



## CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# The Enlightener

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#### Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Steve Graham
- ▶ Chris Harper
- ▶ Lark Hallum
- ▶ Barbara Houser
- ▶ Michael McCown
- ▶ Karrol Mobley

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!



#### Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Let's Beat the Peak Together

As a member of CMS Electric Cooperative, you know how to make smart energy choices that help you save money. But did you know that when you use electricity can be just as important as how much you use?

Throughout the day, energy use fluctuates based on consumer demand. Typically, households use larger amounts of electricity in the morning when most people are getting ready for their day, and in the evenings when people return from work, cook dinner, wash clothes and watch television.

These times when people in our community are using more electricity at the same time are called "peak" hours. The cost for CMS Electric Cooperative to provide power is higher during these times because of the additional demand for electricity.

By shifting some of your energy use to hours when demand is lower, also known as off-peak hours, you can save money on your energy bills and help keep rates lower for our community.

Here are a few easy ways you can shift energy use to off-peak hours:

- ▶ Adjust your thermostat. During summer months, raise the thermostat a few degrees during peak hours.
- ▶ Wash full loads of clothes in cold water during off-peak hours.
- ▶ Run the dishwasher right before you go to bed, or air-dry dishes by opening the dishwasher instead of using the heated dry cycle.
- ▶ Turn off lights and electronics when not in use. (Try to make this a daily habit, whether during peak or off-peak hours.)
- ▶ Turn off ceiling fans if people aren't in the room. A good rule of thumb is fans cool people, not places.

There are many ways to save energy and money by making a few minor adjustments to your daily routine.

We're here to help. Contact us if you have questions about your energy bill or for additional energy-saving tips. Contact CMS Electric Cooperative at 800-794-2353.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Energy used for cooling and heating your home makes up the largest portion of your monthly energy bills. By combining regular equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30% on your energy bills while helping our environment. **SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV**



## Going Up or Digging In?

### 10 tips for using rental equipment safely

Are you planning to rent a scissor or boom lift? Scaffolding? A backhoe?

When you rent, borrow or use equipment that will either elevate you or break ground, be sure to use it safely. Whether you are a novice do-it-yourselfer eager to embark on a lofty project or you have used several types of outdoor equipment or machinery before, keep these safety tips in mind:

1. Before using equipment, obtain proper training; in some cases, certification is required.
2. Prior to each use, follow the manufacturer's checklist to verify it is in good working order.
3. Always evaluate and assess your location before using a scissor lift, a bucket truck, a boom lift or scaffolding (or anything that elevates you). Look up and look out for power line locations, and do not use equipment underneath or near a power line or utility pole. Keep in mind your equipment's reach (height and width) when fully extended, and make sure it will not get too close to a power line. Always follow the 10-foot rule: Keep 10 feet between yourself or an object you are holding and a power line or pole.
4. If you rent a backhoe, a post hole digger or other digging equipment, be sure to call 811 two to three days prior to starting your project. The locating service is free and marks all public underground lines. You are responsible for having all private underground lines and pipes marked, such as those that service a garage or outbuilding, sprinkler system, invisible fence or private water system. If you or a previous

homeowner had the lines installed, they are most likely private.

5. When using rental equipment that lifts you off the ground, always wear your safety harness. It's a simple step that helps keep you safe if you lose your footing.
6. Do not use a scissor or boom lift (or any other piece of equipment) for a job it was not designed for.
7. Before starting a job, account for external conditions, such as wind. High winds could push you too close to or into a power line, and you could be seriously injured or electrocuted.
8. Starting a project can be exciting, but don't just jump in. Instead, read and review the operating instructions first and take the time to familiarize yourself with the equipment. For example, learn how to use the controls close to the ground before using them at a higher elevation.
9. Don't ignore the specifications for each piece of equipment, such as maximum platform capacity.
10. When you are elevated, keep both feet on the platform at all times and use appropriate boots or shoes that have slip-resistant soles. Make sure your shoes or boots are not oily, muddy or greasy.

We would be happy to answer any questions or discuss the details of any outdoor projects that could potentially take you close to a power line, whether overhead or underground. Your safety is our top priority. These recommended safety tips are not exhaustive. Always read and follow the safety guidelines and operating instructions provided by the manufacturer.

## THINK SAFETY FIRST

*When Using a Generator*

Keep these tips with your portable generator or emergency kit.

- ▶ Use a properly rated extension cord to plug appliances into a generator.
- ▶ Never plug a generator into your home's electrical system.
- ▶ Place the generator at least 20 feet away from all areas of the home (windows, doors, garage, porch).
- ▶ Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated, dry area.
- ▶ If it is raining, place the generator under a stand-alone, canopy-like structure.
- ▶ Always direct exhaust away from the home or any other structure.
- ▶ Do not use a generator in a garage (even if the garage door is up) or carport.
- ▶ Read and follow all instructions provided by the manufacturer.
- ▶ Keep your generator well-maintained and in proper working order.

Ensure that working carbon monoxide (CO) detectors are located on every level of your home, and test them monthly.

CO poisoning can happen quickly, and individuals exposed to the odorless, invisible gas may become unconscious before realizing they are experiencing symptoms such as nausea, dizziness or weakness. Or, they might not associate a symptom with CO exposure before becoming unconscious.



*Happy Labor Day*

In observance of Labor Day, our office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 6.