

energy update



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You're invited to our 5th annual
Member Appreciation Picnic



HONORING THE BRAVE HEROES WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR OUR FREEDOM

Our office will be closed on Monday, May 25, in honor of Memorial Day.

May is Electric Safety Month

May is National Strawberry Month and National Barbecue Month. Yum! While both of those observances sound incredibly delicious and worth celebrating with our taste buds, there are also more serious observances this month, including Electrical Safety Month.

Electricity can be extremely dangerous but is often out of sight, out of mind.

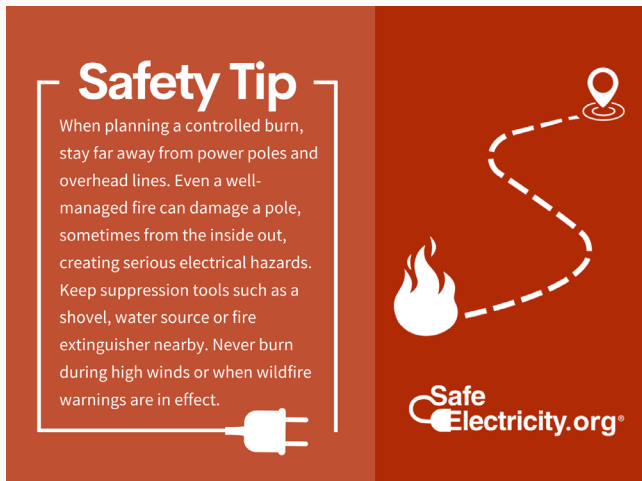
Safe Electricity offers these electric safety tips. You can also learn more at safeelectricity.org.

Don't use cheap chargers: Instead, use the original charging components that came with your cell phone or other electronics. When it comes time to replace them, spend a little extra to buy brand-specific chargers and cubes. Using cheaply made generic chargers with your electronics can cause injury (shock/burns) or even a fire since they may be defective.

Do not use portable heaters unattended or around small children or pets. Do not place flammable items near a space heater.

Test your GFCI buttons once a month: Put a reminder in your phone or mark it on your calendar each month. GFCIs help prevent ground faults that can shock or injure you, but they can't do their job if they are not working properly.

Do not overload outlets or circuits. While it can be tempting to plug in several items in one outlet or on one circuit, drawing too much power can damage your electronics or your home's wiring, or cause more serious problems such as a fire. If too much current is drawn, usually a circuit breaker would trip or fuses would blow, but this is never guaranteed.



Safety Tip

When planning a controlled burn, stay far away from power poles and overhead lines. Even a well-managed fire can damage a pole, sometimes from the inside out, creating serious electrical hazards. Keep suppression tools such as a shovel, water source or fire extinguisher nearby. Never burn during high winds or when wildfire warnings are in effect.

Safe Electricity.org

Check these monthly to keep your home and family safe.

Kitchen

- Clean refrigerator coils and allow space for airflow.
- Store and use appliances away from the sink.
- Use and test GFCI outlets.
- Inspect cords for cracks or frays.
- Keep cords off counters; unplug when not in use.

Bedroom

- Place and test smoke and CO detectors on every level and near sleeping areas.
- Keep cords out from under rugs or furniture.
- Unplug devices and chargers when not in use.
- Make sure lightbulbs are the correct wattage.
- Plug window AC units into a dedicated circuit.

Basement

- Ensure washer and dryer are stable and ventilated.
- Remove dryer lint after each use.
- Set water heater to 120°F or lower.
- Have furnace inspected and confirm proper ventilation.

Bathroom

- Keep appliances away from water (sink, toilet, tub, shower).
- Unplug appliances when not in use.
- Use and test GFCI outlets.

Living Room

- Use safety caps on unused outlets, especially if children or pets are present.
- Ensure electronics have space for airflow.
- Replace cracked light switch or outlet covers.
- Avoid overloading outlets, power strips and surge protectors.

Garage

- Use and test GFCI outlets.
- Inspect cords for cracks or damage.
- Unplug tools and appliances when not in use.
- Place garage refrigerators/freezers on dedicated appliance circuits.

Learn more at: SafeElectricity.org