



Mike Smith
President and CEO

ANNUAL MEETING
Save the Date
McDonough Power Cooperative
AUGUST 13, 2025
THE CROSSING - MACOMB

11 electrical safety tips for seniors

Electrical safety is crucial for everyone, but especially important for seniors. Adults over the age of 65 are at the greatest risk of death from fire, and this risk increases with age, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

How to maintain a safe living environment

1. Ensure that electrical appliances are in good working condition. Regularly inspect cords and plugs for damage or wear and tear.
2. Don't overload sockets or extension cords. Plugging too many appliances or devices into a single outlet can cause overheating and increase fire risk. **5313C1-956C**
3. Limit the use of carpets and rugs, which are tripping hazards, and avoid placing extension cords under them to prevent overheating. To help prevent trips and falls, cords should not stretch across a room. Consider having an electrician install additional outlets where needed.
4. Unplug appliances when not in use and before cleaning or repairing them.
5. Keep electrical appliances away from water and wet surfaces to prevent electric shock.
6. Install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), which are designed to prevent electric shock by shutting off power when a ground fault is detected. Install them in areas where water and electricity are in close proximity, such as kitchens, bathrooms and outdoor spaces.
7. Ensure proper lighting in all areas of the home, especially in hallways and staircases, to prevent trips and falls. Consider installing nightlights in bedrooms and bathrooms.
8. Set hot water heaters to lower settings to prevent scalding.



9. When cooking on the stove, never leave pots and pans unattended, and avoid wearing loose clothing when cooking. Never open the oven door if something catches fire inside the oven. Consider using toaster ovens and small appliances that come equipped with an auto shut-off feature for added safety.
10. Use space heaters with built-in safety features such as an automatic shut-off switch. Keep space heaters on a steady surface and at least three feet away from flammable objects such as curtains, bedding or furniture. Plug them directly into an outlet — do not use an extension cord or power strip — and unplug them when not in use.
11. Install smoke detectors on every floor and carbon monoxide detectors near all bedrooms. Test and replace the batteries in the spring and once in the fall.



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Keep your home's second floor cool in the summer

Are you struggling to keep the second story of your home cool on these sizzling summer days? As heat and hot air rises, so does the temperature on your upper level. The key is to limit heat gain and to keep the air circulating.

These steps can help cool down your upper floor, as well as keep your entire home cool through the end of the season.



- Close blinds or curtains when the sun is shining to reduce solar heat. Remember that light-colored window coverings are most effective at blocking heat energy from the sun. Consider investing in thermal blocking drapes or insulated shades to keep your rooms cool.
- Limit heat being created upstairs by devices such as computers and hair dryers by using them downstairs.
- Use ceiling fans, which make you feel cool by circulating air and providing a cooling sensation on your skin. Set ceiling fans to rotate counterclockwise in the summer to push cool air downwards and turn them off when you leave to conserve energy.
- Control airflow by adjusting dampers up and down to restrict or increase airflow. If the second floor is warmer in the summer months, keep dampers on second-floor vents fully open, and only partially open the vents on the first floor to force more cool air to the second floor.
- EnergyStar.gov estimates that between 25% and 40% of the money spent on cooling and heating homes is lost due to air leakage problems. Use caulking, weatherstripping and insulation to seal gaps.
- Use “on” instead of “auto” to keep your thermostat fan on and maintain air circulation throughout the home. This allows the entire house to stay cool, whether or not the air conditioner is running.
- Check your ductwork for leaks or improper sizing to ensure even air distribution in your home. If you don't feel cold air coming from second-floor vents, or you see old and cracked seals in your ductwork, it could be time for maintenance.
- Regularly change your air filters to optimize airflow — dirty filters decrease air movement.
- Use portable AC units in specific rooms that need extra cooling. They are relatively easy to install, effectively remove heat and provide a cool environment for sleeping.
- Consider a zoned HVAC system, with thermostats on each floor, to control the temperature on each floor separately.
- Your dryer, oven and television produce heat, causing your air conditioner to work harder. Limit use of these appliances to early morning or evening and consider grilling outdoors. **5315A1-260A**
- If your roof and attic area are not properly insulated, heat will seep in through the roof and heat the second floor. You can also have an attic fan or vents installed to help remove hot air from the attic.

Before you jump in: Consider potential electrical hazards

If you own a pool or hot tub, you know there are several steps to keep it clean and well maintained. One aspect that is often not top of mind is the electrical system, which can pose a significant or even deadly hazard.

Since pool and hot tub areas mean wet skin and wet surfaces, the chance of electrocution increases when electricity is present.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) points out that electricity around pools, hot tubs and spas can be found in underwater lights, electric pool equipment (e.g., pumps, filters, vacuum), extension and power cords, electrical outlets or switches, electrical devices such as TVs and overhead power lines. **525HH19-951B**

To keep everyone as safe as possible, be sure to have the electrical system inspected, repaired and upgraded to local and National Electrical Code by a licensed contractor. Also, do not set up a pool (temporary or permanent) where power lines are overhead or within 25 feet of water.

Electrical safety also includes:

- Making sure ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) are installed:

- On underwater lighting circuits operating at 15 volts or more.
- On all electrical equipment, including 120- and 240-volt heaters close to the pool.
- On all outdoor outlets within 20 feet of the water's edge.
- Testing GFCIs monthly. Test those that are portable or connected to a cord before each use.
- Looking for signs of mold or other growth on the inside lenses of lights, which can indicate water leakage.
- Ensuring that the power switch and GFCI for underwater lights are clearly marked and easily accessible in an emergency.
- Labeling power switches for pool, hot tub and spa equipment, as well as lighting.
- Using battery-operated electronics whenever possible.
- Ensuring that hands and feet are dry while using electrical devices.
- Keeping long-handled tools and poles away from nearby power lines, including the drop-down lines to your home.
- Holding pool skimmers and other long-handled tools as low as possible to the ground.
- Keeping electrical cords, wires and devices out of reach and at least 5 feet from the water.
- Unplugging a device that has fallen into the water before touching it. Even submersible pumps designed to run under water may not be safe to use when someone is in the water.

What to look for

Swimmers may feel a tingling sensation, experience muscle cramps or not be able to move. You may see panic from others or a motionless swimmer in the water. You might also see underwater lights that are not working properly.

If you think you are being shocked while in the water, move away from the source of the shock and get out of the water. If possible, exit without using a metal ladder, which may increase the risk of shock.

If you think someone in the water is experiencing an electrical shock, immediately turn off all power — rescuers can also be shocked or electrocuted. After the power is disconnected, call 911.

For more about electrical safety, visit safeelectricity.org.



May is NATIONAL PET MONTH

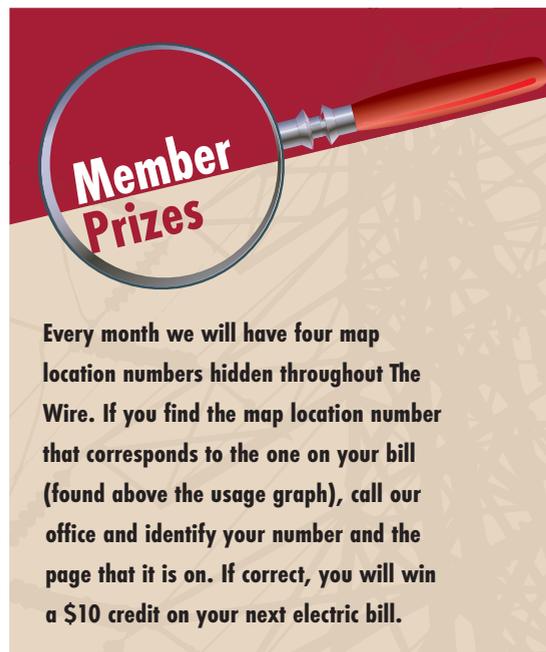
Let's come together to support the McDonough County Animal Shelter!

Items in need:

- Dry dog food
- Kitten food - canned or dry
- Cat litter
 - Pet Supplies Plus - Play On Non-Clumping
 - Farm King - Multi-purpose Absorbent
- Dawn dish soap
- Paper towels

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Member Prizes

Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

Vegetation management

for McDonough Power Cooperative service territory

In order to maintain a safe and reliable electric system, McDonough Power Cooperative has contracted Spoon River Electric Cooperative (SREC) to perform essential vegetation management in key areas of its service territory. Beginning in May and continuing throughout the summer and fall, SREC will be actively working to manage vegetation in designated areas.

This important task involves a variety of activities such as cutting, trimming, mowing and the application of environmentally safe herbicides. These efforts are necessary to clear right-of-way areas, which helps prevent potential hazards to the electric infrastructure and ensure uninterrupted service to customers.

The vegetation management team at SREC is fully licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture and has extensive experience in tree pruning and herbicide application. Their expertise ensures that all work will be performed efficiently and in compliance with safety regulations. **8310A1-362C**

For residents who may have concerns or questions about the upcoming work in their area, McDonough Power Cooperative encourages them to contact the office at 309-833-2101 for more information. The cooperation of all residents is greatly appreciated as we work to maintain the integrity and safety of our electric system.

Please refer to the attached map for further details about the areas being affected.

2025 Scheduled Work

