

ROCK ENERGY NEWS

FOR ROCK ENERGY COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

www.rock.coop

November 2017

Choose and Use Extension Cords Safely

Have you ever tried to use an electronic device only to find out the cord is too short to reach the outlet?

Extension cords are useful for their practical, cost-effective solutions to this problem. But if used improperly, they can cause fire and injury, even resulting in death.

Extension cords are designed for temporary use but shouldn't be used as a long-term solution. An electrician can install the necessary wiring and receptacle outlets for a permanent solution.

About 4,000 injuries associated with extension cords are treated in hospital emergency rooms, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. About half result from people tripping over the cords.

Thirteen percent of the injuries involve children under five years of age. Electrical burns to the mouth account for half the injuries to young children.

The CPSC also estimates that 3,300 residential fires originate in extension cords each year, killing about 50 people and injuring another 270.

The Safe Electricity program offers these safety tips for the use of extension cords:



cause the cord to overheat and start a fire.

- Extension cords always conduct electricity when plugged into an outlet, even if not in use. Remember to unplug them when finished using.

- If any part of the extension cord becomes hot while in use, unplug it immediately and discard it.

- Occasionally check the condition of extension cords and replace any damaged cords. Look for fraying or cracking and damage to the plug or sockets. Cords used outdoors should be checked more frequently because of the constant wear and tear.

- Provide some slack to prevent tension on the cord.

- Never remove the grounding pin (or third prong) from an extension cord to make it fit into a two-prong outlet.

- Do not overload cords with lots of electronics or power tools. It may

- Keep extension cords away from children, pets, and high-traffic areas.

- Do not place extension cords under carpets, rugs, furniture, or cover with any other objects.

- When using tools and appliances outside, use only extension cords labeled for outdoor use.

- Do not use cords outside in wet conditions. Water conducts electricity, and working in wet conditions increases the chance of shock or electrocution.

For more information on safety topics, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Rock Energy Cooperative extends a big thank you to the baseball team from Janesville Craig High School for helping with the co-op's electronics recycling and document

shredding on Saturday, Sept. 9. The crew helped members unload 22.5 tons of electronics and 2.75 tons of documents from their vehicles. That's a lot of heavy lifting!

Nominations Open for Director Positions

The Rock Energy Cooperative Nominating Committee will select candidates for board of director positions that will be on the ballot at the March 26, 2018, annual meeting.

These three districts are up for election:

- District 1: Fulton, Porter, Albion, and Dunkirk townships in Wisconsin.
- District 3: Johnstown, Bradford, and Darien townships in Wisconsin.
- District 5: Clinton, Sharon, and Turtle townships in

Wisconsin; Alden, Chemung, Hebron, Leroy, Manchester, and Roscoe townships in Illinois.

Active members who are interested in running for a position on the REC Board of Directors must permanently reside in one of the areas up for election and meet all other qualifications.

For more information, please contact the co-op at 866-752-4550 or send an e-mail to questions@rock.coop by Dec. 1.

Scholarships Offered to High School Seniors

Rock Energy Cooperative again is offering scholarships of \$500 to graduating high school seniors who enroll at an accredited school.

Students whose parents or guardians are active members of REC are eligible.

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

Since 1989, the co-op has awarded more than \$97,000 to deserving students.

Online applications are available at www.rock.coop. Just go to the Community & Youth tab and click on Scholarships. Jan. 3 is the deadline for submitting applications, and transcripts are due Jan. 12.

If you have any questions,



please contact Barbara Uebelacker at 866-752-4550 or barbu@rock.coop.

The Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship Program will award \$2,000 scholarships. High school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the co-op are eligible.

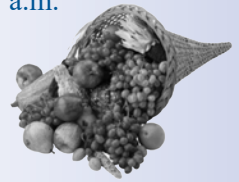
Applications are available at www.rock.coop. Just go to the Community & Youth tab and click on Scholarships. The deadline is Dec. 31.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 23, and Friday, Nov. 24, in observance of Thanksgiving. We will reopen at 7:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 27.

Members can make payments in the drop boxes at both offices throughout the holiday weekend.

Even though our offices are closed, standby crews are always available 24 hours a day. If you need to report a power outage, please call 866-752-4550.



Assistance Programs Available for Energy Bills, Weatherization

Assistance programs for families that need help with their energy bills are now open in both Wisconsin and Illinois.

Home Energy Assistance Programs offer one-time payments that can be applied directly to an energy bill. The benefit amount depends on household size, income, and energy costs.

Weatherization programs also are offered to help improve energy efficiency to lower future bills.

Details about the programs, including eligibility guidelines, are printed in the November issue of *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* and *Illinois Country Living*.

The articles also are posted at www.rock.coop. Just go to



the Member Services tab and scroll down to Assistance Programs.

To learn what office covers your area, Wisconsin members can call 866-432-8947 or go to www.homeenergyplus.wi.gov. In Illinois, the contact information is 877-411-9276 or www.illinoisliheap.com.

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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spending more time in the kitchen during the holiday season? Here's one way to be more energy efficient: Unplug small kitchen appliances, like toaster ovens and microwaves, when not in use. You could save \$10 to \$20 per year.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

