

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

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Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Esther Swam
- ▶ Kelby Tomlinson
- ▶ Lou Melgren
- ▶ Russell Murphey
- ▶ Stephen Miller
- ▶ David Monroe

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!



Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Think Before You Climb: Don't Take Safety Shortcuts

A ladder is often necessary, whether it is for a home improvement project, clearing the gutters or hanging decorative lights. However, before rushing into a project, take a few minutes to inspect your ladder and ensure it is the right one for the job.

Each year in the United States, more than 100 people die and thousands more are injured from ladder-related falls, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). There are five major causes for ladder-related fall incidents, according to NIOSH:

1. **INCORRECT EXTENSION LADDER SETUP ANGLE:** In approximately 40% of cases, the cause of ladder-related injuries is a ladder sliding out at the base due to an incorrect setup angle.
2. **INAPPROPRIATE LADDER SELECTION:** Selecting a ladder with the proper

duty rating for intended use is also important to avoid structural failure. Select the correct ladder for the job.

3. **INSUFFICIENT LADDER INSPECTION:** Reduce the likelihood of ladder structural failure by practicing regular inspection and maintenance.
4. **IMPROPER LADDER USE:** Overreaching, carrying objects, applying excessive force, slips and missteps are also frequent causes of ladder-related fall injuries.
5. **LACK OF ACCESS TO LADDER SAFETY TOOLS AND INFORMATION:** Small companies that account for up to 80% of all construction companies, as well as domestic ladder users, such as homeowners, typically do not receive the required safety training on the proper use of extension ladders and step ladders.

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Fall Back on Nov. 5

On Sunday, Nov. 5, 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.

Think Before You Climb: Don't Take Safety Shortcuts

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Don't Skip the Inspection

Before using a ladder, check to see if it is broken, in disrepair or not functioning as it should. If this is the case, ensure no one uses it until it is properly repaired. Look for:

- Cracks.
- Serious dents.
- Deformed or missing steps/rungs.
- Missing or uneven feet.
- Loose steps/rungs.
- Defective locks and spreader braces.

Look Up First

Always look up and lookout for overhead power lines before climbing, transporting or positioning a ladder. When moving a ladder, carry it horizontally instead of vertically since getting too close or contacting

overhead power lines could cause electrocution. Always be aware of overhead power lines and:

- **KEEP YOURSELF AND ALL EQUIPMENT 20 FEET AWAY FROM OVERHEAD POWER LINES.**
 - Electricity can arc or jump if a ladder gets too close to a power line or pole.
 - A ladder could make direct contact with the line.
- **USE A LADDER DURING IDEAL WEATHER CONDITIONS.**
 - Rain can make the ground slippery.
 - Wind could blow a ladder into a power line.
- **DO NOT TRIM TREES/BRANCHES THAT ARE NEAR POWER LINES.**
 - By law, only certified line clearance tree trimmers can do so.

► DO NOT USE WATER OR BLOWER EXTENSIONS TO CLEAN GUTTERS NEAR OVERHEAD LINES.

- All power lines can cause electrocution, including those feeding your home.
- Always follow the 20-foot distance rule when working or playing outside.

An aluminum ladder is a great conductor of electricity; a wooden ladder can be one too, depending on the condition of the ladder and whether it is wet or has metal parts.

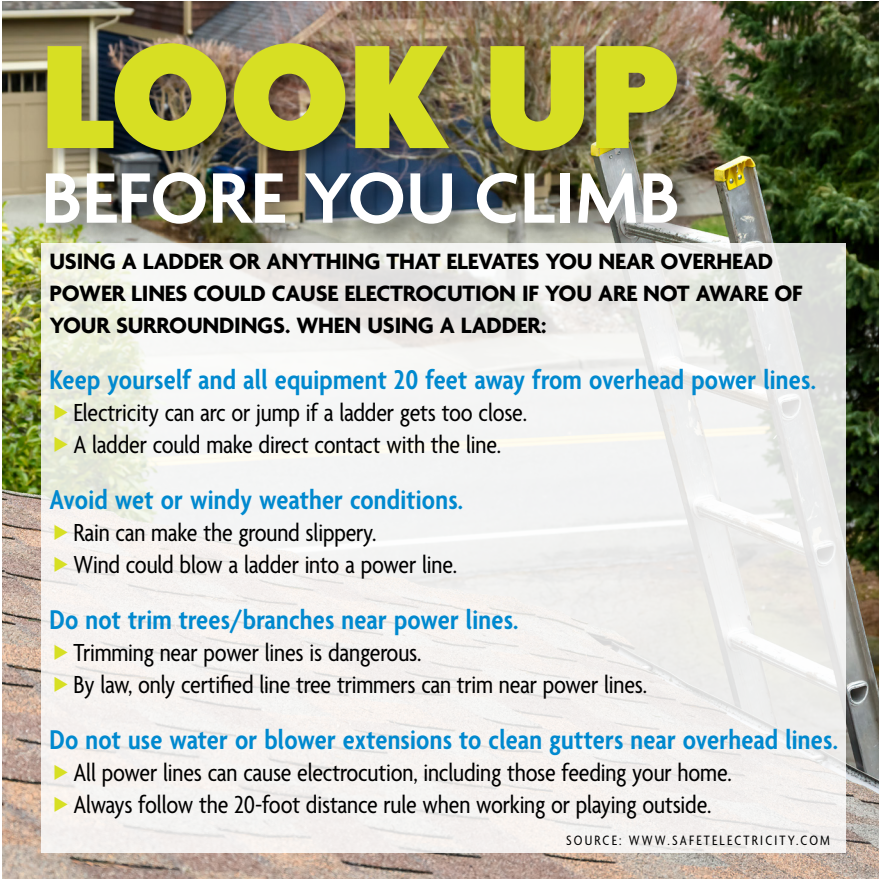
Anything that elevates you can take you too close to a power line if you are not aware of your surroundings. For more information on electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.



CO-OPS GROW Communities

Electric cooperatives are joining co-ops across the U.S. to celebrate *National Co-op Month* in October.

As your local electric co-op, our services are shaped to meet your specific needs. We love growing with you, the members we are proud to serve.



LOOK UP BEFORE YOU CLIMB

USING A LADDER OR ANYTHING THAT ELEVATES YOU NEAR OVERHEAD POWER LINES COULD CAUSE ELECTROCUTION IF YOU ARE NOT AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS. WHEN USING A LADDER:

- Keep yourself and all equipment 20 feet away from overhead power lines.**
 - Electricity can arc or jump if a ladder gets too close.
 - A ladder could make direct contact with the line.
- Avoid wet or windy weather conditions.**
 - Rain can make the ground slippery.
 - Wind could blow a ladder into a power line.
- Do not trim trees/branches near power lines.**
 - Trimming near power lines is dangerous.
 - By law, only certified line tree trimmers can trim near power lines.
- Do not use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near overhead lines.**
 - All power lines can cause electrocution, including those feeding your home.
 - Always follow the 20-foot distance rule when working or playing outside.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.COM

SMART Breaker Boxes

Every home has an electrical panel, otherwise known as a breaker box. The design hasn't changed much over the years, but through recent innovation, the smart technology-enabled electrical panel is changing that.

Smart breaker boxes, which can operate on their own or in conjunction with a standard electrical panel, make them an excellent alternative for households looking to save energy.

Consumers are upgrading to smart breaker boxes to make their home electrical systems safer and more reliable. It's recommended to hire a qualified electrician to install the smart panel, which can be done using a home's existing electrical wiring and infrastructure.

Smart breaker boxes are designed to easily connect to other smart devices in your home. With the capacity to remotely monitor and adjust energy

consumption, these devices provide several advantages that make them a worthwhile investment for anyone looking to consume less energy.

One advantage smart breaker boxes provide is convenience for homeowners to monitor and control how much energy they use. With smart circuit breakers, you can receive real-time data that allows you to pinpoint appliances or devices that consume excessive energy. This real-time tracking allows consumers to adjust their energy use where needed, which ultimately saves money on monthly energy bills, reduces energy waste and is good for the electric grid.

Smart breaker boxes are all about managing your electrical load. While the technology to track how much energy a home uses has been available for years, the ability to control how that energy is used is new. A smart breaker box can reveal how much power each circuit is using and turn each one on or off. Some smart breaker boxes allow you to establish schedules based on importance, such as refrigeration and heat to be on 24/7, but less important loads like Wi-Fi or the television to turn off during scheduled times.

Smart breaker boxes offer additional benefits for those with home solar systems. Smart breaker boxes help solar energy systems run more efficiently by determining how much energy is being used and how it can be stored. Through intelligent load management, they can provide longer battery backup life for those with energy storage. Additionally, integration with other smart home devices, like thermostats and virtual assistants, further enhances the connected-home ecosystem.

Safety in electrical devices is highly important to consumers, and smart breaker boxes provide enhanced safety features that consumers appreciate. Smart breaker boxes can identify abnormalities and other potential



Smart breaker boxes, like the hardware-agnostic Lumin Smart Panel shown here, turn standard panels into smart panels by providing comprehensive energy control and extending whole-home backup.

electrical problems, then quickly shut off power supply if a circuit shorts or becomes overloaded, avoiding electrical fires and other dangers. Many smart breaker boxes include surge protection to help protect against power spikes and other issues.

Smart breaker boxes aren't just for consumers — electric utilities are using them too.

For electric co-ops, smart breaker boxes also offer a range of benefits. A primary advantage of these devices is that they allow for more efficient and reliable energy distribution. With the ability to remotely monitor energy use and detect faults within the system, electric co-ops can quickly respond to issues and minimize outage times for consumers — ultimately managing the grid more efficiently.

There's no denying that smart home technologies have changed how we use our homes, and smart breaker boxes are no exception. Smart breaker boxes help both customers and electric utilities in multiple ways. With advanced safety features, real-time energy tracking and control, and the ability to use energy more efficiently, these devices are a smart investment for anyone who wants to make their home's system more reliable, safer and cost-effective.



With smart breaker boxes, like the SPAN Panel shown here, you can control and monitor every circuit in your home from a smartphone or tablet.

ENERGY VAMPIRES WORD SEARCH

Are energy vampires hiding in your home? These devices consume electricity even when not in use and can drain home energy bills.

Read the tips below to learn how you can fight energy vampires, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.



R	W	Y	E	S	B	G	S	V	F	S	V	V	X	Q
X	E	M	R	M	X	X	T	V	B	N	U	D	T	O
G	P	K	X	G	K	J	C	I	B	B	J	U	I	O
J	R	X	A	R	C	N	R	E	P	M	J	V	R	E
A	V	R	T	M	P	T	Y	Y	I	C	Z	U	W	L
T	R	W	Q	U	E	D	G	U	K	N	J	P	I	O
E	R	R	A	X	N	E	K	Z	X	C	D	E	F	S
F	E	K	Y	S	V	Y	F	A	Y	E	H	Z	E	N
Y	R	N	L	T	F	I	L	F	A	Q	W	O	U	O
O	A	A	W	V	Z	D	E	H	O	X	O	L	N	C
G	N	K	Z	T	T	Y	S	K	R	C	L	K	A	E
T	Q	S	D	G	M	J	S	W	W	W	X	S	N	M
Z	E	R	E	G	R	A	H	C	E	N	O	H	P	A
B	A	C	T	T	Z	K	Q	N	U	X	E	M	Y	G
L	A	P	T	O	P	C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R	S

Tips to Fight Energy Vampires

- ▶ After charging is complete, unplug your **phone charger**.
- ▶ Remind your parents to unplug the **coffee maker** when they're finished brewing.
- ▶ When you're finished playing that new game, unplug your **game console**.
- ▶ Unplug **laptop computers** when you're done with homework.

