

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ron Oliver
President

Michael Johnson
Vice President

Linda Tomlinson
Secretary-Treasurer

Wes McKinney
Trustee

Chad McMillin
Trustee

Don Nighswonger
Trustee

Keith Randall
Trustee

Vanessa Reeвер
Trustee

CJ Skinner
Trustee

LIGHTBULB WINNERS

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Amy Radakovic
- ▶ Billie Riner
- ▶ Michael Swenton
- ▶ Ken Tuman
- ▶ Norma Simmons

▶ Danielle Sparks
Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!

NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Cold Weather Rule

Effective through March 1



From Nov. 15 through March 1, CMS Electric will provide you with all the normal billing notifications, but will not actually disconnect your electric service unless it is above 32 degrees on date of disconnection.

We are always willing to work with our members and encourage any members who are unable to pay on-time to make payment arrangements. Please contact our office for more information at 800-794-2353.

The Cold Weather Rule helps existing consumer-members maintain electric services during the winter.

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING

Our office will be closed on
Nov. 28 and 29 for the holiday.

Stay Safe and Warm: Your Winter Home

Preparing your home for winter involves several key steps to ensure safety, efficiency and warmth. Here are top tips to help you prepare before the temperatures drop and a few ways to stay safe if a power outage leaves you snowbound.

INSPECT YOUR HEATING SYSTEM

- ▶ Have your heating system professionally serviced.
- ▶ Replace air filters if needed.
- ▶ Ensure vents and radiators are not blocked to ensure efficient heat distribution.

MAINTAIN SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

- ▶ Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- ▶ Test detectors to ensure they are functioning properly.

PREPARE PIPES AND WATER SUPPLY

- ▶ Insulate exposed pipes to prevent freezing.
- ▶ Drain and shut off outdoor faucets and irrigation systems.

- ▶ Know the location of your water shut-off valve in case of emergencies.

PREPARE YOUR HOME'S EXTERIOR

- ▶ Clear gutters and downspouts of leaves and debris to prevent ice dams.
- ▶ Trim trees and bushes away from the house to prevent damage from heavy snow.
- ▶ Ensure downspouts extend away from your home's foundation.
- ▶ Drain and store garden hoses to prevent freezing.
- ▶ Service and store outdoor equipment such as lawnmowers and trimmers.
- ▶ Gather winter tools such as snow shovels and ice melt.

INCREASE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- ▶ Seal gaps and cracks around windows and doors with weatherstripping or caulk.
- ▶ Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to circulate warm air.
- ▶ Lower your thermostat a few degrees to save on heating costs.

STOCK EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

At home, have enough nonperishable food and water for 72 hours in case of power outages or severe weather. Experts suggest storing 1 gallon of water per person per day.

INCLUDE THESE ESSENTIALS IN YOUR EMERGENCY KIT:

- ▶ First-aid kit
- ▶ Flashlights and batteries
- ▶ Warm clothing
- ▶ Blankets
- ▶ Phone chargers and backup charger sources

Gather important documents, medical supplies/medicines and medical records. Don't forget your pets. Make sure you have enough supplies for them as well.

WHAT TO DO IF THE POWER GOES OUT

Winter weather is unpredictable, with high winds, whiteouts and ice storms. These conditions can cause hazardous roads and power outages.

If the electricity goes out due to a winter storm, you might be in for a

READY YOUR HOME FOR WINTER

Prepare your home for winter with the checklist below to ensure safety, efficiency and comfort.

INSPECT HEATING SYSTEM

- Have your heating system professionally serviced.
- Replace air filters if needed.
- Ensure vents and radiators are not blocked for efficient heat distribution.

MAINTAIN SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

- Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Test detectors to ensure they function properly.

PREPARE PIPES AND WATER SUPPLY

- Insulate exposed pipes to prevent freezing.
- Drain and shut off outdoor faucets and irrigation systems.
- Know the location of the water shut-off valve in case of emergency.

PREPARE YOUR HOME'S EXTERIOR

- Clear gutters and downspouts to prevent ice dams.
- Trim trees away from the house to avoid damage.
- Ensure downspouts extend away from the foundation.
- Service and store equipment such as lawnmowers and trimmers.
- Gather winter tools such as snow shovels and ice melt.

INCREASE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Seal gaps at windows and doors with weatherstripping or caulk.
- Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to circulate warm air.
- Lower your thermostat a few degrees to save on heating costs.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

Readiness Guide

prolonged power outage as crews work through the harsh weather to get the power back on.

If this happens, contact your electrical utility as soon as you can so they know you have lost power.

OTHER ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE TO STAY SAFE ARE:

- ▶ Avoid travel. Stay inside and dress warmly in layered clothing.
- ▶ Place a draft block at the bottom of doors to minimize cold drafts from entering the house.
- ▶ When using an alternative heat source, follow operating instructions and be sure to ventilate properly.
- ▶ Keep grills, camp stoves and

generators out of the house, basement and garage.

- ▶ Use a tarp and portable canopy when using a portable generator if conditions are damp or wet.
- ▶ Move fuel-powered generators at least 20 feet away from the house.
- ▶ Keep a close eye on the temperature in your home. Infants and people over the age of 65 are often more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends or relatives or go to a shelter if you cannot keep your home warm.

For more information on keeping your family safe during and after a winter storm, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

Fall back on Nov. 3

On Sunday, Nov. 3, remember to turn your clocks back one hour. It is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and have a professional check your fire extinguishers.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.ORG

STAY SAFE on Winter Roads

Winter months can bring snow, ice and windy conditions, creating hazards for drivers. It is important to be prepared in case there is an accident.



BEFORE A WINTER STORM

Perform vehicle seasonal maintenance to ensure:

- ▶ Batteries are charged.
- ▶ Tires have sufficient tread.
- ▶ Spare tire is inflated.
- ▶ Jumper cables are in good condition.
- ▶ A winterized car emergency kit is on hand.
- ▶ Windshield wipers work.
- ▶ Headlights, brake lights and turn signals work.
- ▶ Vehicle has at least a half tank of gas.

PREVENT FROSTBITE AND HYPOTHERMIA

If you are stranded in your car after an accident, observe the following precautions:

- ▶ Do not stay in one position for too long.
- ▶ Stay awake.
- ▶ Do not overexert yourself to avoid strain on your heart.
- ▶ Watch for signs such as a change in skin color, numbness, shivering, slurred speech, loss of coordination or confusion.

WINTER STORMS AND POWER LINES

Always treat sagging and downed power lines as energized and dangerous. Keep at least 50 feet away from the area. If your vehicle hits a power pole, stay inside. Contact 911 and wait for the power to be shut off by utility workers. If your vehicle is on fire, exit the vehicle landing with both feet together and hop away at least 50 feet.



KEEP YOUR INFORMATION UP TO DATE

Please keep your contact information including phone number, email address and mailing address up to date.

Keeping your information up to date helps us keep you in the know about the business and operations of your electric cooperative.

Contact our offices at 800-794-2353 if you need to update the contact information on your account.

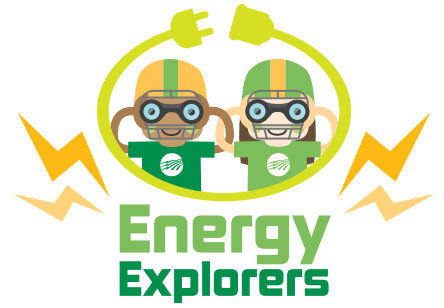
We appreciate your help in gathering this information.

BE AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY MVP

Do you have what it takes to be the energy efficiency MVP (most valuable player) in your home? When you take proactive steps to save energy at home, you can help your family save on monthly energy bills *and* help the environment — that's a win-win!

Read the sentences below and unscramble the bolded letters to complete the energy efficiency tips.

Check your work in the answer key.



1. Turn off **glhsit** when you leave a room.

2. Unplug smaller electronic devices like phone **reahgcsr** when you're not using them.

3. Reduce your **nesecr** time to save energy and spend more time outdoors.

4. Turn off the **reatw** while brushing your teeth.

5. Keep doors and **swdwnio** closed when your home's heating/cooling system is running.

6. When it's cold, wear an extra layer of **tohgncil** inside instead of adjusting the thermostat.

Answer Key: 1. lights 2. chargers 3. screen 4. water 5. windows 6. clothing