



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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www.cmselectric.com

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

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Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ John Hurd
- ▶ Leslie Jantzen
- ▶ Kelly Isaac
- ▶ Max Johannsen
- ▶ Wally Myers
- ▶ Sue Page

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!



Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

It's a Matter of (Co-op!) Principles

ACE Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes and CMS Electric all share something in common: We're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops, CMS Electric was created out of necessity — to meet a need that would have been otherwise

unmet in our community. So in 1945, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain — the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. We call on everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to

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**Community born.
Community led.
Focused on YOU.**

October is
National Co-op Month!

Protecting Water Pipes? Use Heat Tape With Care

Below-zero temperatures can cause pipes to freeze and burst, resulting in a huge mess and expensive repairs. One way to help prevent pipes from bursting is to use heat tape, a product that uses electricity to generate heat.

Heat tape is not an adhesive but rather acts as a heating pad for exposed pipes. There are two installation methods. The first and less common method is when the tape is hardwired to a home's electrical system and has its own breaker(s). In this case, the tape should be installed by a licensed contractor.

The second installation method uses heat tape that plugs directly into a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlet. This type of tape typically allows you to control the temperature.

If you are considering installing heat tape, extra care should be taken.

- ▶ Due to its potential to overheat and cause a fire, do not use heat tape on pipes behind walls or ceilings. It should only be used for exposed pipes, such as those found in your crawl space or outside your home.
 - ▶ Select the right kind of tape for your pipes. If you use tape designed for PVC on metal pipes, it will not be as effective; if you use heat tape designed for metal on PVC pipes, it can melt them.
 - ▶ Always purchase heat tape that is backed by a reputable testing lab, such as Underwriter Laboratories (UL), and do not use tape, cords or plugs that are damaged or worn.
 - ▶ Unplug the heat tape in the spring.
- Once you have the right tape for the job, installing it is straightforward, according to Huncker.com:
- ▶ **CLEAN THE PIPE.** Remove any insulation and brush off any dirt or cobwebs with a stiff brush. This is an important step because any dirt on the pipes could smolder or catch fire.
 - ▶ **WRAP THE TAPE.** Many brands are designed to simply wrap around the pipe, but some need to be attached using electrical tape. Follow the instructions provided on the packaging or insert. Avoid crossing/doubling the heat tape over itself when wrapping, as this can produce areas of excessively high heat.
 - ▶ **INSULATE THE PIPE.** Cover the pipe with foam insulation after you have wrapped the heat tape around the pipe. This prevents heat from dissipating and saves energy. If the pipes are outside or in a location that could get damp, use waterproof insulation.
 - ▶ **LEAVE ENOUGH SLACK AT THE END OF THE TAPE TO REACH A GFCI OUTLET WITHOUT THE NEED FOR AN EXTENSION CORD.** If the tape is not long enough to cover the entire pipe, follow the manufacturer's directions. Sometimes the tape 'strands' are designed to connect one to another, but make sure that is recommended before doing so. Some tape comes in different lengths.
 - ▶ **LET THE HEAT TAPE GO TO WORK FOR YOU.** Once the tape is plugged in, the thermostat monitors the pipe temperature and turns on the heat when needed.



Due to its potential to overheat and cause a fire, do not use heat tape on pipes behind walls or ceilings. It should only be used for exposed pipes, such as those found in your crawl space or outside your home.

Heat tape is not a must for everyone, but if you have had an issue with exposed pipes freezing in the past, it might be worth considering.

Since heat tape involves plugging in something in an area that could become wet, never step into a flooded or damp area that could have an electrical current running through it. In other words, always use caution with heat tape since it runs on electricity. While installing the specialized covering may help prevent freezing pipes, always follow the instructions provided for installation and use.

For more information about staying safe around electricity, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Discuss Electrical Safety With Kids

Oftentimes, when the topic of electronics and children comes up, the conversation gravitates toward the pros and cons of screen time or maybe trading tips on the best educational apps. However, an often-overlooked topic is how to talk to your children about the potential safety hazards associated with electronics, sources of electricity and their environment in general. As soon as children can walk, parents and caregivers should discuss with them how to be safe around electricity, both inside the home and when playing outdoors.

CMS Electric recommends sharing these outdoor safety tips with children of all ages:

- ▶ Do not touch or go near a sagging or downed power line. Instead, tell an adult to call the electric utility to report it.
- ▶ Never climb trees near power lines.
- ▶ Fly kites, model airplanes, remote-control flying toys and drones in large, open areas, such as parks or fields, far away from power lines. If any of these items (or any item or object) gets caught in a power line, never try to retrieve it. Tell an adult to call the electric utility for help.
- ▶ Never fly kites or other toys when a thunderstorm may be approaching.
- ▶ Never climb a utility pole or tower. The electricity carried through this equipment could kill you.
- ▶ Never go into an electric substation for any reason. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment, which can kill you. Never rescue a pet or retrieve a ball or toy that goes inside the fenced area surrounding a substation. Tell an adult to call the electric utility instead.
- ▶ Always stay away from outdoor electrical equipment marked “keep out,” “high voltage” or “danger.”
- ▶ Do not play, sit or climb on a padmount transformer, a.k.a. green

box. Note to adults: While green boxes are typically safe to be around, it is better to leave this equipment alone just in case a box has become unlocked or vandalized, or the contents or box have become damaged in some way — by a roadside accident or unwelcomed varmints or ants. Please call us to report an unlocked cabinet or any signs of damage.

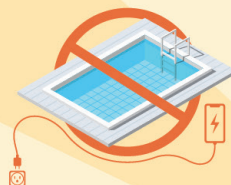
Additionally, share the following indoor safety tips with children:

- ▶ Do not play with electrical cords or plugs.
- ▶ Younger children should ask an adult before plugging in or unplugging something. In addition, never pull or tug on cords. Instead, gently pull the plug out of the wall by grasping the plug, not the cord.
- ▶ Do not touch or use cords that appear damaged.
- ▶ Keep cords away from heat and water.
- ▶ Never stick fingers, tongues, toys or other body parts or objects into electrical outlets or light sockets.
- ▶ Never sleep with phones, tablets or other electronics in the bed or under a pillow. The electronic device can overheat or experience a short in the charging cable, causing bedding to catch on fire, burns to the skin or electric shock.
- ▶ Never play with electronic toys or gadgets in the bathtub or other water.
- ▶ Never touch appliances, switches, outlets, sockets, cords or plugs with wet hands or while standing in water. Parents should keep towels near bathroom and kitchen sinks so little hands can be dried right after they are washed.

Many electrical injuries and fires can be prevented. It is never too early or too late to start talking about electrical safety with your children and loved ones.

A TIME TO CHARGE AND A TIME TO UNPLUG

4 PLACES NOT TO USE A PLUGGED-IN DEVICE



**IN OR
NEAR A
POOL OR
HOT TUB**

Water and electricity are a deadly combination. Electrical current running through water can cause shock or electrocution.



**IN THE TUB
OR BY THE
SINK**

Never extend your cell phone or device so that you can reach it while bathing. Also, do not plug it in near standing or running water.



**IN BED OR
OTHER
SOFT
SURFACES**

A device can overheat when placed on or under a pillow or soft bedding. Also, charging cubes and cords can malfunction, causing burns, shock or other serious injuries.



**HEAR
THUNDER
OR SEE
LIGHTNING**

Lightning can cause power surges that are not only harmful to electrical (charging) devices but also to you.

It's a Matter of (Co-op!) Principles

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everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. CMS Electric's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable

and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of CMS Electric. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by Seven Cooperative Principles, it's not just about dollars — it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

CMS Electric is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place. This sums up the Seventh Co-op Principle, Concern for Community, which our cooperative routinely celebrates.

10 TIPS to Get Ahead of the Winter Freeze

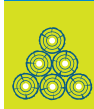
THE FURNACE has been inspected and serviced by a qualified professional during the last 12 months. (A furnace should be serviced at least once a year.)

CHIMNEYS AND VENTS have been cleaned, checked for creosote build-up and inspected by a professional. (Not cleaning your chimney annually is the leading cause of chimney fires.)

CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS have been tested and are working. (Alarms should be located outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.)

SMOKE ALARMS have been tested and are working. (Alarms should be on every level of the home, in sleeping rooms and sleeping areas. For the best protection, the smoke alarms should be interconnected.)

THE WOOD FOR THE FIREPLACE or wood stove is dry, seasoned wood.



THE FIREPLACE SCREEN is metal or heat-tempered glass, in good condition and secure in its position in front of the fireplace.

A COVERED METAL CONTAINER is ready to use to dispose cooled ashes. (The ash container should be kept at least 10 feet from the home and any nearby buildings.)

CHILDREN KNOW to stay at least 3 feet away from the fireplace, wood/pellet stove, oil stove or other space heaters.

PORTABLE SPACE HEATERS have an automatic shut-off. (Place notes throughout your home to remind you to turn off portable heaters when you leave a room or go to bed.)

SPACE HEATERS will be plugged directly into an outlet (not an extension cord) and placed at least 3 feet from anything that can burn, like bedding, paper and walls.

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