


# Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



## Attorney Jim Brissenden retires

At the September board meeting, Board President Larry Seals presented Attorney Jim Brissenden a plaque in appreciation of 25 years of service as Norris Electric's legal counsel. He retired from practicing law this past spring. Jim was always available for any legal questions as well as a humorous antidote about members of his profession. He was a valued member of the cooperative family and will be missed. We all wish Jim a long and active retirement.

## Board Director Elections

We are nearing our annual meeting on Feb. 18, 2012. At that meeting we announce the results of the director election. This year there are four director seats up for election. The counties and the incumbents are:

County	Incumbent
Crawford	Larry Buser
Effingham	Gilbert Garbe
Jasper	Gordon McClure
Lawrence	Dan Scherer

All the incumbents plan to run for re-election. They must submit a petition signed by at least 25 cooperative members to be placed on the ballot.

Any other members that reside and take service in any previously mentioned counties may also submit a petition and be placed on the ballot. Petitions are available now and members may stop in the office to obtain a petition or call the office and one will be mailed to the member. Completed petitions must be in the cooperative office by noon on Dec. 21, 2011.

Petitioners with qualified petitions will be placed on the ballot. The ballots will be mailed to all members in January with instruction for voting. Votes may be cast by return mail or by Internet. The results will be announced at our annual meeting on Feb. 18, 2012.

Norris Electric has historically been very successful in managing costs in the past and currently continues that trend. Norris Electric Cooperative enjoys the lowest electric rate in the state for a typical residential consumer and has about an 87 percent equity position. There tends to be a trend across the nation of voting against an incumbent no matter what kind of job they are doing. We hope that is not the case at Norris Electric and hope that you vote for who you think is the most qualified person for the position whether that is an incumbent or a new candidate. That being said, we welcome all petitions.

Norris Electric Cooperative • Newton, Illinois 62448 • 783-8765 • [www.norriselectric.com](http://www.norriselectric.com)

# Norris offers standby generators



Remember the ice storm last winter? We sure do. You cannot control Mother Nature and now would be a good time for you to purchase a standby generator. Norris Electric offers the Briggs & Stratton Home Generator System line of standby generators. Briggs & Stratton is one of the leading and most well known names in small engines.

These units are available with transfer switches that automatically start the unit and transfer to standby power in the event of a power outage. When electric service is restored, the transfer switch switches back to utility power and shuts the generator down.

Many homes and small businesses have pumps, fans, computers and other equipment that require them to have a continuous supply of electric power. With a Briggs & Stratton Home Generator System, you never have to worry about another power outage. With the automatic transfer features, you know your processes and equipment are always operating, even when you are gone.

The Briggs & Stratton product line was chosen for its long history in the small engine business and its commitment to a quality line of products at reasonable prices.

If you are looking for a standby generator you may contact Norris Electric at 877-783-8765.

## Co-op Connections Card Featured Local Business

### *KibbieKabin Cabin Rentals*

**K**ibbieKabin Cabin Rentals are cedar log cabins nestled in the dense woods near Oblong in Crawford County. Currently we have three facilities to choose from for your cabin rental. All are very similar in style and amenities but mostly differ in size. Choose from the Turkey Roost (sleeps 2), Buck Rub (sleeps 8), or Fox Den (sleeps 10) Cabins.

The log reception hall is also here! There is a 40 x 10 deck overlooking the pond and woods. This is an unprecedented setting for your wedding and reception, family reunions, Christmas parties or any kind of function. Tables and chairs are furnished for approximately 250 people.

Cozy will be a standard feature at KibbieKabin Cabin Rentals and Reception Hall. The ambiance is plentiful and a beautiful view of one of the ponds can be enjoyed from any of the cabins. Book one of our cabins or reception hall soon, you will be glad you did!

Stop by at 14437 N. 100th St, Oblong, IL, call us at 618-592-4366 or visit our website at [www.kibbiekabin.com](http://www.kibbiekabin.com).

Use your Co-op Connections card from Norris Electric and receive a 10 percent discount for any stay two nights or more not to be combined with any other offer.



**Norris will be closed Friday  
November 11 for Veteran's Day  
and Thursday & Friday, November  
24 & 25 for Thanksgiving**



# Thanksgiving Day Safety Tips

**T**hanksgiving is a holiday that brings friends and family together to share a good meal, conversation and laughter. Thanksgiving also comes with several health hazards, including an increased chance of fires, food poisoning and choking. Take a few minutes to review these Thanksgiving Day safety tips and enjoy the holiday without worry.

## Fire

The U.S. Fire Administration reports that more than 4,000 fires occur on Thanksgiving Day. The average number of cooking fires doubles on the holiday. In addition to installing a fire detector in the kitchen, there are several easy ways to avoid fires: Don't leave the kitchen while frying and grilling. Use a timer and check on food often when simmering, baking, broiling and roasting. If deep-frying a turkey, keep the fryer outside, away from walls, fences and other structures. Also keep the fryer away from moisture to avoid burns from steam and spattering oil.

## Turkey

Eating undercooked turkey is another Thanksgiving health problem. If a turkey is thawed at a temperature above 40 F, salmonella or other bacteria that cause food poisoning can grow. Safely cooking a turkey starts with correct defrosting. There are three methods for safe defrosting. The turkey can be thawed

in the refrigerator – one day for every 5 lbs. of the bird. The turkey can be submerged in water if it is in leak-proof packaging – 30 minutes for every pound. The water should be changed every half hour. It's also safe to defrost a turkey in a microwave. Remove any packaging and follow the manufacturer's instructions. With all three methods it's important to cook the turkey immediately after thawing. Don't slow cook or partially cook the turkey. When cooking the turkey, check the temperature with a meat thermometer to determine if it's done. Even if the turkey came with a pop-up thermometer, it's necessary to check the innermost part of the thigh and wing, and the thickest part of the breast. The turkey needs to be at least 165 F including the stuffing. Let the turkey rest before carving as this gives the juices time to set.

## Choking

The most common cause of choking is talking while eating. If a person is unable to cough, breathe or speak, the first thing to do is call 911. Next, the Red Cross recommends a technique called FIVE-and-FIVE for choking victims. The first step is giving the choking victim five sharp blows on the back, using the heel of the hand. If the obstruction is not dislodged by this move, the next step is to give the victim five quick, upward abdominal thrusts. Some people leave the

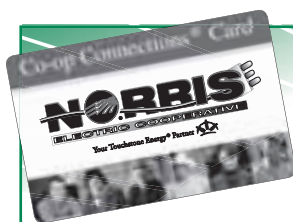
table when they start choking. It's important to stay with other people so they can receive assistance. If the victim is alone, they can give themselves the five abdominal thrusts using their hands or by pressing their abdomen firmly against the back of a chair.

## Leftovers

Eating Thanksgiving leftovers that have been improperly stored can also lead to food poisoning. Leftovers, including pumpkin pie, need to be put away within two hours after serving the food. Food should be refrigerated if it is going to be eaten within three days; otherwise it should be frozen. Meat should be removed from the bone before putting away and food should be stored in shallow containers. Leftovers should be reheated to 165 F and gravy should be brought to a vigorous boil.

## Pets

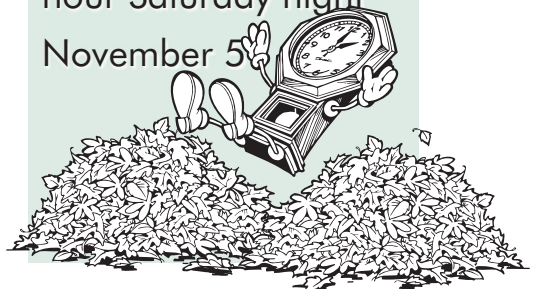
Thanksgiving brings health hazards to dogs and other pets as well as humans. Don't give turkey bones to pets. Turkey bones and other bird bones are hollow, which makes them likely to splinter. This can cause tears in an animal's esophagus, stomach or intestines. Fatty holiday foods, such as turkey skin and gravy, can contribute to pancreatitis. More pets are brought to vets for pancreatitis after their owners have had a party or holiday dinner.



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

**N**orris Electric Cooperative members saved 42% on prescriptions in August 2011 using their Co-Op Connections card. There were 246 prescriptions filled for a total savings of \$5,621.

Don't forget to move  
your clocks back an  
hour Saturday night  
November 5





# Get your home ready for a safe, warm winter!

The coats have been cleaned, the mittens and scarves found, and the sweaters have been pulled out of the attic. Old Man Winter is on his way. But what about your house, is it ready for winter? A small investment of time to review your home for safety and efficiency weak spots can pay big dividends toward making your home safer, more energy efficient, and ultimately reduce electric bills this winter.

“Energy dollars pour out of homes through drafty doors, windows, attics, walls and floors without even being noticed,” says Mike Ashenfelter, Sangamon County electrical inspector and member of the Safe Electricity Team. “Taking time to winterize and check heating equipment now can be a worthy investment, saving you money on your monthly bill and ensuring your home is safe as well.”

It’s important to have a professional inspect and service your furnace to make sure it is in good working order before turning the heat on this winter. An efficient heating system means greater comfort at a lower cost. Regularly clean or replace furnace filters monthly during winter use, and check ducts, flues and chimneys. Ensure the chimney is clean, clear of bird and animal nests and that there is no blockage by high efficiency furnaces that vent through the wall. Keeping heating equipment clean and in good repair will ensure peak efficiency and safety.

Consider installing a programmable thermostat to automatically raise and lower home temperatures for energy savings day and night. Set your thermostat to lower temperatures while you’re asleep or away from home.

Make sure attics and flooring, especially above unheated spaces such as crawl spaces and garages, are properly insulated. A quick rule of thumb is

to check the attic – if you can see the ceiling joists, you don’t have enough insulation. Ceiling joists are usually at most 10-11 inches and insulation should be a minimum of 12 inches. Find air leaks in homes by moistening fingertips and running them around doors or window frames to feel a draft. Check around outlets and look for gaps near the dryer vent, chimneys and faucet pipes. Seal them all with caulking or weather-stripping.

“Weather stripping and caulking are inexpensive and among the simplest, most effective ways to boost efficiency and cut energy costs year round,” says Ashenfelter.

Another way to save energy is by replacing screens with storm windows and doors. Double-pane windows with low-e coating can reduce heating bills by 34 percent in cold climates compared to uncoated, single-pane windows. If you have older or leaky windows that you cannot replace, consider temporary fixes, such as plastic film kits that create the effect of an interior storm window.

Consider replacing regular incandescent light bulbs with energy efficient Compact Florescent Light (CFL) bulbs. CFLs use one-fourth of the energy consumed by a regular bulb and can last 10 times as long or longer.

“During cold weather, don’t overlook simple energy-saving steps such as opening curtains to let sunshine warm your home, and reversing your ceiling fans to a clockwise rotation to recirculate and force the warm air downward,” reminds Ashenfelter, “and make sure fireplace dampers are closed when not in use. These are effective energy-saving tips that cost you nothing.”

As you take steps to winterize your home, use the opportunity to check for electrical hazards. The dry winter air is a perfect environment for elec-

tric shock and fire. Use this electrical safety checklist to eliminate hazards:

Check outlets and make sure they are not overloaded or warm to the touch. Examine electrical cords for cracks, frays and damaged plugs, and don’t run cords under rugs, furniture or behind baseboards. Check that light bulbs are the proper wattage and securely screwed in light fixtures so bulbs don’t overheat and ignite curtains or nearby furniture. Outlets related to frequent circuit breaker trips or blown fuses should be inspected by a professional. Dimming lights and shrinking pictures on televisions and computer monitors are also electrical warning signs that merit an inspection. Make sure bathroom, laundry room, kitchen, and outdoor outlets have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and test and reset them monthly. If these outlets do not have GFCIs, have them professionally installed. Test your smoke detector batteries. Replace them if they are more than six months old. If an electric space heater is used, make sure the wiring is adequate, and check for cord fraying, splitting wires, or overheating. Don’t place a portable heater in high-traffic areas and keep it clear of curtains, bedding, clothes and furniture. Never use extension cords with electric heaters.

“Taking these simple steps help reduce the risk of fire, shock, injury or death,” Ashenfelter said. “We want everyone to stay safe and warm this winter.”

For more safety information visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org). Safe Electricity is an electrical safety public awareness program created and supported by a coalition of hundreds of organizations, including electric utilities, educators and other entities committed to promoting electrical safety.

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Norris Electric Cooperative • 8543 N. State Highway 130 • Newton, Illinois 62448 • 618-783-8765

**Office hours: Monday — Thursday**

**7:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m**