

San Patricio Electric Cooperative – (361) 364-2220
320 Amp Pole Mounted Meter Loop Construction Requirements

1. Build rack to accommodate Meter can and Panel(s) and must be attached to meter pole.
2. 2 ½ - 3” Weather head extending to within 18” of top of pole.
3. Mark neutral with white tape or use white colored wire. Wire must extend out of weather head at least 24”. A minimum size of 350 MCM stranded copper is required.
4. 15 feet of 2 ½” - 3” rigid galvanized conduit or rigid aluminum conduit or Schedule 80 Gray PVC pipe.
EMT is not acceptable
5. 320 amp Ringless Meter can.
6. PVC TA’s (Threaded Adapters) with lock rings and plastic bushing from Meter can to panel. If threaded galvanized or aluminum nipple is used, there must be a bonding bushing installed on the meter can side with ground wire passing through the lug. Panel side must be connected to hub if located below meter can. Conduit must be same diameter as riser above meter can. Length must be a minimum of 4” but not more than 6”.
7. Breaker panels must have main breaker/fuses. Service disconnects must only add up to 325 amps or below. Above 325 amps see Current Transformer (C.T.) meter loop diagram.
8. Ground Wire #6 green stranded/solid up to 150 amp, #4 green up to 225 amp, #2 green up to 320 amp. Ground wire starts in meter can and passes out to ground rod. From the panel the wire must be in PVC conduit.
9. 5/8” x 8’ Copper-clad Ground Rod & Clamp shall be fully driven into earth with the top of the rod just below the surface of the ground.
10. Center of Meter must fall between 48” to 72”

San Patricio Electric has a licensed electrician that builds meter loops and offers other services as well. For a price quote please call the Cooperative at [361-364-2220](tel:361-364-2220)

Members may set their own meter pole. **NOTE: Contact SPEC about placement of meter pole in relation to transformer pole BEFORE placing meter pole.** The meter pole must be a minimum of 18 feet in length with a 6” top. Pole must be set a minimum of 10% of pole length plus 2 feet. Meter loop riser must extend to within 18” from top of the pole. Meter loop should be mounted on the rack so that meter is a minimum of 60” from ground level and a maximum of 72” from ground level. A 5/8” X 8’ copper-clad ground rod and copper weld ground rod clamp must be installed with #4 green ground for 150 and 200 amp and #6 green ground for 125 amp service.

Meter loop must be completely assembled by the member or by an electrician in order to be connected. Cooperative employees will not help in the assembling of a meter loop on the job site.

CONSTRUCTION of a 3 WIRE METER LOOP

Meter Loop must be assembled by the member or by an electrician. The Cooperative shall determine the acceptability of the meter loop before the connection is made.

Meter and Main disconnect must be located on the outside area of any structure and must be accessible to the Cooperative and/or fire department. First point of disconnect must be breakers or fuses and not blade disconnects.

Mobile Home/Manufactured Home Service Equipment. The mobile/manufactured home service equipment shall be located adjacent to the mobile/manufactured home and NOT mounted in or on the mobile home. The service equipment shall be located in sight from and not more than 30 ft from the exterior wall of the home it serves.

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CONSTRUCTION of 5 WIRE METER LOOP WILL NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED.

Consumer wiring from the load side of the consumer's breaker box cannot be run back up through the meter can and the main meter loop riser. To feed consumer services, wire should be run underground and not up meter pole.

ALLOWABLE AMPERAGE OF AN INSULATED CONDUCTOR

Taken from National Electric Code Manual Table 310-16

Copper wire, type THHN max. Temp. 90° centigrade, 600 volt insulation minimum

<u>Wire Size</u>	<u>Meter Loop Size</u>	<u>Conduit Size</u>
#2 cu	125 amp service	1-1/4"
#1 cu	150 amp service	1-1/2"
#2/0 cu	200 amp service	2"
#3/0 cu	225 amp service	2"
#350	320 amp service	3"

Aluminum Wire Not Allowed
Reduced Neutral Not Allowed

Ground Clearance

The guidelines on ground clearances for service conductors as described on the reverse side **MUST BE FOLLOWED**.

NOTE: For 120/240-volt service drop installations, minimum clearances must be maintained according to SPEC regulations:

- 12' of clearance should be maintained where no traffic is present
- 15' of clearance should be maintained over driveways
- 22' of clearance should be maintained over roadways
- 22.5' of clearance should be maintained over swimming pools
- 3.5' of clearance should be maintained over building roofs (no pedestrians)
- 11' of clearance should be maintained over building roofs (with pedestrians)

The measurement for clearance is determined at the lowest point in the service wire. The clearances from the ground to the service wire will decrease as the distance between the meter pole and the service pole, or transformer pole, increases.

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