

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

Date: June 15

REGISTRATION:
10:30 a.m.

BUSINESS MEETING:
11:00 a.m.

Vinton-Shellsburg
High School

Catered noon meal
Registration gift
Win a \$50 gift card



FEATURING GUEST
SPEAKER

**MARY
MCLAURY**

Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative's Chief
Operating Officer

MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

ECI REC is celebrating National Electrical Safety Month in May. We're not just focused on safety associated with poles and wires, we're concerned about the safety in your home as well. Electricity is the cause of over 140,000 fires each year, resulting in more than 500 deaths, 4,000 injuries, and \$1.6 billion in property damage according to Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

"Helping keep the communities we serve safe is important to everyone at ECI REC," said Steve Marlow, CEO. "We encourage you to keep the following tips in mind to protect your family and home."

IN THE KITCHEN

- » Locate all countertop appliances away from the sink.
- » Dirt buildup on your refrigerator coils can reduce efficiency and create fire hazards; vacuum them several times a year.
- » Make sure the top of your cooking range and the storage area above it are free of combustibles, such as potholders and plastic utensils.



LIGHT THE WAY

- » The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match what's indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.
- » Check lamp cords to make sure they are in good condition—not damaged or cracked. Do not attempt to repair damaged cords yourself.
- » Extension cords should not be used to provide power on a long-term or permanent basis. Have additional receptacles installed by a professional to provide power where needed.



BE PREPARED

- » Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
- » Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries should be replaced at least once a year—or sooner if indicated in the manufacturers' instructions.
- » Talk to your family about an emergency plan in the event of a fire in your home. If you have small children, include them in planning an emergency escape route—they are more likely to remember the plan if they're involved in creating it.



Powering Safely During an Outage



Given our dependence on electricity, it's understandable that portable generators are so popular.

However, generators can cause more harm than good if not used properly. To protect yourself and the lineworkers who work to restore your power after an outage, keep the following safety guidelines in mind.

- » Never plug a portable generator directly into one of your home's outlets unless a licensed electrician has installed a transfer switch in your home. If you don't have a transfer switch, the generator can backfeed along power lines, which can electrocute a lineworker working on those lines.
- » Generators create carbon monoxide, so they must go outside in a dry area at least 15 feet away from your home's vents, windows, and doors. Attached garages with an open door don't count—the carbon monoxide can still seep indoors and poison inhabitants.
- » Plug appliances directly into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords, but don't overload. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for maximum load.
- » Shut off the generator before refueling, or a fire could start—and it's a good idea to have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby, just in case.

Safety is a top priority at ECI REC, for our employees and members alike. Contact us at 877-850-4343 if you'd like to learn more about how to properly install and use a portable generator.

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