

## What's Happening

## January 1

## New Year's Day

## REC Offices Closed

- Friday, Dec. 30
- Monday, Jan. 2

## January 10

January 10th is National Cut Your Energy Costs Day! This day encourages energy consumers to explore cost saving options, improve efficiency, and keep up with scheduled maintenance.

## January 16

## Martin Luther King Jr. Day

## Rock Energy Cooperative

P.O. Box 1758  
2815 Kennedy Rd.  
Janesville, WI 53547-1758

P.O. Box 126  
15229 Willowbrook Rd.  
South Beloit, IL 61080

(866) 752-4550

Shane Larson  
Chief Executive Officer

Jonas Berberich  
Editor

# Generator Safety 101

A generator can be a valuable piece of equipment to keep appliances working during a power outage. Generators can be either temporary or permanently installed.

A permanent generator is wired into a house by a qualified electrician using a transfer switch that prevents a generator from feeding electricity back into overhead lines. A temporary generator is powered by gasoline and should not be attached to a circuit breaker, fuse, or outlet.

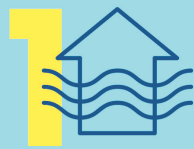
Before purchasing a generator you need to know the wattage required to run the appliances you will attach to the generator. You also need to know the surge power, which is the power it takes to turn an appliance on.

Once you have purchased the proper generator, follow these tips to properly and safely operate your generator:

## GENERATOR INSTALLATION VIDEO



Are you thinking of installing a generator at home? Rock Energy Cooperative urges you to make sure you understand power and safety considerations before adding a generator to your home. To help get started, check out our Generator Installation Video by scanning the QR code above.



### 1 IN ENCLOSED SPACES

Always use it in a well-ventilated area.



### 2 NEAR WINDOWS OR DOORS

Place it at least 20 ft. from windows and doors.



### 3 IN A GARAGE

Even if the door is up, never use it in a garage.



### 4 IN THE ELEMENTS

Run it on a dry surface under a canopy-like structure (but not in a carport).



### 5 PLUGGED INTO A WALL OUTLET

This can be dangerous to you, family members, neighbors, or utility workers.



### 6 WITH THE WRONG EXTENSION CORD

Use a properly rated cord to plug appliances into a generator.



### 7 WITHOUT CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) TESTERS

CO detectors should be on the every level of your home (test them monthly).



### 8 IN DISREPAIR

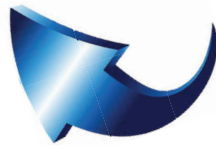
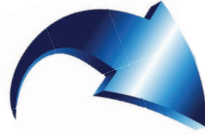
Make sure your generator is well-maintained and in good working order.



Safe  
Electricity.org®

# Keep Clear Path to Pipes & Meter

Rock Energy Cooperative workers are always careful on the job, but they appreciate clear paths to **meters, transformers, and other co-op equipment** on your property. Keep firewood, snowdrifts, and other obstacles away from meters and other equipment. If snow and/or ice blocks any of these items, it can not only cause significant damage, but it can be very dangerous as well. Keeping these items free from snow and ice will ensure a safe environment for workers when or if they need access to the area in order to ensure proper and efficient operation of all equipment.



Also remember to clear snow away from **furnace intake and exhaust pipes**. These pipes on the outside of your house are sometimes just a few inches off the ground and can be buried by snowdrifts. If snow covers part of the pipe, exhaust could begin to back up into your home. That exhaust contains carbon monoxide and other harmful gases. High levels of carbon monoxide in your home can lead to sickness and even cause death. When clearing snow from your meter and pipes, avoid using a snow blower. Instead, gently remove snow and ice from the area using a light broom or your hand.

## REC Scholarships Available Apply by Jan. 10

Rock Energy Cooperative again is offering scholarships of \$1,000 to graduating high school seniors who enroll at an accredited school. Students who live on REC lines and whose parents or guardians are active members of REC are eligible.

Our scholarship committee will judge applicants based on general merit, cooperation, leadership abilities, financial need, and class ranking.

Since 1989, Rock Energy has awarded more than \$152,000 in financial aid to deserving students. The on-line application is available at [www.rock.coop](http://www.rock.coop). Just go to the Community & Youth tab and click on Scholarships. **The deadline for submitting applications is: Jan. 10, 2023.**

If you have any questions, please contact Jonas Berberich at 866-752-4550, or [jonasb@rock.coop](mailto:jonasb@rock.coop).

## REC OFFICES CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Friday, Dec. 30, and Monday, Jan. 2, for the New Year's holiday. Members can make payments in the drop boxes at both offices throughout the holiday weekend and at the payment kiosk outside our South Beloit office, 15229 Willowbrook Road. Even though our offices are closed, standby crews are available.

If you need to report a power outage or natural gas incident, please call 866-752-4550.

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