

ELEC - O - NEWS

Power2Go Prepaid Metering Now Available!

Holiday Closing

The offices of
Upshur Rural
Electric Cooperative
will be closed on
Friday, July 3rd
in observance of
Independence Day.



Credit Card Payment Rate Changes

Effective July 1, 2015, businesses with a rate classification of C, LPI and C-1 will no longer be able to pay by credit card. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding in this matter.

Is *Power2Go* right for me?

*Do you want more control over your use of energy?

*Could you manage your budget better if you knew how much electricity you were using each day?

*Is your payment history less than ideal and you cannot afford to pay a security deposit?

*Do you want all of your payments to go to the cost of electricity and not pay any more late or reconnect fees?

*Do you get paid once a month? Twice a month?

*Would smaller bills be easier to pay than one large one?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then *Power2Go* might be for you!

Power2Go allows you to pay for your electric service as you go. It uses daily readings to perform a prepay prorated bill calculation, reducing the member's credit balance based on the actual meter usage for each day.

There is no deposit requirement with *Power2Go*. Credit for an existing deposit on your account will apply against future billings.

Power2Go puts the member

in charge of their energy costs and budget. There are no late fees or reconnect fees. You will no longer receive a monthly electric bill.

When you sign up for *Power2Go*, you will choose notification methods that will send you a notice when your balance is getting low.

If you would like more information on *Power2Go* or would like to sign up, contact a member service representative at 903.843.2536 or 800.259.2536.

Our 2015 Scholarship Winners!

\$4000 Four-Year Scholarships

Gary Andrew Stuckey
Christian Ritter

\$2000 Two-Year Scholarships

David Fuller
Tigh Humphreys

\$800 One-Year Scholarships

Vera Hobma
Courtney Rosenbalm
William Harrison
Whitney Haschke
Misael Hernandez
Lauren Jones
Taylor Montgomery
Jessica Kennedy

James Curry
Serdalyer Darden
Montana Edwards
Austin Ripple
Matthew Wright
Joseph Earle
Jacy Brynn Darby
Cailee Davidson

Ciara Harrell
Chelsea Snow
Tatyana Howard
Clifford Justice
Jada Rose
Nicholas McCracken
Jhaenniece Rasberry
Kaytlin Parrymore

Kyle Strutton
Destinee Thomas
Diana Suarez
Maria Bocanegra
Akaysha Johnson
Margaret Billingslea

Lightning Safety Awareness

Since we have been plagued with numerous storms this spring, we felt like it would be a good idea to review some lightning safety tips. The National Weather Service slogan for lightning awareness is “**when thunder roars, go indoors!**”

Texas ranks number two in the nation for lightning related deaths from 2005-2014. People usually think

of golf as the main outdoor activity in lightning related deaths. From 2006-2012, deaths associated with leisure activity were ranked in the following order: camping, boating, soccer, and golf. Enjoying the beach, walking/running, riding recreational vehicles and picnicking or relaxing in the yard rounded out the totals.

According to the NOAA

website, some facts you need to know about lightning is:

*NO PLACE outside is safe when thunderstorms are in the area!

*If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you.

*When you hear thunder, immediately move to a

substantial building with electricity or plumbing or an enclosed, metal-topped vehicle with the windows up.

*Stay in a safe shelter at least 30 minutes after you hear the last sound of thunder.

Tips for indoor lightning safety are:

*Stay off corded phones, computers and other electrical equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity.

*Avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths and faucets.

*Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.

*Do not lie on concrete floors, and do not lean against concrete walls.

If you are caught outside with no safe shelter anywhere nearby, the following actions may reduce your risk:

*Immediately get off elevated areas such as hills, mountain ridges or peaks.

*Never lie flat on the ground.

*Never shelter under an isolated tree.

*Never use a cliff or rocky overhang for shelter.

*Immediately get out and away from ponds, lakes, and other bodies of water.

*Stay away from objects that conduct electricity (like fences, power lines, etc.)

Beginning July 1st, Extension Requests Will Be Automated!

- A. Each member will be allowed one extension every 6 months, not to exceed 2 extensions per calendar year.
- B. In order to obtain an extension, ***the member will need to make the request over the secure payments line***, which is an automated request system. In the event a member is not capable of completing the request by phone, we will have representatives available to handle such requests.
- C. Extension approvals are based upon credit rating and number of month's credit history. Extensions requested on accounts with a credit rating of 5 or below and a minimum of 12 consecutive months of credit history, will be approved for an extension in accordance with limitations shown above in Item A.
- D. Extensions will not be given on balances less than \$25 or over \$300. Past due balances that are over 30 days past due are not eligible for an extension.
- E. If the account meets all of the qualifications outlined above, we will extend up to 10 days past the cutoff date.
- F. Exceptions to these guidelines must be approved by a Supervisor.