

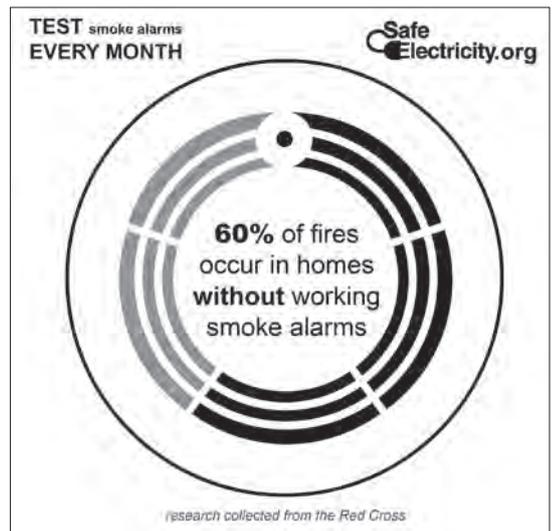
THE CONNECTION

Keep Your Home Safe from Electrical Fires

Your lights turn on in an instant, and your plug slides into outlets without sparks or shocks. You can't see it and typically don't think much about it. However, the electricity that we take for granted every day requires attention to potential hazards and taking steps to keep everyone safe.

Safe Electricity offers these tips to help keep your home safe from electrical problems and fires:

- Have all work done by a qualified electrician.
- Get regular check-ups for older homes, which have older wiring and are often designed for fewer appliances and electronics. Have the electrical system checked every 5 - 10 years, depending on the age of your home. If your home is older than thirty years, make sure the wiring meets updated National Electrical Code standards.
- Watch for warning signs such as hot or discolored switch plates, cords, or plugs; dimming or flickering lights; buzzing or sizzling sounds. If you smell a burning odor, check it out immediately and unplug electric items in that area.
- Immediately repair loose outlets, and discard or replace cracked, cut, or broken insulation on electric cords.
- Keep cords out of walkways and high traffic areas so they don't get stepped on and damaged, and cause a tripping hazard.
- Use extension cords temporarily, not as permanent wiring. Too many extension cords in one area creates a risk of overheating or overloading circuits.
- Never use cords or appliances that have exposed, damaged, or faulty wiring. Have them repaired or replaced.



continued on page 8-B ►

WIN

ONE OF TWO MONTHLY \$5 BILL CREDITS

THIS MONTH'S CONTEST:

What energy efficiency products are you most interested in learning about?



Winners for the month of September:
Karol & Marta Smigowska, Marshalltown
Craig & Ann Danner, Marshalltown

Here's how to enter:

1. Answer the question or challenge posed each month.

2. Send answers to Consumers Energy with:

- . Name
- . Service address
- . Account number
- . Phone number
- . Email address

Email to: kglenney@consumersenergy.coop

Subject line: Contest

Mail to: Consumers Energy
2074 242nd Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158

3. Winners' names will be drawn at random and published in upcoming issues of *The Connection*.

November 2018

– Your Source for Power and Information

Dates To Remember:

- | | |
|------------|------------------------------|
| Nov. 1 | Read Meters |
| Nov. 3 | Bills Due |
| Nov. 4 | Daylight Saving Time Ends |
| Nov. 5 | Automatic Payments Deducted |
| Nov. 9 | Email/Mail Bills |
| Nov. 22-23 | Thanksgiving – Office Closed |
| Nov. 26 | Automatic Payments Deducted |
| Nov. 30 | Read Meters |
| Dec. 3 | Bills Due |

2019 Youth Tour dates: June 14-20, 2019

Consumers Energy is looking for high school students who have a passion for government, leadership and service. Join more than 1500 students from all across America to take part in the Youth Tour! Travel to Washington, D.C., where you will meet your U.S. Representatives and Senators, explore the area, see the sights, and make a TON of friends in the process.

The best part? This trip is **FREE!**

If you are a high school sophomore, junior, or senior and are a dependent of a Consumers Energy member, apply today!



For more information or to apply, visit www.consumersenergy.coop, click on the Community dropdown, then Youth Tour, or contact Tami Kerwood, Member Service Representative, at tkerwood@consumersenergy.coop or 641-754-1645.

WAYS TO PAY YOUR CONSUMERS ENERGY BILL

Automatic recurring
monthly payments



By dropbox

By phone 24/7
844-201-7196



Online or the app



In person



By mail

For more information, contact the Member Services Department at 800-696-6552 or info@consumersenergy.coop.

HOW THE ELECTRIC CO-OP WORKS



1. Member-owners elect board directors.



2. Board defines expectations for the co-op's general manager (GM/CEO) and provides policies & strategic goals.



3. GM/CEO interprets the board's expectations to create a plan.



8. Board reflects on policies and updates them as needed.



Member-owners provide input & feedback to board, GM & staff.



4. GM/CEO delegates responsibilities to staff who help carry out the plan.



7. GM/CEO shares results with the board.



6. GM/CEO collects data from staff about their efforts.



5. Staff develop and oversee programs to accomplish their tasks.



A Full House of Energy Savings

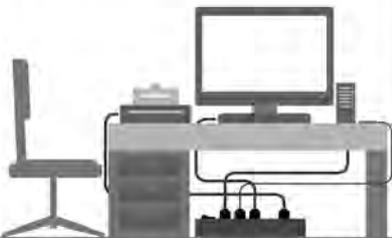


ATTIC

In many homes, attic insulation is one of easiest, least expensive and most effective ways to reduce your energy use. Contact us to find out how much insulation is right for your home. In colder regions, a properly insulated attic also reduces the chance of ice dams.

DEN/OFFICE

Plug all electronic gadgets such as phone and laptop chargers, printers, gaming consoles and BluRay players into a power strip with an on/off switch. When not in use, turn the power strip off to eliminate all those energy vampires.



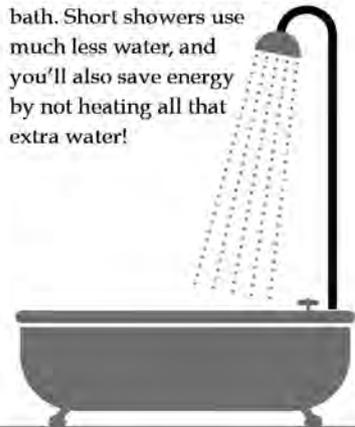
BEDROOM

Ceiling fans can help save energy all year long! In the summer, fans should rotate counter clockwise to push air down creating a cooling flow. In the winter, fans should rotate clockwise to help draw cool air up toward the ceiling and push the warm air that naturally rises down to you and your family.



BATHROOM

Take a short shower instead of a bath. Short showers use much less water, and you'll also save energy by not heating all that extra water!



LIVING ROOM

Smart thermostats learn how you and your family live, and automatically adjust the temperature settings based on your lifestyle to keep you comfortable while saving you money.



KITCHEN

Make sure your burner isn't bigger than the pan, and use flat-bottomed pans to maximize surface contact with the burner. Don't preheat the oven until you're ready to use it. Minimize the number of times you open and close the refrigerator or oven door.



**Want to learn about additional ways to save energy?
Contact us for more energy efficiency tips!**



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES

November is Child Safety Protection Month.

The goal of Child Safety Protection Month is to create awareness about the potential dangers children face in everyday situations and to use this new knowledge to prevent any dangers.

Sully has a secret message for you.
Use the code to discover an important Danger Ranger safety tip.

								
A	C	D	E	F	H	I	K	L
								
N	O	P	R	S	T	U	V	Y



Answer: SAFETY RULES!



Office Hours
7:30 am — 4:00 pm
Monday through Friday

Contact Us

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Denny Beckman
Terry Benskin
Arden Greiner
Tony Lem
Bob Meimann

If you have an idea for a topic for The Connection, please contact Kippen Glenney at 800-696-6552 or kglenney@consumersenergy.coop.

Nov. 4

Daylight Saving Time Ends



HELP US FIND THESE MEMBERS

Consumers Energy is holding unclaimed money resulting from Patronage Capital Credit payouts that are due to the persons listed below. If the cooperative does not hear from the owner within six (6) months, Consumers Energy is allowed to retain this property in accordance with Iowa law.

Kenda Headley, Beaverdale, IA
Vicki Johnson, Ames, IA
Brent Whipps, Ankeny, IA

Owners may claim this money by contacting Billing Coordinator Brenda Hedum at bhedum@consumersenergy.coop or 800-696-6552.

