

MAY 2026

URECC NEWSLETTER

Reducing the Risk of Wildfires

Not long ago, wildfires were often thought of as a problem mainly affecting the western United States. Today, however, rising temperatures, prolonged drought and changing weather patterns are creating more dangerous conditions across much of the country—including here in Texas. More than 30 states now face an elevated wildfire risk, making it clear that wildfire prevention is no longer just a regional issue. It is a national challenge that requires awareness and action from all of us.

At Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative, protecting our members and the communities we serve is always our top priority. As we recognize National Wildfire Awareness Month in May, we would like our members to know that wildfire mitigation is not something we only think about during specific times of the year. It is an ongoing effort that is built into how we maintain and operate our electric system every day.

One of the most important ways we help reduce wildfire risk is through our vegetation management program. Trees and power lines can be a dangerous combination, especially during dry and windy conditions. Throughout the year, URECC crews—along with our trusted contractors—work proactively to trim and remove vegetation that could come into contact with power lines and other critical infrastructure. This work takes careful planning, coordination with property owners and routine inspections. While it may not always be visible, it is one of the most effective ways we can help prevent potential fire hazards while keeping electricity reliable for our members.

In addition to working on the ground, URECC is also investing in technology that helps us better monitor and maintain our system. Specialized power line sensors will allow us to track equipment performance and alert us to potential issues before they become larger problems. Advanced imaging tools and system analytics help our team identify unusual conditions and respond quickly. We also use drones to inspect power lines, allowing us to safely identify potential hazards and support our fire mitigation efforts. These tools will help us move from simply responding to problems to preventing them whenever possible.

Wildfire prevention also involves thoughtful public policy. Maintaining electric infrastructure on and around public lands can present unique challenges. That is why we support practical, common sense solutions like the Fix Our Forests Act, which would help streamline the ability of electric cooperatives and other utilities to maintain power lines on federal lands while reducing hazardous vegetation buildup. Responsible land management is an important part of a comprehensive wildfire prevention strategy.

While URECC is committed to doing our part, wildfire prevention is truly a shared responsibility. There are several steps each of us can take to help protect our homes and communities. Always properly extinguish fires by dousing them with water, stirring the ashes and making sure they are completely cool before leaving the area. Avoid outdoor burning on windy or extremely dry days. Keep a defensible space around your home by clearing dry leaves, dead branches and other flammable materials. Use lawn equipment carefully during hot conditions, and always check local burn bans or restrictions before burning outdoors.

Wildfires are becoming more complex and more widespread, but through proactive system maintenance, smart investments, responsible policies and community awareness, we can work together to reduce the risk. At URECC, we take that responsibility seriously. Our members rely on us not only to deliver reliable electricity, but also to help protect the communities we are proud to serve.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As temperatures start to rise, many homeowners focus on staying cool.

Don't forget about the small gaps around windows and doors. While air sealing is often associated with keeping cold air out during winter, it's just as important during summer.

Tiny cracks and worn weatherstripping allow cool, conditioned air to escape and hot, humid air to seep indoors. This forces your air conditioner to work harder than necessary and increases energy costs. Take a few minutes to check for drafts, replace weatherstripping and seal leaks. A tighter home keeps you more comfortable and helps manage energy use.

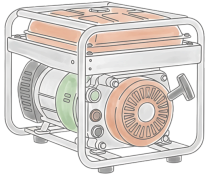
UTILITY SCAM AWARENESS TIP OF THE MONTH

If you receive a call claiming you overpaid your electric bill and asking for your banking or credit card information to process a refund, hang up immediately. This is likely a scam. If you overpay your bill, your electric cooperative will simply apply the credit to your account or issue a refund by check. We will never call and ask for your banking or credit card information to process a refund.

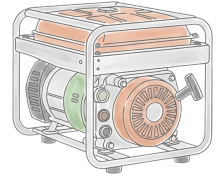
If you have questions about your account, contact our office directly using the phone number on your bill or our official website.

STAY SAFE WHILE USING PORTABLE GENERATORS

Portable generators are helpful during power outages, but improper use can cause fires or carbon monoxide poisoning. Follow these basic safety tips.



- Use generators outdoors only at least 20 feet from your home.
 - Keep exhaust away from doors, windows, and vents.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home.
- Keep generators dry and use heavy duty outdoor extension cords.
 - Turn off and allow the generator to cool before refueling.
 - Never plug a generator directly into a wall outlet.
 - Turn off generators before sleeping or leaving home.



Using generators safely helps protect your home and family during power outages.



MEMORIAL DAY

URECC offices will be closed
Monday, May 25th, 2026, in
observance of Memorial Day.

MEMBER NOTICES

For your security, we verify your credentials each time you contact us. Please keep your account information up to date and ensure your spouse or additional authorized contacts are listed. These steps help keep your account secure. Review your information in the URECC SmartHub app. To update your information, call our Member Services team at 903-843-2536.

May is National Safety Month—follow us on social media or visit our website for safety tips!

Tree trimming continues in the Mt Eara, Nesbitt, Hallsville, and Gum Springs areas.

To request vegetation management near or endangering a power line, select “Contact Us” in the SmartHub app or web version, and choose System/Line Problems. You can also call Member Services at 903-843-2536.

Avoid Fire Hazards

During dry conditions, it’s important to take extra precautions to reduce fire risk. Avoid mowing over weeds or dry grass, as equipment can create sparks that may ignite a fire.

Always dispose of cigarettes and matches properly, and be cautious when using power equipment that can produce sparks. Additionally, check your vehicles to ensure no parts, including towing chains, are dragging on the ground, as they can easily spark and start a fire. Taking these simple steps can help protect your property and your community.

URECC BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: DUOLINE



Since its founding in 1964 in Odessa, Texas, DUOLINE has been at the forefront of innovation in tubular corrosion protection. It was here that the company pioneered its glass-reinforced epoxy (GRE) internal lining process, an advancement designed to serve as a permanent corrosion barrier for steel tubing. Over the decades, this technology has proven its durability and effectiveness, with more than 100 million feet of DUOLINE-lined tubing installed in tens of thousands of wells across the globe.

In 2009, DUOLINE transitioned its operations to Gilmer, Texas, marking a new chapter in its growth while closing its original Odessa facility. The move positioned the company to continue expanding its capabilities and better serve a global customer base. This evolution continued in 2017, when DUOLINE became part of the Maxtube Group, further strengthening its reach and resources within the industry.

Today, DUOLINE manufactures its GRE liners at its Gilmer facility, where they can be installed directly into pipe or distributed to Maxtube facilities worldwide for installation. This flexible approach allows DUOLINE to efficiently meet the needs of customers across multiple regions.

Built on decades of field-proven performance, DUOLINE technology was created to solve real operational challenges, and it continues to do so today. Its long-standing track record has solidified its reputation as one of the earliest and most successful GRE lining systems in the oilfield industry.

This enduring legacy is why DUOLINE Technologies remains widely recognized, both internally and across the industry, as a true pioneer in tubular corrosion prevention.



Electrical Safety Month!

May is the perfect time to focus on keeping your home and family safe from electrical hazards. Small, simple steps can make a big difference in preventing accidents, protecting your home, and even saving on energy costs.

Here are a few key areas to check this month:

- **Smoke Detectors:** Test alarms monthly, replace batteries regularly, and ensure they are working on every level of your home.
- **Outlets & Switches:** Look for loose, warm, or discolored outlets. Use GFCI outlets in kitchens, bathrooms, and other wet areas.
- **Lighting:** Avoid overloading fixtures, use the correct bulb wattage, and consider upgrading to energy-efficient LEDs.
- **Breaker Panel:** Watch for frequently tripped breakers, label circuits clearly, and investigate unusual sounds or heat.
- **Wiring:** Check for frayed or exposed wires and any burning smells. Older homes may need more attention due to aging wires.

By working together, we can all take simple steps like checking wiring, outlets, and smoke detectors to prevent hazards and enjoy peace of mind. Let's make safety a team effort this Electrical Safety Month.

Securing Your Financial Future

May graduations are a great reminder that college costs keep rising, so planning ahead matters. Starting a 529 Plan or UGMA/UTMA account for the kids in your life can make a big difference.

529 Plans offer tax-free growth for education expenses, while UGMA/UTMA accounts provide more flexibility but are taxable and transfer control to the child in adulthood. Even small monthly contributions over time can add up, helping reduce future student loan debt and support their success.

Strawberry Icebox Cake

Ingredients:

- Graham crackers
- Whipped cream
- Strawberries (sliced)



Instructions:

- Layer graham crackers, whipped cream, and strawberries
- Repeat layers as needed
- Refrigerate for a few hours until soft then serve

Cool, creamy, and perfect for summer!