

MONROE

ELECTRIC NEWS

31

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Happy Holidays

From the directors and employees of Monroe County Electric Cooperative

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Office Closings

In observance of the holidays, our office will be closed December 25th and January 1st.

Attention high school seniors...

The deadline for returning your applications for the Illinois Electric Cooperative Memorial Scholarships is December 31, 2012. Go on line to www.mcec.org to submit your scholarship.



Avoid a holiday decorating disaster

Few traditions are as unique to the holidays as decorating our homes and yards with twinkling lights and festive decorations. While these displays add to the magic of the season, they also increase our risks for holiday fires and injuries. So follow these steps to ensure that your traditions result in a safe, bright, and happy time for your family.

- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration and extension cord before use, and discard any damaged items. Cracked sockets, bare or frayed wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or fire. Avoid overloading outlets, which can overheat and also cause a fire.
- The Electrical Safety Foundation International recommends never connecting more than three strands of incandescent lights together. Do not pinch cords



Check to make sure connections are secure and cords are not worn or frayed.
Source: Underwriters Laboratories (UL)

in windows or doors, or under heavy furniture.

- When decorating outside, make sure outdoor outlets are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Check that all items and extension cords are marked for outdoor use. And exercise extreme caution when decorating near overhead power lines. Use a

wooden or fiberglass ladder instead of metal. Keep yourself and all of your equipment at least 10 feet from power lines.

- Take special care with Christmas trees. If purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. Heated rooms dry out live trees—even fresh ones—rapidly. Place the tree at least 3 feet away from all heat sources, including fireplaces and space heaters. Be sure to keep the stand filled with water. For artificial trees, look for the label “fire resistant.”
 - Decorate your tree, live or artificial, with non-combustible or flame-resistant materials. Never use burning candles on or near your tree.
- Whether your house is the most festive on the block or you prefer a more low-key style, make safety an important part of your holiday preparations.

12 Days of Holiday Safety

It's easy to make safety a part of your holiday with these tips. Tackle one a day and you're well on your way to a safe New Year!



Day 1 **What's that noise?** Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Make sure everyone knows what to do if they hear them.

Day 2 **What a shocker!** Before use, inspect all electrical lights, decorations, and extension cords for damage.

Day 3 **Two's company, three's a crowd.** Do not overload outlets with too many decorations or devices.

Day 4 **Is it working?** Test your ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) to make sure they're protecting you.

Day 5 **Ouch!** Prevent trips and falls by keeping cords safely along walls and out of doorways and high traffic areas.

Day 6 **Kids eat the darndest things!** Avoid putting lights, metal hooks, breakable ornaments, and other small decorations within reach of young children.

Day 7 **Thirsty?** Keep your Christmas tree stand full of water. A fresh, green tree poses less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.

Day 8 **Make a wish!** Blow out the candles before leaving a room or going to bed.

Day 9 **Nice and warm.** Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn—decorations, trees, gifts, and curtains.

Day 10 **Can't touch this!** Consider installing tamper-resistant outlets/receptacles to prevent kids from inserting objects into the slots.

Day 11 **Escape Route:** Share your family fire escape plan with overnight guests.

Day 12 **Hot stuff!** Keep children away from cooking areas; use back burners and turn pot handles in away from little hands.

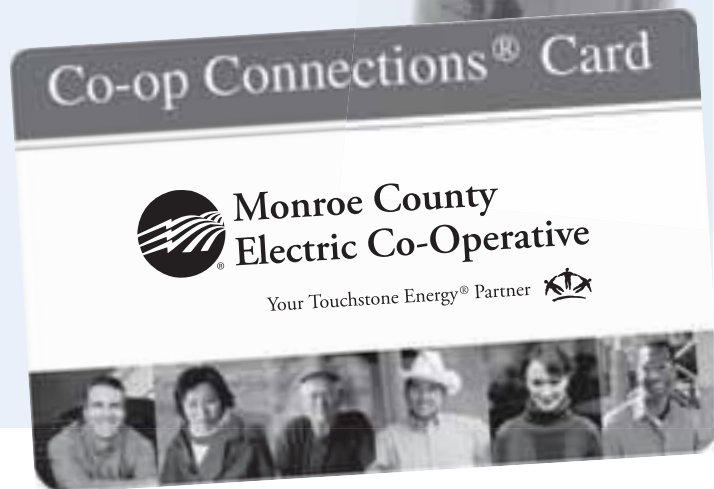
There's no greater gift you can give your family than a safe and happy holiday! Learn more at holidaysafety.org.

MCEC Line Outages - October 2012

Date	Duration	# Out	Location	Cause Desc	Sub
10/05/12	2:45	20	Steffen Rd/Stringtown Rd	LIGHTNING	Fults
10/05/12	1:09	9	Steppig Rd	LIGHTNING	Fountian
10/08/12	3:02	10	J Rd	VEHICLES OR MACHINERY	Poe
10/25/12	1:42	2	D Rd	VEHICLES OR MACHINERY	Fountian
10/30/12	0:42	100	Fischer/Bushy Prairie Rd	MAINTENANCE	Waterloo

Co-op Connections Card Saving Members \$\$\$

Monroe County Electric Cooperative members saved over 58% on prescriptions in 2012 so far, as of August using the Co-op Connections card. There were a total of 73 prescriptions filled for a total savings of \$3,274.



Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

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2013 Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship Program

The AIEC Board of Directors in 1994 voted to establish an Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Fund. The Fund is designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family,” while also providing a means for co-ops and individuals to honor deceased members of the co-op family through memorial gifts. The “driving force” behind the fund’s creation was Thomas H. Moore, Executive Vice President and General Manager of the AIEC from 1961 to 1994. The AIEC Board voted to rename the scholarship program to honor Mr. Moore following his passing in 2008.



The scholarship program prospered under the leadership of Earl W. Struck, who succeeded Mr. Moore and served as President/CEO of the AIEC from 1994 to 2006. Mr. Struck passed away in August 2007. The AIEC Board of Directors that month voted to honor Mr. Struck’s memory by naming the annual scholarship awarded to the son or daughter of an electric cooperative employee or director the “Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship.” Mr. Struck was born and raised in Murphysboro and was active in the 4H program during his youth. His parents were long time members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative.

The Illinois Community College System Foundation (ICCSF) administers the Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship Fund. Eight scholarships a year are awarded.

Four scholarships a year are awarded to students who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois

electric cooperative member. An additional scholarship (the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship) is awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. These five scholarships can be used at any two-year or four-year accredited college or university in the United States, including vocational/technical schools. The sixth and seventh scholarships are awarded for use at an Illinois community college, and sons and daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees and directors are all eligible.

The above seven scholarships are for \$1,500 each and are not renewable. Applicants must be high school seniors and apply through their local electric cooperative. The deadline for submitting completed applications to the local electric cooperative is January 1 of each year.

The eighth annual scholarship, the “LaVern and Nola McEntire Line

worker’s Scholarship,” was awarded for the first time in 2011. This \$1,500 scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the line worker’s school conducted by the AIEC in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Ill. LaVern McEntire served as a lineman for McDonough Power Electric Cooperative from 1949 until 1991. He and his wife, Nola, helped to endow and establish the new scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained line workers.

Cooperative members and their children, relatives of co-op employees or directors are eligible for the line worker’s scholarship, as are individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard.

For more information, please visit our Web site, www.mceec.org and apply on-line.