

INTER-COUNTY ENERGY

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DECEMBER 2023

The 12 ways of holiday safety

Deck the halls with care

It's the most wonderful time of the year, so don't let an injury or accident keep you from celebrating a happy holiday season.

"Knowing how to properly install and maintain electric Christmas decorations can prevent you or a loved one from getting an electric shock, and it could eliminate the chance of a home fire," says Bo McGuffey, safety/loss control coordinator for Inter-County Energy. "It may also save you money in electricity bills."

Ensure your holidays don't go from merry to scary by remembering these 12 ways to minimize risk and decorate safely.

- Test smoke alarms, fire extinguishers and carbon monoxide detectors before decorating.
- Inspect and replace damaged cords and decorations. Substitute LED lights that are long-lasting, cool to the touch and energy efficient.
- Reject electric decorations that aren't tested, rated and stamped with the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) safety certification.
- Choose the right light for the job. Decorations are rated for indoor or outdoor use.
- Avoid plugging too many decorations into an outlet, causing a circuit overload.
- Keep indoor cords out from under rugs or furniture, or through windows and doorways where they can break or become frayed. Run outdoor connections above ground and out of puddles; don't place them across driveways or walkways.
- Buy only a fresh (needles are hard to pull off) natural tree. Water daily to prevent drying.
- Place trees and all decorations at least 3 feet away from heat sources—especially fireplaces, candles or any open flame.
- Check for overhead power lines before using a ladder to hang decorations outside.
- Secure outdoor lights and decorations with clips rather than staples or nails that can damage electrical cords.
- Plug outdoor cords into GFCI-protected receptacles to protect from shock.
- Turn off decorations when you leave the house or go to bed. Use a timer to automatically turn lights on and off. Or, use a wireless control or smart plug to control lights through an app on your phone.



KONSTANTYNADOBIE STOCK



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 



Sweets with Santa!

SPONSORED BY INTER-COUNTY ENERGY
CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS, INC.

Friday, December 8, 3-6 p.m.

Location: Inter-County Energy Danville

Goody bags, a sweet treat and pictures with Santa, Mrs. Claus, the Grinch and elves, too! Come join us for some free Christmas fun!

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

Make it a co-op Christmas

Making your list and checking it twice? Keep the co-op connection in mind.

Inter-County Energy is one of thousands of member-owned businesses operating in a variety of industries in the U.S. Whether it's groceries, gifts or other supplies, the abundance of member-owned businesses makes it easy to "shop co-op" for holiday celebrations.

SETTING THE TABLE

Whether you'll celebrate with breakfast, lunch or dinner, invite co-ops to the table. Farmer-owned agricultural cooperatives are behind some of the best-loved grocery brands. You're supporting a member-owned business when you buy SunKist citrus, Blue Diamond almonds, Ocean Spray cranberry sauce, Welch's grape jelly, Florida's Natural juice, Organic Valley milk, Borden cheese and Land O'Lakes butter. In fact, most of the milk, cheese and butter in your local store's dairy case has co-op origins. And speaking of grocery shopping, many local,



independent grocers are member-owners of a wholesale grocery cooperative.

UNDER THE TREE

Fulfilling a Christmas wish for outdoor gear? When you buy it from REI (Recreational Equipment Inc.), you're doing business with the nation's largest consumer cooperative. That gift of denim jeans or fluffy towel set likely began as cotton sold by a farmer-owned co-op. If you shop at a local True Value Hardware, Ace Hardware or Do it Best home improvement store, you're supporting a retailer-owned cooperative.

HOLIDAY SAVINGS

Before you tackle your holiday shopping list, don't forget to take advantage of discounts offered to Inter-County Energy members through the Co-op Connections program. You can receive discounts on products and services locally and nationally. Download the app from Google Play or the App Store, or visit connections.coop to download a free discount card.

Deck the halls—with energy efficiency

Before you climb on the roof in your quest to have the most outdoor holiday lights in your neighborhood, and before you string any bulbs on your tree, take a moment to consider how energy efficient your Christmas decorations are.

Here are five ways to save money on electricity without giving up the holiday glitter this season.

1 Switch to LED lights. If your strands are so old that the bulbs are incandescent, toss them. New holiday lights are made from LEDs—and they're better than the old-fashioned kind. They shine brighter, last longer and they're cool to the touch, so they're safer. A bonus: Prices of LED light strands are far lower than they were even a few years ago.

2 Connect your lights to timers. Set the timers so the lights turn on when the sun sets and turn off at bedtime. There's no need to leave them on all night.

3 Invest in a few good power strips. Plug all of your strands and lighted decorations into power strips rather than directly into wall sockets, both indoors and out. That way, you can turn



SANOOK/PIC/SHUTTERSTOCK

everything on and off with the flick of a single switch.

4 Turn off unneeded lights. If the outside of your home is laden with so many lights it looks like daytime after dark, don't turn on the porch lights. Same goes for indoors. In rooms where you have Christmas trees or other lighted decorations, turn off some of the lamps.

5 Go old-school. Instead of decorating your indoor rooms and your tree with lights this year, how about dusting off some family ornaments or organizing an ornament-making evening with your children. Don't skimp on the glitter; along with some tinsel on the tree, your home can sparkle and shine without using any extra electricity at all.



Merry Christmas from Inter-County Energy

Inter-County Energy will be closed December 25-26 and January 1 in celebration of the Christmas holiday and New Year's Day.

Please feel free to contact our 24-hour outage line in case of an emergency/outage at 1-866-224-2235.

We hope everyone has a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, from our Inter-County Energy family to yours!

PAPRIKA/ADOBE STOCK



Holiday favorites

Powering your Christmas spirit

OUR MISSION

Inter-County Energy accomplishes our daily mission by providing energy and services to our members through a culture of Safety, Accountability, Integrity, Innovation and Commitment to Community.

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Jerry Carter

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24-HOUR EMERGENCY/OUTAGE REPORTING (866) 224-2235

For major outage updates and restoration efforts, listen to the following radio stations; WPBK 102.9, WHIR 105.1, WOKH 102.7, WDFB 88.1 or WLSK 100.9.

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

DANVILLE/BOYLE COUNTY

(859) 236-4561

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How do you celebrate the holidays?

For many people, music offers the season's first hint of Christmas spirit. We look forward to simple Christmas carols, catchy holiday hits and tried-and-true family favorites. Whether you listen on your phone, on the radio or on a CD you've had for decades, you could probably name a tune that defines your holiday traditions.

For others, lights and decorations offer the ultimate in festive cheer. Illuminated sleighs perch on rooftops. Lights gleam from windows, doors, porches and gables. In every neighborhood, it seems there's at least one house that just won't be outdone, putting on a bigger show every year.

Some may have a favorite holiday movie, or several, that are best enjoyed with hot cider or cocoa. Ebenezer Scrooge, Charlie Brown, Frosty the Snowman and Buddy the Elf may be recurring characters in your holiday lineup—and if you can quote *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by heart, you're not the only one.

Let's not forget the food. If your family is anything like mine, a gathering wouldn't be the same without a special dish made by, or in memory of, a person we love. Whether it's the main course or the Christmas cookies, a favorite dish draws family and friends close.

Music, lights, movies and holiday cooking share electricity in common, and all of us at Inter-County Energy are honored to play a role in powering your celebrations. As a cooperative, we have the privilege of working for you, the consumer-member, and we take pride in belonging



to the communities we serve.

One of our guiding principles is "Concern for Community." We are committed to improving quality of life in our community all year long, but during this season of giving, I am especially proud of the ways Inter-County Energy gives back, such as our Christmas Blessings program, working with The Salvation Army and our longstanding support of United Way of The Bluegrass.

Many of you make a special effort to give back, as well. If you don't already donate or volunteer, now is the perfect time lend a hand at food pantries, toy drives, meal services and more.

Whether you're listening to music, stringing lights, watching Christmas movies or preparing a holiday feast, know that you are a valued member of our cooperative family. It's our honor to serve you. Happy holidays from all of us at Inter-County Energy Inter-County Energy.