

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **Sumter Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

Barry Bowman, Director  
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**January 3, 2012**

## SECO implements its cold weather plan

Sumter Electric Cooperative (SECO) implemented its cold weather plan early this morning due to the very low temperatures in its service territory.

According to SECO Director of Corporate Communications, Barry Bowman, “Any time temperatures are projected to hit 30 degrees or lower our plan for addressing the cold weather is automatically implemented as a precautionary measure. No issues have impacted SECO’s electric system thus far. However, we have increased staffing levels should a problem occur. SECO will maintain its cold weather plan for the duration of the current cold snap.”

Bowman urged anyone using space heaters as supplemental heat sources to be very careful. He said that heaters should be kept well away from flammables, as well as pets and children. If an electric space heater is being used and the power does go off unexpectedly, it is advisable to turn the heater off to prevent it coming on when the homeowner is not present. That also helps reduce a surge in the power load demand across the SECO system when power is restored. In addition, he urged caution when using fireplaces if the chimney has not been cleaned in the past year and he said outdoor grills should never be a heating option.”

SECO serves approximately 172,000 member/customers in Citrus, Marion, Lake, Sumter, Pasco, Levy and Hernando counties.

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