

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# The Enlightener

## CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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### LIGHTBULB WINNERS

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Omar Monarrez
- ▶ Rogelio Martinez
- ▶ Loyd Nightengale
- ▶ Shawn Meairs
- ▶ Josefina Robles
- ▶ Gayla Redger

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!

### NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## We're Here to Help You Save

When summer heats up, our electric bills tend to increase as air conditioners are working overtime, driving up home energy consumption. CMS Electric is your local not-for-profit electricity provider, and we are committed to helping you beat the heat without breaking the bank.

As temperatures heat up the next few months, we want to make sure you know about a range of energy-saving offerings designed specifically with you in mind. By taking advantage of these programs and services, you can manage your summer energy consumption and costs.

### LEVELIZED BILLING

When you sign up for CMS Electric's levelized billing plan, your energy bill is calculated by averaging your previous 12 months of use. With levelized billing, your monthly energy costs are easier to

budget and manage, especially during seasonal fluctuations when bills tend to increase based on the weather. Levelized billing is a great option for anyone on a fixed income or those with highly variable seasonal needs.

### REBATE PROGRAM

When you make upgrades or purchases to reduce home energy use, those smart decisions should be rewarded. CMS Electric offers rebates on water heaters and HVAC systems. Please visit our website at [www.cmselectric.com](http://www.cmselectric.com) for more information.

### YOU HAVE THE POWER

Small actions combined can have a big impact on summer energy bills.

The best way to lower energy use during summer months is to raise the thermostat to the highest setting that's comfortable. Ceiling fans can also help

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# ELECTRICITY 101

To stay safe around electricity, start with these **SEVEN** basic tips:

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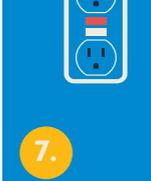
**1. DON'T OVERLOAD OUTLETS OR CIRCUITS**  
Plugging in too many items or drawing too much power on a circuit can cause overheating, fire and damage to devices.
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**2. DON'T USE FAULTY ELECTRICAL CORDS OR PLUGS**  
Do not use cords that look frayed, worn or cracked. Do not use broken plugs. Never remove the grounding pin from a three-pronged plug.
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**3. HAVE YOUR ELECTRICIAN'S NUMBER IN YOUR PHONE**  
Most electrical repairs or installations are not DIY projects. Hire an expert to avoid serious injury or wiring problems.
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**4. BE CAREFUL AROUND H<sub>2</sub>O**  
Never use electricity while standing in damp or wet conditions. Keep all electrical devices away from water, including cellphones that are charging.
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**5. EVALUATE YOUR APPLIANCES**  
Do not use appliances in disrepair. Older or broken appliances can overheat, start a fire, and cause serious injuries.
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**6. TEST YOUR GFCIs**  
Outlets near a water source should be equipped with GFCIs, which help prevent shock and electrocution caused by ground faults. Test monthly to make sure they are working.
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**7. MAKE SURE YOUR HOME IS UP TO CODE**  
Your home should be properly wired and electrically sound. Contact a reputable electrician to evaluate your home.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.ORG

# We're Here to Help You Save

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you feel cooler but remember to turn them off when you leave the room. On warm summer nights, fire up the grill to keep additional heat out of the kitchen. Remember to change air filters often so your cooling system doesn't have to work harder than necessary.

Visit [www.kclonline.com/energy-wise](http://www.kclonline.com/energy-wise) for additional energy-saving information you can use year-round.

Don't let energy bills take a toll on your summer fun. CMS Electric is here to help manage your energy use, whether through efficiency programs and services or energy-saving advice from our local energy advisers.

Contact us to learn more about practical strategies to lower your use, trim your bills and make this summer a breeze for both you and your wallet.

## TIPS TO AVOID UTILITY SCAMS



If you suspect you're dealing with a utility scam, slow down and take your time before acting. Scammers often pressure you to make quick decisions or immediate payments. Instead, take the time to verify the legitimacy of the information by contacting your utility directly. Use a phone number from a reliable source, such as your bill. Taking this simple step can help protect you from falling victim to utility scams.



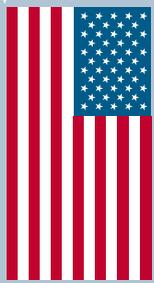
SOURCE: UTILITIES UNITED AGAINST SCAMS

## SAFETY TIP

Grass and brush fires can occur from lightning or downed power lines, but 85% of wildfires are caused by humans. Common causes include burning debris, using hot equipment on grass, improperly discarding cigarettes and leaving campfires unattended.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.ORG



**WE WILL BE**  
**CLOSED**  
**FOR**  
**MEMORIAL DAY**

*Monday, May 26*

*We will re-open on Tuesday, May 27 at 8 a.m.*

# 11 Electrical Safety Tips for Seniors

Electrical safety is crucial for everyone, but especially important for seniors. Adults over the age of 65 are at the greatest risk of death from fire and this risk increases with age, according to the National Fire Protection Association. As we age, our reflexes slow down, eyesight decreases and senses become less acute, making it essential to take extra precautions when handling electrical appliances.

## HERE ARE 11 WAYS FOR OLDER ADULTS TO MAINTAIN A SAFE LIVING ENVIRONMENT:

- 1** Ensure that electrical appliances are in good working condition. Regularly inspect cords and plugs for damage or wear and tear.
- 2** Don't overload sockets or extension cords. Plugging too many appliances or devices into a single outlet can cause overheating and increase fire risk.
- 3** Limit the use of carpets and rugs, which are tripping hazards, and avoid placing extension cords under them to prevent overheating. To help prevent trips and falls, cords should not stretch across a room. For a safer and more permanent solution, consider having an electrician install additional outlets where needed.
- 4** Unplug appliances when not in use and before cleaning or repairing them.
- 5** Keep electrical appliances away from water and wet surfaces to prevent electric shock.
- 6** Install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), which are designed to prevent electric shock by shutting off power when a ground fault is detected. Install them in areas where water and electricity are in close proximity, such as kitchens, bathrooms and outdoor spaces.
- 7** Ensure proper lighting in all areas of the home, especially in hallways and staircases, to prevent trips and falls. Consider installing nightlights in bedrooms and bathrooms for better visibility.
- 8** Set water heaters to lower settings to prevent scalding.
- 9** When cooking on the stove, never leave pots and pans unattended, and avoid wearing loose clothing when cooking. Never open the oven door if something catches fire inside the oven. Consider using toaster ovens and small appliances that come equipped with an auto shut-off feature for added safety and convenience. This feature is

designed to turn off the appliance automatically after a set amount of time or when a task is completed, reducing the risk of overheating or fire.

**10** Use space heaters with caution. Space heaters can offer added warmth to a senior, who may get cold due to circulation issues that are common with aging. Use space heaters with built-in safety features such as an automatic shut-off switch. Keep space heaters on a steady surface and at least 3 feet away from flammable objects such as curtains, bedding or furniture. Plug them directly into an outlet — do not use an extension cord or power strip — and unplug them when not in use.

**11** Install smoke detectors on every floor and carbon monoxide detectors near all bedrooms. Test and replace the batteries twice a year — once in the spring and once in the fall.

**BONUS TIP:** If someone in the home uses a medical device that requires electricity, have a backup power source ready in case of a power outage and be sure to alert your local electric utility.

By following these safety measures, seniors can significantly reduce their risk of electrical accidents. Family members and caregivers can assist older adults in implementing these precautions to ensure their homes are safe and comfortable.

## DOWNED POWER LINE & Vehicle Safety

When electric equipment becomes damaged, the ground and objects can become energized. Know what to do to **SAVE YOUR LIFE** and the lives of others.

### IN AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING A POWER LINE:

- ▶ **Stay Inside the Vehicle:** The ground may be energized.
- ▶ **Call 911:** Report downed or damaged lines.
- ▶ **Warn Others:** Tell bystanders to stay away.
- ▶ **Wait for Utility Crew:** Do not exit until it's safe.



### IF YOU NOTICE SMOKE OR FIRE:

- ▶ **Exit Safely:** Cross arms over your chest and jump out with both feet together. Do not touch the car and the ground at the same time.
- ▶ **Move Away:** Shuffle or bunny hop with feet together. Get as far away as you can.

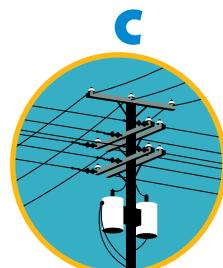
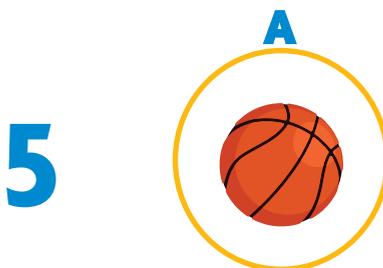
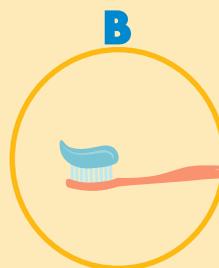
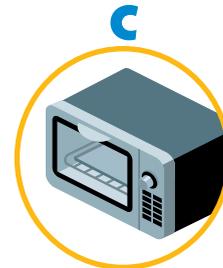
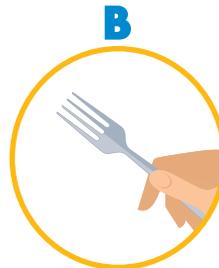
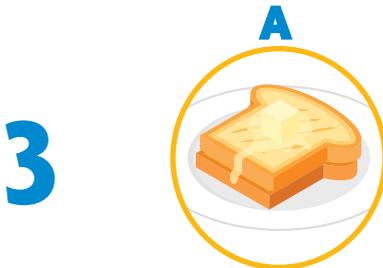
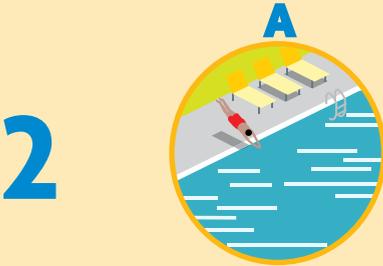
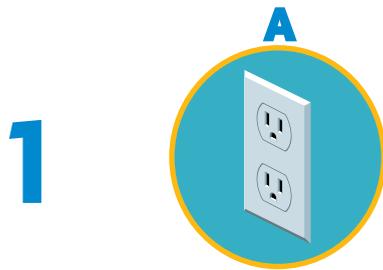
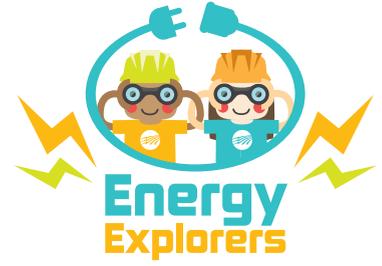


SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

# CAN YOU SPOT THE ELECTRICAL HAZARD?

Electricity is essential for everyday life, but when combined with seemingly harmless items or elements, it can create a hazardous situation. View the grouped items below, then circle the two items that (when combined) create a potential electrical hazard.

Check your work in the answer key below.



Answer Key  
 1. a, b  
 2. a, c  
 3. b, c  
 4. a, c  
 5. b, c