



Special points of interest:

Our Energy, Our Future

You have a voice in your energy Future. To find out more visit www.ourenergy.coop

The co-op will be closed the following days: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve & Christmas Day, New Year's Day

For Co-op Product & Service information visit us at www.cwecoop.com

Area Kids Need Our Help!

Christmas is a time of joy, happiness, and goodwill. It is a time of giving and helping those who are less fortunate than ourselves, especially children. We are happy to once again partner with the U.S. Marine Corp to help make area children's Christmas a little brighter through the Toys for Tots program. We ask you to help us spread a little Christmas Joy this holiday season by donating a toy.

All of the toys we collect are distributed locally.

To find the collection site nearest you, please see the back page. If you would like us to do the shopping for you, you can make a check to Toys for Tots and mail it to us at: Central WI Electric Co-op, P.O. Box 255, Iola, WI 54945.

Thank you and best wishes for a joyful Christmas.



HEY KIDS!

It's time for our annual Christmas coloring contest. The contest is open to all kids 10 and under. The theme of this year's contest is Christmas Tree.



Draw a picture of a Christmas Tree and mail or bring it to:

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative

150 Depot St.
P.O. Box 255
Iola, WI 54945

Please make sure to have your name, age and phone number on the back of your picture.

We will award three prizes in two age groups; 6 and under and 7 to 10. The prizes will be 1st-\$25, 2nd- \$15 and 3rd \$10.

Deadline for pictures is December 19th so get started right away and good luck!!!

Don't Let An Accident Become Fatal

Imagine it's Christmas Eve and you and your family along with a car full of presents are headed to your parents for Christmas and all of a sudden you hit a patch of ice and slide into an electric pole breaking it in half. After checking to make sure everyone is okay your attention turns to assessing your situation. What you do next is critical.

What should you do? First and foremost, **everyone should remain in the vehicle** as long as there isn't a danger doing so. Electricity always looks for a path to ground and by exiting the vehicle you could create that path. Use a cell phone to call for help, again remaining in the vehicle. If you don't have a cell phone stay in the vehicle until another vehicle comes by. Yell to them that you need help and make sure they stay away.

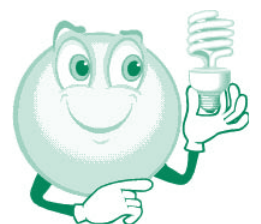
If the car is on fire or if you are in some other danger by staying in the vehicle you should exit by doing the following:

- 1) Try to assess where the electric lines are down.
- 2) Go to the furthest door from the lines
- 3) Open the door and stand with both feet together inside the vehicle
- 4) Hop with both feet together as far away from the vehicle as possible making sure you don't make contact with the vehicle and ground at the same time.
- 5) Keep hopping or shuffling your feet until you are clear of any danger

It is always best to be on the side of caution when it comes to electricity. Danger could be hidden so please don't assume there isn't any.

Give Light for Christmas

Don't know what to give someone for Christmas? Why not give them the gift of light? Gift certificates are available from the co-op.



Electric Line

Electric Line is published quarterly by Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative. This publication is designed to provide information about the cooperative to our member-owners.

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If you have questions or comments please contact us at 1-800-377-2932.

Email: mark.forseth@cwecoop.com

150 Depot Street
PO Box 255
Iola, WI 54945

CWEC urges caution with space heaters

As the outdoor temperatures fall, rising heating costs have many looking at ways to lower home-heating bills. Safe Electricity and Central WI Electric Co-op urge extreme caution for those planning to use electric space heaters to help warm homes this winter.

As part of the “Teach Learn Care” TLC campaign, Safe Electricity wants everyone to be aware of the dangers associated with using supplemental heating equipment and how to keep loved ones and their homes safe. Approximately one-third of all house fires nationwide occur during the cold home-heating season of December, January and February. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the major cause of these winter fires can be attributed to faulty and improper use and maintenance of supplemental heating equipment, such as space heaters.

“Portable heaters can help take the chill from areas of your home, but are very dangerous if used improperly,” says Co-op VP Mark Forseth. “Stay warm and safe, and give space heaters space – at least 3 feet from anything that can burn, including little fingers!”

Safe Electricity offers the following precautions when using electric space heaters:

- Purchase only space heaters that have been safety tested and UL approved. Make sure the unit is equipped with an emergency tip-over shut-off feature and heating element guards. Read and follow all of the manufacturer’s instructions for operation and care.
- Before using a space heater, make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in good working condition.
- Check to make sure the heater is clean and in good condition, and have all problems professionally repaired.
- Place heater out of high-traffic areas and on a



level, hard, non-flammable floor surface-- NOT on carpets, furniture or countertops.

- Space heaters have one purpose – to provide supplemental heating. Never use them to thaw pipes, cook food, or dry clothing or towels.
- Remember to keep space heaters at least three feet from all combustible liquids like fuel, spray cans and paint, as well as flammable items such as draperies, blankets and sofas.
- Never allow pets or children near an electric heater. Accidental contact could result in serious shock or burns.
- Do not overload circuits. Never use extension cords or multiple plugs with a space heater, and make sure the unit is not plugged into the same circuit as other electric appliances.
- If your space heater is plugged into a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) and the GFCI trips, don’t assume there is something wrong with the GFCI. Immediately stop using the heater until it can be checked by a professional – if not, a serious shock could occur.
- Never leave space heaters unattended. Turn off your space heater and unplug it before leaving the room or going to bed.

“Consider replacing older space heaters with newer, safer models,” suggests Forseth. “Additionally, look for features that enhance the safety of the unit including an electronic thermostat which allows precise temperature control to avoid overheating.”

“In addition to these safety tips, remember that a functioning smoke alarm dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire,” reminds Forseth “Replace the batteries twice a year, and remember to practice a home escape plan and share these safety tips with your family.”

“Teach Learn Care” TLC is a public service campaign of Safe Electricity, an electrical safety public awareness program created and supported by a coalition of hundreds of organizations, including CWEC, educators and other entities committed to promoting electrical safety. For more information go to www.SafeElectricity.org.

Home Energy Savings Tips

How would you like to reduce your electric bill? By utilizing some simple and inexpensive conservation methods you can reduce your energy consumption, which in turn, will save you money and benefit the environment. To assist you we have dedicated a portion of our web site to conservation. It is designed to help you get started on the way to better energy management for your home. You can find us at www.cwecoop.com. Once there, click on the Energy Conservation icon. Here you will find a listing of the conservation rewards we offer, links to renewable energy resources, a self energy audit worksheet and a listing of conservation tips for kids. While there allow us to take you on an Energy Savings Home Tour. Our tour guide will offer you energy savings tips for every room of your home.

Toys for Tots collection sites

TIGERTON-

- 1) **Ron’s Grocery Store**
234 Cedar St.
Tigerton, WI 54486
715-535-2133
- 2) **Premier Community Bank**
112 US HWY 45
Tigerton, WI 54486
715-535-3300
- 3) **1st National Bank**
140 Cedar St.
Tigerton, WI 54486
715-535-2291

BOWLER-

- 1) **Bowler Schools**
500 S. Almon St.
Bowler, WI 54416
715-793-4101

WITTENBERG-

- 1) **Associated Bank**
501 S. Webb St.
Wittenberg, WI 54499
715-253-2127
- 2) **Banner Bank**
202 S. Westgor Ave.
Wittenberg, WI 54499
715-253-2127
- 3) **Wagner’s Shell Food Mart**
504 E. Grand Ave.
Wittenberg, WI 54499
715-253-6231
- 4) **Wittenberg Shell**
413 N. Genesee
Wittenberg, WI 54499
715-253-2888

BIRNAMWOOD-

- 1) **Banner Bank**
416 Main St.
Birnamwood, WI 54414
715-449-2556

IOLA-

- 1) **Central Wisconsin Electric Co-op**
150 Depot St.
Iola, WI 54945
715-445-2211

ROSHOLT-

- 1) **Community First Bank**
275 W. Grand Ave.
Rosholt, WI 54473
715-677-4523
- 2) **Rosholt Public Library**
137 N. Main St.
Rosholt, WI 54473
715-677-4512