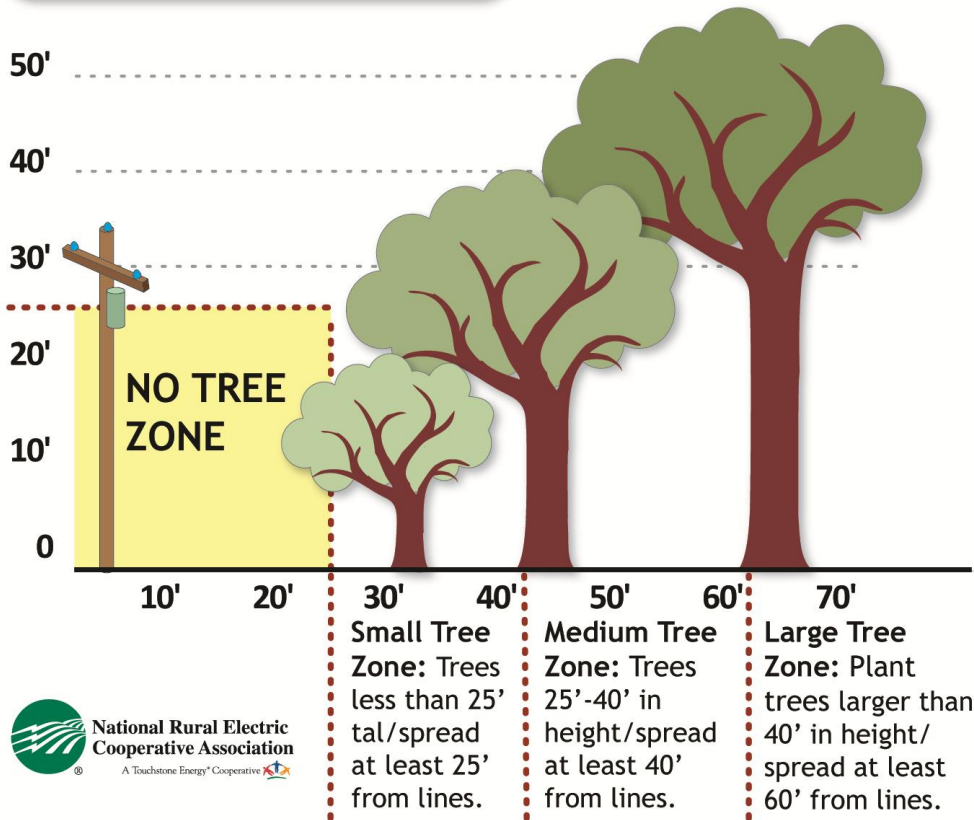
## TREE TRIMMING – Right of Way Maintenance:

Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative has no control over power outages caused by severe weather; however, the frequency and duration of outages can be limited through a vigilant right-of-way program.

Tree trimming, and all phases of right-of-way maintenance, are essential to ensuring reliable electric service. This is particularly true in rural areas where trees and other vegetation are more dense. A major portion of electric interruptions are caused by momentary contact between power lines and tree limbs. Supplying safe and reliable electric service is a top priority, and our right-of-way maintenance program is vital in helping us meet that commitment to our Members. If you are planning to plant any trees,

locate the power lines before any digging. Plant trees far enough away so they will not come in contact with the lines.

## Tree Planting Guide



### UTILITY ASSISTANCE:

For those members who qualify, special utility assistance programs are available. Thousands of dollars have been designated for distribution in our URECC service area. Listed below are the utility assistance providers in our service area. Please contact these providers directly to determine if you qualify for assistance on your electric bill.

#### Veteran's Resource Center – Timothy Langely

Email: [timothy.langley@communityhealthcore.com](mailto:timothy.langley@communityhealthcore.com)

Phone: 903.291.1155

Fax: 903.291.1033

#### Camp County

Community Services of Northeast Texas

Verna Hawkins

Email: [verna.hawkins@csntexas.org](mailto:verna.hawkins@csntexas.org)

Phone: 903.856.5861

Fax: 903.856.3031

#### Cass/Morris County

Community Services of Northeast Texas

Julie Kolacki

Email: [julie.kolacki@csntexas.org](mailto:julie.kolacki@csntexas.org)

Phone: 903.799.7390

Fax: 903.799.7360

Gregg County

Greater E TX Community Action Program  
Email: getcap12@att.net  
Phone: 800.621.5746

Pam Hoyer

Email: phoyer@get-cap.org

Faye Henderson

Email: lhenderson@get-cap.org

Sonje Carter

Email: cartersonje@yahoo.com

Phone: 903.758.5674

Fax: 903.758.0970

Harrison County

Tri-County Community Action

Laquita Stafford

Phone: 903.934.9892

Fax: 903.934.8570

Marion County

Community Services of Northeast Texas

Heather Humphries/Deanna House

Email: heather.humphries@csntexas.org

Phone: 903.665.9198

Fax: 903.665.9845

Ore City Ministerial Alliance

Wedena Oliver

Phone: 903.777.3603

Rusk County

Greater E TX Community Action Program

Email: getcap12@att.net

Phone: 800.621.5746

Patsy Williams

Email: pwilliams@get-cap.org

Phone: 903.657.9472

Phone: 903.665.8614

Fax: 903.655.8614

Smith County

Greater E TX Community Action Program

Email: getcap12@att.net

Phone: 800.621.5746

Tina Anderson

Email: tanderson@get-cap.org

Pearl Alvarado

Email: palvarado@get-cap.org

Phone: 903.592.3828

Fax: 903.592.3858

Upshur County/Wood County

Aid Bank

Velma Clay

Email: vjbc@etex.net

Phone: 903.238.3583

Upshur County

Tri-Community Action

Beth Eubanks

Email: beubanks@tccainc.org

Jennifer Iturbide

Email: jiturbide@tricitycommaction.org

Phone: 903.843.0604

Fax: 903.843.3043

Wood County

Greater E TX Community Action Program

Email: getcap12@att.net

Phone: 800.621.5746

Shelia Dutton

Email: sdutton@get-cap.org

Phone: 903.763.4511

Angel Network

Wendy Quinn

Phone: 903.297.9000

(Children Under 18 with  
Medical Problems)

Bridge of Compassion

903.923.9927

## YOUR RIGHTS AS A MEMBER:

A copy of this information in Spanish may be obtained by writing to Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation at: P.O. Box 70; Gilmer, Texas 75644, or from the Cooperative's business office located at 1200 West Tyler Street; Gilmer, Texas 75644.

Se puede obtener una copia de esta informacion en espanol escribiendo a Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation a P.O. Box 70; Gilmer, Texas 75644, o de la oficina en 1200 West Tyler Street; Gilmer, Texas 75644 numero del telefono es 903.843.2536; 800.259.2536.

All members and applicants of the Cooperative are entitled to information concerning their billing rate and service policies. This information is contained in the Cooperative's tariffs that are available for inspection on our website and at the Cooperative office. Copies of any part or all of the Cooperative's tariffs will be furnished for a nominal reproduction charge.

A member can request a test of the accuracy of their meter at no charge. However, if the member requests subsequent test during a four year period and the meter is found to be within acceptable accuracy standards, the Cooperative will charge the member a testing fee not to exceed \$35 for a residential consumer.

Your bill for electric service is issued monthly and is due and payable at the Cooperative's office on or before the due date, which is sixteen (16) days after issuance. Your bill for electric service will become delinquent if unpaid by the due date. If the due date falls on a holiday or weekend, the due date for payment purposes shall be the next working day after the due date. If your bill is not paid by the due date, a Termination Notice will be sent to you at least ten (10) days before a stated date of disconnection. A five percent (5%) late payment fee will also be assessed if your bill is not paid by the due date. If the cutoff day falls on a weekend or holiday, the cutoff will be made on the next working day.

If a member has a dispute with a bill from the Cooperative, the member should contact the Cooperative's Member Service Department and state the nature of the dispute. The Cooperative will then conduct a thorough examination of the billing dispute and if an error is discovered in favor of the member, the error will be corrected immediately. If the Cooperative finds that there is not an error in the bill, the member will be informed as to their obligation and rights with respect to payment of the bill under any and all tariffs of the Cooperative or rules and regulations of the Public Utility Commissions of Texas that apply. If the dispute is not resolved, the Cooperative will inform the member of the complaint procedures of the Commission, and the customer shall not be required to pay the disputed portion of the bill, which exceeds the average monthly usage pending determination of the dispute. If a dispute lasts less than 60 days, the disputed amount does not have to be paid until the dispute is resolved. If the dispute lasts more than 60 days, the disputed amount must be paid under protest.

If the member has a complaint against any Cooperative action, the member may request a supervisory review. If dissatisfied with the review, the member may contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas. They may do so by telephone by calling 888.782.8477, by writing the Commission, the address being: PUC Customer Protection; P.O. Box 13326; Austin, Texas 78711-3326 or by email at: [customer@puc.state.tx.us](mailto:customer@puc.state.tx.us). The telephone number of the teletypewriter for use by the deaf is: 800.735.2988. The Cooperative will provide electric service as per the tariffs without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability.

#### YOUTH TOUR:

Upshur Rural Electric participates in the Government-in-Action Youth Tour sponsored by Texas Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Each year we select one student that has attended our ETREYS seminar to go on an all-expense paid trip to Washington DC.

Tour participants will visit monuments, museums and historical sites as well as have the opportunity to meet their members of Congress. For more information on Youth Tour, go to [www.texas-ec.org/youth-programs/tour](http://www.texas-ec.org/youth-programs/tour).

#### NOTES

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