



[www.fairfield.coop](http://www.fairfield.coop)

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**OFFICE HOURS**

8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
 Monday through Friday

**CUSTOMER SERVICE**

Toll Free: (800) 628-0336  
 Blythewood: (803) 754-0153  
 Winnsboro: (803) 635-4621  
 Camden and Lugoff: (803) 425-1059

**POWER OUTAGE REPORTING ONLY**

(800) 499-7862  
 Outages are handled by an automated outage reporting system. Please follow instructions. The system will automatically report the outage and a crew will be dispatched.

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## Season's greetings



**THE HOLIDAYS SOON** will be upon us, but there is another season we all need to be prepared for—heating season.

Have you prepared your home for heating season? Here are a few things you can do to help you get the most for your energy dollar.

- ▶ **Have your heating system serviced.** Consider your heating and cooling systems like you do your car. Just like you have your car serviced, you should have your home's heating and cooling systems serviced on a regular basis by a licensed HVAC professional. They will perform much better.
- ▶ **Seal air leaks.** Air leaks are one of the leading causes for unnecessary energy consumption. Seal around windows and doors with weather stripping and caulk.
- ▶ **Lower your thermostat.** One of the best ways to save energy is to lower the thermostat setting to the lowest possible comfortable temperature. Put on an extra layer of clothes and save.
- ▶ **Change filters on a regular basis.** You should replace filters monthly. A dirty filter will put stress on the fan motor and reduce efficiency.
- ▶ **Make sure your home is properly insulated.** An investment in additional insulation can help with heat loss, especially in the attic.
- ▶ **Install a programmable thermostat.** A programmable thermostat allows you to put your home on a “temperature schedule” so you can control the temperature even when you are not home.

Take the time this year to prepare for the heating season. You can find additional tips at [touchstoneenergy.com](http://touchstoneenergy.com).

The holidays are a season of celebration and reflection. As I reflect upon the success of your cooperative this year, I want to recognize the fine group of employees who serve you every day. I would like to personally thank each one of them for their commitment, dedication and loyalty, not only to this organization, but also to the communities in which they live and serve. They are truly committed to our core values of accountability, integrity, innovation and community commitment.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and employees, I wish each one of you a happy holiday season—and a happy heating season.

**BRUCE G. BACON**

Chief Executive Officer

### We'll see you here in January!

Fairfield Electric Cooperative will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 25 and 26, in observance of Thanksgiving. We'll also be closed on Thursday, Dec. 23 and Friday, Dec. 24 for Christmas. And we'll be closed on Friday, Dec. 31 for New Year's Day. As always, emergency crews will be on standby.

Please also note that this issue of *South Carolina Living* is a combined issue for November and December. We'll return with a new issue in January. Until then, happy holidays from Fairfield Electric Cooperative!



Veterans Robert Woodard (left) and James Small join their Fairfield Electric coworkers Mary Reardon, Tara Turner, Ashley Stoutland and Chaundrea Lee in donating items for a deployed soldier.

One of those programs is sending morale boosting care packages to deployed service members. Turner, who works with three veterans at the cooperative and has a nephew in the Air Force, launched Heroes Helping Heroes at Fairfield Electric.

“We think of our as linemen heroes,” says Turner, explaining the name. “And of course, so are our soldiers.”

Soldiers’ Angels provided Turner the name and location of an Army soldier for the cooperative to “adopt” for the duration of the soldier’s deployment. Each month, Fairfield Electric employees send letters, cards and a collection of donated items—such as hygiene products, socks, books and games—to the anonymous soldier. Turner says she is the only one who knows the identity of the recipient.

“For us, just knowing that this person is serving our country and protecting our freedoms is enough,” says Turner. “We just want that soldier to know there are people here at Fairfield Electric that are grateful for that service.”

Soldiers’ Angels provides numerous ways organizations and individuals can support our troops. Your family can start a new holiday tradition by sending Holiday Stockings for Heroes or by adopting a military or veteran family. To find out more, visit [soldiersangels.org](http://soldiersangels.org).

JOSH P. CROTZER

## FEC employees ‘helping heroes’

### WHO SAYS TIK-TOK IS A TIMEWASTER?

For Fairfield Electric employee Tara Turner, the mobile video app was an inspiration to help an active member of the U.S. military. While scrolling through her feed, she noticed a video about a global network of volunteers called Soldiers’ Angels.

The group works to ensure that those who serve or have served are supported through a variety of programs.

## Make this a safe holiday season

BY MIKE MARTHERS

Manager of Safety & Training

The holidays are upon us. For many, that means more celebrations with friends and family, travel, decorations, cooking and shopping. Fairfield Electric Cooperative wants you to stay safe during the holidays, so here are a few tips to consider as you gear up for the season.

We can’t guarantee that the hustle and bustle of the season won’t leave you with a few frayed nerves, but we can certainly help you avoid frayed wires.

### Inspect your seasonal items

Many of us have treasured holiday mementos that we bring out of storage and proudly display every year. The holidays are also a time when we dust off special cooking gadgets that allow us to prepare

our favorite seasonal treats. These items are often handed down through generations and might lack modern safety features.

Take a few moments to carefully inspect all your holiday items to ensure everything is in safe, working order. A few things to look out for include:

- ▶ Brittle insulation on wires.
- ▶ Rodent damage to wires.
- ▶ Chafed or frayed wires, especially at stress points.
- ▶ Worn switches with the potential to short circuit.
- ▶ Corroded metal parts.
- ▶ Broken legs, unstable bases and other tip-over hazards.

### Read the fine print

If you take a few minutes to read and understand the specifications and



Mike Marthers

CHAUNDREA LEE

limitations of your lights and other electrified holiday decorations, you can save yourself a great deal of work and frustration in the long run. For example, the tag at the end of an extension cord will tell you if it’s rated for outdoor use, whether it will remain flexible in cold temperatures and how much energy it can safely handle. Similarly, holiday lights will tell you how many strings can be safely linked together.