

What Do You Know About Substations?



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER BILLY MARRICLE

YOU MIGHT THINK, “Why would I want to know about substations?” But substations are an important part of the electrical system that brings you safe and reliable electricity every time you flip a light switch or turn on an appliance.

A substation supports delivery between the transmission and distribution systems. Transmission substations give electricity its first step-down; distribution substations step voltage down even further and maintain it at a constant level so that it can be sent on to the consumer.

A constant level of voltage is particularly important: To travel long distances over wires, electric power voltage must be much higher than the level at which it is produced by a power plant. For example, electricity leaves a power plant at about 22,000 volts, then is increased to as much as 765,000 volts. The higher the voltage, the lower the line loss and voltage drop—thus, the greater the system’s efficiency. As the power gets closer to its destination, voltage is gradually decreased to a level safe for consumers.

A mass of equipment can be found in a substation: transformers, insulators, circuit breakers, lighting arrestors, etc. The thing that looks like a garbage can near the top of a pole is the transformer. Its function is to increase voltage for efficient long-distance transmission or to lower voltage for use by co-op members. The lines leaving a distribution substation are owned and maintained by the local co-op. These lines carry the power to industries, businesses, homes and schools.

The next time you drive by one of those menacing, fenced conglomerations of power lines and equipment, remember this: A substation is an important part of your power system. It helps ensure that you receive electricity in a reliable and safe manner.

Until next time, take care.



Substations are an important part of the power system, ensuring the safe delivery of electricity.



Lightning Safety

IT ONLY TAKES ONE STRIKE of lightning to change a person’s life forever. Lightning can cause serious injuries and death. Unfortunately, lightning can be unpredictable. It does not have to be raining for lightning to strike, and you can be injured even if you are indoors.

Lightning can strike up to 10 miles away from a thunderstorm. If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance. It is best to plan ahead so you are not caught outside in a storm. However, if you cannot take shelter in a building, you can follow these tips to lessen the chances of a lightning accident:

- ▶ Take shelter in a vehicle with a solid metal roof. Close windows and avoid contact with electrical-conducting paths, such as the steering wheel, gearshift or radio.
- ▶ Avoid water, high ground and open spaces.
- ▶ Do not seek safety in open-frame shelters or vehicles, such as golf carts.
- ▶ Do not stand near poles, metal fences or bleachers, trees or even other people. Groups of people should spread out at least 20 feet apart.
- ▶ Wait until 30 minutes has passed without lightning or thunder until you return outside.

Even indoors, lightning requires safety precautions. If lightning strikes your home, it can travel through electronics and plumbing. It is safest to stay away from electronics, outlets and plumbing during storms.

Meet Your Directors: Lori Walker, District 1

SAN BERNARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE is happy to welcome Waller County resident Lori Walker as our District 1 director. Walker was elected at our 77th annual meeting this past May.

Walker moved to Waller County more than 20 years ago. She prides herself on being a mother, grand champion horse breeder and businesswoman, and is deeply involved with local agriculture programs.

Growing up in Beaumont, Walker worked with her parents in their family-owned business. That is where she learned about a budget and strong work ethic. She graduated from Kelly High School and continued her education at Lamar University.

Walker is the mother of two Texas A&M Aggies, MaClay and Skylor. She spent a lot of time on the road with her girls, doing horse shows as a family. She sees her daughters as her greatest accomplishment and her biggest blessing.

“When I turned 50, I decided to start showing miniature horses, only because my goals with my American quarter horse, pinto, paint and palomino horses have been met,” Walker said.

Together, Walker and her daughters have received many world championship honors in various associations with their horses, and now, miniature horses.

“I am a big believer in ag for kids,” Walker said. “It teaches them so many different things: How to interact with people such as writing notes and asking for support or sending a thank-you note to a buyer.”

Walker enjoys being a part of the Waller County Fair every year and supporting the youth project shows.

“I have provided a lot of the livestock for the children to show over the years,” Walker added. “It has been very rewarding to help the kids with their animals.”

Walker also owns several single and multihousing units in



the Hempstead, Waller and Montgomery areas, and she runs a successful ranch.

Now that her daughters are both in college, she feels she has the time to devote to the San Bernard EC members and is excited about her new position.

“My goal is to do the best job I can do,” Walker said. “I am excited about learning about what SBEC does in the field and how they do it. I hope to make good business decisions and would like to be known as a good ‘go-to’ person for my district.”



Youth Tour Winners Return from DC

COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS Mariah June Ji Peters and Emily Herchek spent a week in Washington, D.C., with 145 other students from across Texas on the 2017 Government-in-Action Youth Tour. This trip is sponsored by electric cooperatives from all over the state of Texas, giving students a chance to learn about our great American history and culture firsthand.

"Many trips I go on, like my youth camps, are great—but this experience changed my outlook on seeing history," Peters

said. "It made me appreciate history and Texas more. It was educational yet fun at the same time."

The trip began in Austin, where the students toured the Texas Capitol, Texas State Cemetery and Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. From there, they departed for Washington, to spend six full days visiting museums, meeting their local congressmen on Capitol Hill and learning more about their roles in our cooperative world.

When we asked Herchek some of her favorite places in D.C.,



her list included the Lincoln and Washington memorials, World War II and Marine Corps War memorials, Holocaust Museum, National Archives (including the Constitution, Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights), Reflecting Pool, Newseum, American History Museum, White House and the Korean War Memorial.

The place that stood out to Herchek was Mount Vernon. “It was amazing to have walked through the house and across the land that George Washington himself walked on, as well as find out more about his personal life,” she said.

Peters said her favorite museum was the Holocaust Museum. “What made it stand out was seeing all the shoes stacked on top of each other and realizing that’s how many people died,” she said. “Seeing it in person made history come to life.”

When applying for Youth Tour, many students don’t realize how different this trip is and why it is often described as “the trip of a lifetime.”

“I thought it would be just a few motivational speakers and seeing a few sights, but it went more in-depth than that. We got to hear the history behind everything and how it relates to our lives,” Herchek said.

This trip leaves a lasting impression on all those who attend. It becomes more of an experience than just a trip and brings to life the rich culture and history that makes up the United States.

“I would definitely recommend this trip,” Peters said. “All the memories I made will never leave my mind. Even if you have gone to D.C. [before], you haven’t seen it or experienced it like this.”

Cool Summer Evenings Call for Fans, Not AC

EVEN THE HOTTEST summer gives us a break occasionally, sending pleasant temperatures and gentle breezes our way, especially in the evenings.



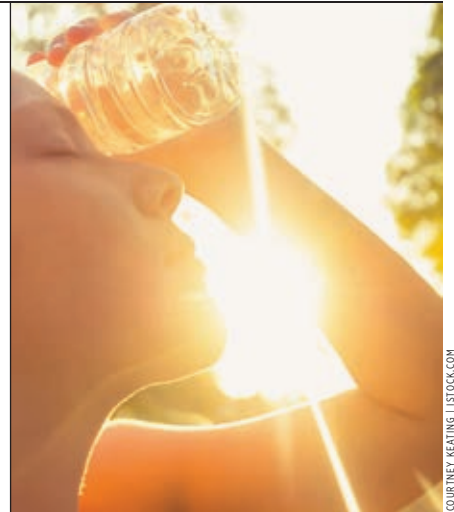
Place a fan in an open window to cool down on pleasant evenings.

When it's not too hot outside, you can cool your house more economically with fans than by running your central or window air conditioner.

Placing a fan in a window circulates the air and freshens the home by exhausting stale air. It also can remove odors from smoking and cooking that tend to linger in the air when all the windows are closed.

A ceiling fan can be used whether the air conditioning is on or off. During the summer, the blades send a slight breeze down into the room and will make anyone in that room feel more comfortable.

But remember: Fans don't actually cool the house off. Instead, they make the air feel cooler to people in rooms where they are located because they move the air around. So turn them off when you leave the room.



COURTNEY KEATING | ISTOCK.COM

As the temperature rises, so does the risk of an electrical fire.

Avoid Summer Overload

SUMMER IS A DIFFICULT TIME for electrical systems. When temperatures rise, they must work hard to power air conditioners. Old or damaged home electrical systems can cause shocks and start fires when put under the stress of summer electricity use.

San Bernard Electric Cooperative urges its members to take steps to keep homes and loved ones safe.

Older homes may have a difficult time providing electricity to all the electronics and appliances of a modern household. An electrician can tell you whether your home's electrical system is appropriate for the electronics you are using and what improvements are necessary.

Some signs that your electrical system is overloaded are flickering lights; frequently tripped circuits; cords or wall plates that are warm to the touch; or crackling, popping or sizzling sounds coming from outlets. These can present a serious fire risk.

No matter the season or age of a home, residents should check regularly for electrical hazards such as cracked or fraying cords, overloaded outlets and circuits, and improper wattage of light-bulbs. Also, make sure smoke alarms are placed and functioning properly.



SBEC CO-OP CONNECTIONS

Co-op Connections Card

San Bernard Electric Cooperative, Inc.
www.sbec.org
800-244-2171

SPLASHWAY
Waterpark & Campground

SAVE AT SPLASHWAY WATERPARK with your CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD

SPLASHWAY.COM
5211 Main Street, Sheridan, TX 77475
979-234-7718

Ask the Energy Adviser

Q: HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO SEAL AIR LEAKS IN YOUR HOME?

A: Air leaks in the walls, ceilings and floors of your home can waste up to 30 percent of the energy consumed by your heating and cooling equipment. Sealing air leaks reduces energy loss, helps keep environmental contaminants such as dust and moisture under control, and makes your home more comfortable.

Q: WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE RETURN AIR FILTER CLEAN ON YOUR HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEM?

A: Clean filters keep your HVAC system healthy. They enable it to run more efficiently, keep repair costs to a minimum and reduce monthly energy bills. Clogged filters make the HVAC system work harder as it conditions the air in your home, which raises your energy bill and shortens the life span of the equipment.

Q: WHAT IS THE PROPER TEMPERATURE TO SET MY THERMOSTAT ON?

A: In the summer, 78 degrees when your home is occupied, and 81–83 degrees when you are away. In the winter, 68 degrees when you are home, and 63–65 degrees when you are gone. For each degree above or below the recommended setting that you set your thermostat, you can potentially save 5–8 percent more electricity.

This is where a programmable thermostat can really help lower energy usage by automatically changing the settings for you. Once you program the desired settings into the thermostat, you no longer have to remember to manually change the settings before you leave your house.

Q: HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH INSULATION?

A: In our part of the country, the 2012 Energy Code standards call for an insulation value of at least R-38 in the attic and R-17 on the walls.

Insulation is what resists the flow of heat into your home during the summer and out of your home in the winter. The higher the R-value of your insulation, the greater the resistance to heat flowing through it.

Most older homes do not have this level of insulation, as it was not common practice. However, it is relative easy to add more insulation to most attics in order to increase the R-value.

Walls are another story. Unless you are planning on tearing into your walls as part of a remodeling project, it is very difficult and expensive to increase their level of insulation.



Greg Adams,
energy adviser



San Bernard Electric Cooperative

PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER

Billy Marricle

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gus H. Miller Jr., Chairman, *District 6*
Bruce Pilcik, 1st Vice Chairman, *District 3*
Karl N. Micklitz, 2nd Vice Chairman, *District 2*
Sammy Condra, 3rd Vice Chairman, *District 5*
Charles Matula, Secretary-Treasurer, *District 7*
Elroy Kiecke, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, *District 4*
Lori Walker, *District 1*
Colt Haack, *District 8*
John Allen, *District 9*

Contact Us

HEADQUARTERS—BELLVILLE

(979) 865-3171

1-800-364-3171

309 W. Main St. • P.O. Box 1208
Bellville 77418

COLUMBUS SERVICE CENTER

(979) 732-8346

4285 Highway 71 South • P.O. Box 309
Columbus 78934

FIELDSTORE SERVICE CENTER

(936) 372-9176 or

(936) 372-9177

29244 FM 1488 • P.O. Box 1367
Magnolia 77353

HALLETTSVILLE SERVICE CENTER

(361) 798-4493

1686 U.S. Hwy. 90A East • P.O. Box 610
Hallettsville 77964

PAY BY PHONE

1-844-201-7199

FIND US ON THE WEB

sbec.org

[facebook.com/sbecoop](https://www.facebook.com/sbecoop)



TRADING POST



FOR SALE

INDIAN HEAD PENNIES, roll of 50, from the 1900s. Call (979) 877-7257.

HOG TRAPS, 12 ft. round drop, Bellville area. Call (979) 421-2493.

ELECTRIC SCOOTER, X-Treme XP-707 with charger, seldom used, \$350. Call (281) 250-5201.

PUMP MOTOR, 1.5 hp, brand-new, never used, \$170. Call (281) 250-5201.

CATTLE, bred heifers and young cows, top quality. Call (979) 865-3804.

ROUND BALER, Vermeer 605H, good condition, \$2,500. Call (361) 798-3333.

TREES IN 2 GALLON POTS; 272 acres in the Hill Country. Call (979) 357-4801.

SMALL CIGAR-STORE INDIAN. Measures 36 in. tall, nice colors, very rare, \$195. Call (281) 639-4049.

OFFICE ITEMS. 4-drawer lateral file cabinet, \$99; bookcase, \$30; secretary chair, \$35; rollabout file rack, \$75; vacuum cleaner \$15. Columbus area. Call (979) 733-9816.

RIM for 2-stall WW horse trailer, 15 in., 5-lug, 4½ inch spacing, good used condition. Call Paul at (281) 341-4309 and leave message.

DISK CUTTER, Vicon 240, 7 ft, in good condition. Call (979) 877-5186.

DINING ROOM TABLE, 44x64 in., w/2 extra leaves, \$250; bench to match, \$65. Call (979) 865-9530.

VARIOUS ITEMS. Stringer insect killer, new, \$15; storage cabinet, \$75; Detecto scale, new, \$12; tomcat mole trap, \$5; Euro-floor steam cleaning system, new, \$30; HDTV booster, 25-mile range, \$5; cardio exercise equipment, \$75; weight bench, \$55; 6-gal. mop bucket, new, \$25; wheelchair, 18 in., light-weight, \$100; handicap bar, \$10. Columbus area. Call (979) 733-9816.

DINING ROOM TABLE, large, oval, oak, with leaf extensions and six matching chairs included, seats up to 8 people. Call (713) 562-1357.

ACREAGE. About 97 beautiful wooded acres with creeks, deer and hogs. In Colorado County off Hwy. 108, south of Columbus. Call (281) 415-5163 for more information.

BULL CALVES, purebred Texas Longhorns, ages vary, 12-14 months old, gentle and beautiful animals. Call (361) 798-3900 for information and pictures.

WANTED

USED CATTLE OR CORRAL PANELS. Call (979) 877-7257.

MILK COW. Call (281) 375-5094.

ROW DISK. 1 or 2 rows. Call (936) 245-5827.

ADVERTISE IN THE TRADING POST

SBEC members are invited to submit ads for the Trading Post to P.O. Box 1208, Bellville, TX 77418 or Isamford@sbec.org. **However, no commercial business ads will be accepted.** Ads are placed on a first-come, first-served basis, and we reserve the right to refuse any ad. Please submit your ad by the **20th** of each month. (If you submit an ad by August 20, it will appear in the October issue). Your ad will be published in two consecutive issues, then deleted. If you want the ad to run another two months, you must resubmit the ad. **The ad will not exceed four consecutive months.**

FREE

ELECTRIC SCOOTER, Little Rascal three-wheel with two small stabilizer wheels, needs new battery to run. Free for taker to pick up. Call (979) 270-0332.

SERVICES

FREE WILD HOG REMOVAL. Use dogs, well experienced, willing to travel. Call (832) 715-1130.

DRONE SERVICES. FFA-certified. Call (979) 877-9160.

Keep Food Safe

Before, During and After a Power Outage

Unfortunately, power outages do occur from time to time. It's important to know how to keep your food safe during an outage. Use these tips from USDA to help minimize food loss and reduce your risk of illness.

Before power outage



Keep refrigerator at **40° or below**. Freeze items like fresh meat and poultry that you won't use immediately. Keep freezer set to **0° or below**. Group frozen foods to help items stay colder longer.



If you anticipate an extended power outage, buy dry or block ice to keep the fridge and/or freezer cold.

During power outage

Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed!

If the doors stay closed during the length of the outage:



A full freezer will hold its temperature for **48 hours**.



A refrigerator will keep food safe for **four hours**.

After power outage

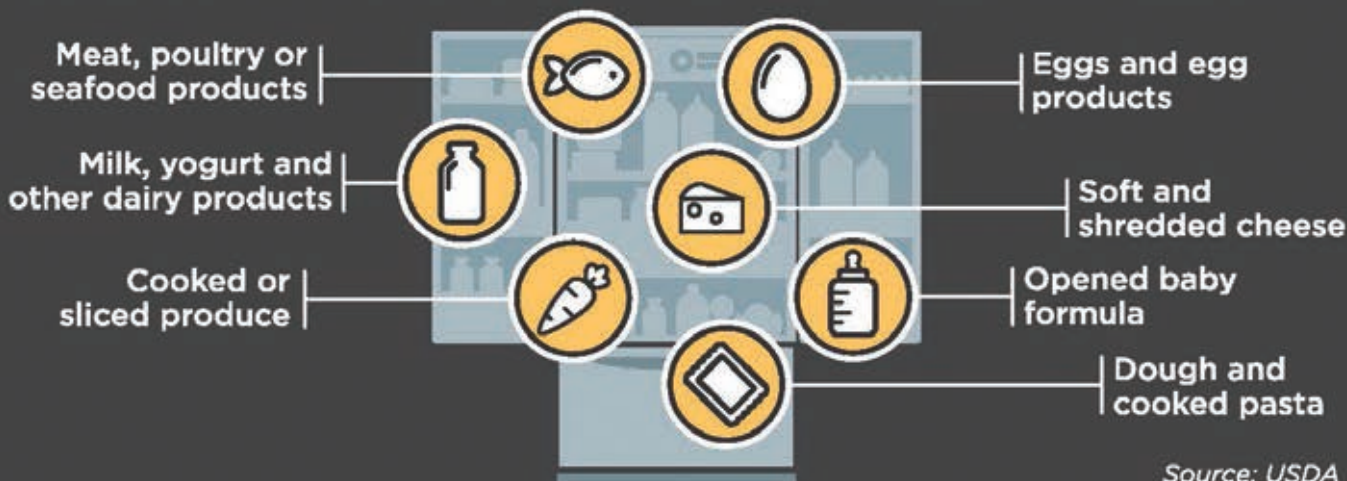


Check the temperature inside your refrigerator and/or freezer.



If the temperatures are safe, the food should be safe to eat.

Foods that should be thrown out after an extended power outage:



Source: USDA