

WIEC NEWS

P.O. Box 338 ■ Carthage, Illinois 62321 ■ www.wiec.net ■ 800/576-3125

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace,
The gladness of Christmas give you hope,
The warmth of Christmas grant you love.

~ Author Unknown

WIEC's Board of Directors and Employees wish WIEC members and their families peace, hope and love.

Cool off your winter energy bill

Simple ways to stay warm and keep your energy bill in control

You've budgeted for holiday gifts, meals, maybe a vacation — and with money tight, that doesn't leave much room for home energy efficiency upgrades. Does that mean you're powerless to lower your electric bill? Not at all. Keep your energy bill cool this winter with these tips and tricks:

- **Drape Delivery:** Are you using your curtains to capture heat? Make sure drapes and shades are open to catch free solar heat during the day. Close them at night to keep the heat inside.
- **Thermostat:** Set your thermostat to 68 F (or lower if comfortable). (4621-25)
- **Got tape?** Though not as durable as foam, rubber, or vinyl, you can use non-porous tape (first aid cloth tape, for example) to keep cold air from squeezing into your home. Tape is good for blocking corners and irregular cracks, and can be used at the top and bottom of a window sash, door frames, attic hatches and inoperable windows. Reinforce with staples if needed.
- **Fan it up:** Run ceiling paddle fans on low and reverse the rotation to blow air up in winter. This keeps warm air circulating without cooling you.
- **Free vents:** Your HVAC system will have to work twice as hard if your air registers and vents are blocked by rugs, furniture, or drapes. Keep them clear to allow air to flow freely.
- **Garage Drain:** Leave your garage door down. A warmer garage in winter will save energy.
- **Rug Relief:** Have a spare rug? Use it to cover bare floors for added insulation.
- **Cool Food:** Don't make your fridge work too hard. Clean coils every year, and set the temperature between 34 - 37 F; leave the freezer between 0°-5 F. Keep the freezer full — frozen food helps your freezer stay cool. When cooking keep lids on pots, and let hot food cool off before placing it in the refrigerator.
- **Hot Savings:** Heating water accounts for 12 percent of your home's energy use. Set your water heater temperature no higher than 120 F. For households with only one or two members, 115 F works.
- There are other ways to conserve energy, too. Remember, you don't pay for what you don't use. When you're not watching TV or using lights, computers and other electronics, turn them off. Lower your room temperatures a bit and wear a sweater to stay warm, or place an extra blanket on the bed at night. Find more ways to save at www.TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com, Alliance to Save Energy, EnergySavers.gov



Western Illinois
ELECTRICAL COOP.

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

524 North Madison | P.O. Box 338
Carthage, IL 62321
www.wiec.net | 800/576-3125

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

DURING OFFICE HOURS, OR AFTER HOURS TO REPORT OUTAGE

217-357-3125
800-576-3125

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MAP LOCATION CONTEST

Every month we are printing four member's map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

Fire Extinguishers: A Little Preparation Can Go a Long Way

House fires can happen in seconds: in one instant, you could go from whipping up dinner to watching flames spring up from the stovetop.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 410,500 fires—or 78 percent of all reported structure fires—occur in homes. In the right hands, a household fire extinguisher can save lives and protect property should a small fire start.

“Every home should have at least one fire extinguisher, and you need the right type and you must know how and when to use it,” says John Drengenberg, consumer affairs manager at Underwriters Laboratories (UL), the Chicago, Ill.-based not-for-profit firm that tests and sets minimum standards for electric-consuming items.

Fire extinguishers should be placed in easily-accessible areas of the home, close to where they might be needed (such as in a kitchen, garage, or bedroom). Some basic rules to keep in mind when using household fire extinguishers:

If the fire is not spreading and remains confined to a small area, use the appropriate type of extinguisher. Select a multi-purpose extinguisher (rated A, B, or C) with the UL mark that can be used on all types fires such as wood, cloth, paper, flammable liquids (gasoline, oil, grease, oil-based paint), and energized electrical equipment including wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers and appliances.

Know both your limits and that of the fire extinguisher.

Periodically inspect your extinguishers to determine if they need to be recharged or replaced. Extinguishers need to be recharged or replaced after each use—even if you haven't used the entire extinguishing agent. Check the gauge on the fire extinguisher for this information.

When operating a fire extinguisher,



Be sure to have a fire extinguisher rated for the type of fire at hand: Class A fires are ordinary materials like burning paper, lumber, cardboard, and plastics; Class B fires involve flammable or combustible liquids like gasoline and kerosene; Class C fires involve energized electrical equipment, such as appliances, switches, panel boxes, and power tools.

Source: Fire Safety Council

stand at least 6 feet away from the fire and keep your back to a door so you can escape easily, if necessary. Remember the word PASS:

Pull the pin, hold the extinguisher away from you and release the locking mechanism.

Aim low, pointing the extinguisher at the base of the fire.

Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly.

Sweep the nozzle from side to side. “Fire extinguishers for home use are not designed to fight large or spreading fires,” stresses Drengenberg. “Rather than fighting the fire, your number one priority should be getting out safely.”

Source: Underwriters Laboratories

Call toll free 800-576-3125

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. sells water heaters at the great low price**:

80 gallon: \$350
plus a \$75 service fee for installation

50 gallon: \$200
plus a \$75 service fee for installation

(Price of both sizes of water heaters includes a 6 year warranty)

Bill Credits available:

Any WIEC member who uses an electric water heater is eligible for water heater credits on their electric bill. Just call our office to enroll. The amount of credit will depend on how many kilowatt-hours (kWh) are used. The credit is calculated by multiplying the number of kWh used between 500 and 900 by 2 cents; the credit will range from 2 cents to \$8.

*** All water heater purchased from WIEC must be installed on WIEC Lines.*



"Give peace of mind to someone on your Christmas list!"

Saving lives where the need is greatest.

As a member of your area Emergency Medical Services team, Air Evac Lifeteam is committed to improving the quality of life for those it serves. Air Evac Lifeteam has remained true to its mission and first focus by:

- Providing air medical services to medically underserved areas of rural America;
- Taking an active role in the advancement of health care services in the communities it serves;
- And, providing superior patient care and safe aviation.

Membership with Air Evac offers significant benefits. As one of over 760,000 members, Air Evac will work on your behalf with your benefits provider to secure payment for your flight. Whatever your benefits provider pays will be considered payment-in-full for your flight in a life or limb threatening emergency.

Become an Air Evac Lifeteam member through the Western Illinois Electrical Cooperative monthly billing plan for only \$5.00 per month per household.

Simply complete an application form and mail in with your Western Illinois Electrical Cooperative payment. That's it! You will be billed \$5.00 on your current Western Illinois Electrical Cooperative monthly bill Or you can choose to receive \$10.00 off the standard annual membership rate and send payment directly to Air Evac Lifeteam. It's that easy!

For additional information about Air Evac Lifeteam

Contact your local Membership Coordinator

Randy Sprunger
(319) 316-2989



Vegetation Management Schedule

Tree trimming begins in December

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. plans to have crews performing routine tree trimming starting in December in all or parts of the following townships:

In Hancock County:
Wythe, Prairie, Montebello, Senora, Durham, Pontoosuc and Appanoose

Due to the advanced printing of this issue of the WIEC News, these plans are subject to change. If there are questions or concerns, please contact our office during normal business hours at 217-357-3125 or 800-576-3125. **(3625-16)**

For more information concerning our vegetation management policy, check out our website at www.wiec.net under the program tab.

Welcome New Members

James C Anderson, Niota
Howard Borst, Crystal Lake
James A Cox, Hamilton
Jolene M DeWeese, Carthage
Abraham I & Crystal D Huls, Carthage
Keith R & Joann L Hurt, Gladstone
Tiffany & Gary Huston, Warsaw
Dennis G & Luanne D. Johnson, Stronghurst
Elizabeth Lantz, Sutter
Stephen J & Kelly D Patrick, Carthage
Stacy Rohrscheib, Nauvoo
Daniel T & Joni K Rust, Woodinville, WA
Duane Schrecke, Carthage
Robert J Vass, Niota
Kenneth Vickers, Hamilton

A reminder - The WIEC office will close at Noon on December 23rd so our employees may spend the Christmas Holiday with their families. The office will reopen at 8 a.m. on December 27th.

The WIEC Office will also close at noon on December 30th and reopen January 3rd in observance of the New Year's holiday.

As always, please call 217-357-3125 or 800-576-3125 in case of power emergencies any time day or night. We ask that all non-emergency calls, including payment arrangements or billing questions wait until normal business hours.



Tip of the Month

When decorating, remember that outdoor "icicle" lights use more energy because they have more bulbs per linear foot than **(479-18)** regular light strands. Consider using regular strands of energy-saving LED (Light Emitting Diode) lights. They use less electricity and last up to 100,000 hours.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy

Attention High School Seniors ...

The deadline for returning your applications for the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarships is Jan. 1, 2011.

Those interested in the **(4520-11)** LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship, still have until April 30, 2011 to apply.

For more information about both programs, ask your guidance counselor or call our office or download an application and brochure from our Web site at www.wiec.net.

