A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK IN WALMART SUPERCENTER
521 E. Chestnut St., Junction City, KS 66441
FARMERS STATE BANK
447 Harrison, Lindsborg, KS 67456

OUTAGE INFORMATION

IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE, CALL 800-376-3533. After-hours calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to standby personnel.

FIND OUT MORE

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Holiday Lights: Your Guide to Decorating Safely

Holiday lights add warmth and sparkle to the season, but damaged cords, overloaded outlets and improper installation can create electrical and fire hazards. Follow these holiday lighting safety tips when hanging, using and storing indoor and outdoor lights to help keep your home and family safe.

HANG LIGHTS SAFELY

- Choose lights that are safety certified by a recognized testing laboratory such as UL.
- Inspect light strands for frayed cords, broken sockets or damaged plugs.
- Use only outdoor-rated lights outside.
- Secure lights with plastic clips or hooks, not nails or staples.
- Don't pull light strands so tight that the wiring is strained or damaged.
- Plug outdoor lights into ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)-protected outlets. If needed, use a portable GFCI.
- Keep extension cords and plugs away from water, snow and ice.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.

USE HOLIDAY LIGHTS SAFELY

- Do not overload electrical outlets or extension cords.
- Connect only the number of light strands recommended by the manufacturer.
- Turn off holiday lights before leaving home or going to bed. Consider timers or smart plugs to turn them off automatically.
- Keep a fire extinguisher on hand and know how to use it.

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Save Some Green on Energy Bills This Winter

How can you save on heating costs this winter?

Some answers to that question are simple: Turn down the thermostat a few degrees from your usual setting and dress in layers. Keep your feet warm and have plenty of blankets nearby.

Most people like to pull up the covers at night when it's cold outside. Use flannel sheets and a thick comforter so you can turn down your thermostat while you sleep.

It also helps to use insulated or lined curtains to keep cold air out, not only in your bedroom but throughout your home.

Another way to make sure your home is as energy efficient as possible is to get an energy audit before the cold weather hits. The changes you make based on the audit could help you save energy costs this winter.

OTHER ENERGY-SAVING TIPS INCLUDE:

- Get your heating system regularly maintained by an HVAC professional so that it is working at peak efficiency. Keep your furnace clean and change the filter monthly.
- Vacuum or clean vents regularly.
- Keep fireplace dampers closed when not in use. If you do not use your fireplace, plug and seal the flue.
- Do not heat an empty home. A programmable or smart thermostat can help this become automatic. According to the Department of Energy, lowering the temperature by 7 to 10 degrees for 8 hours a day can reduce energy costs by up to 10%.
- Seal uncontrolled air leaks. Use weather stripping around doors and windows as needed. Check attics, attic access, outlets, walls and chimneys, as well as pipes entering or exiting your home for common sources of air leaks.
- Let the sun shine in during the day to use Mother Nature's warmth. Close window coverings after dusk, however, to reduce heat loss.
- Set ceiling fans to run clockwise to push down and redistribute warm air that naturally rises.
- Consider turning down your water heater to 120 or 125 F. Also install a water heater blanket to insulate it and help warm your water faster.
- Consider updating your furnace or HVAC system with an energy-efficient model by looking for the Energy Star designation when it's time to replace it.
- Decrease use of built-in ventilation fans in your kitchen and bathrooms. In the colder months, they transfer heat from inside your home to the backyard. Use the fans only when needed and turn them off as soon as you can.
- Bring in moisture with a humidifier or research other ways to do that (e.g., well-watered plants, containers of water throughout the home). Dry air makes the air feel colder, and more moisture in the air helps indoor air retain heat.

Contact us for more information about energy audits or energy efficiency. For more information about electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.



Holiday Lights: Your Guide to Decorating Safely

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- Keep electrical cords out of walkways. Do not run cords through doorways or under rugs or carpets.
- Store decorations with care
- As you take down lights, check for broken bulbs, damaged sockets and frayed cords.
- Wipe lights with a dry cloth and let them dry completely before storing them. Moisture can damage cords, plugs and electrical connections.
- Wrap light strands loosely around a reel or spool to prevent tangles and damaged wires.
- No reel? Wrap lights loosely around a sturdy piece of cardboard to help keep strands organized.
- Store electronic decorations in a cool, dry place. Excessive heat and humidity can shorten their life.
- Label light strands or storage containers by location, such as roofline, tree or inside, to make next year's setup easier.
- Store extension cords with your decorations. They are intended for temporary use and shouldn't be used year-round.
- Store lights and electrical decorations in sturdy bins with tight-fitting lids to protect them from moisture, dust, insects and rodents.

DON'T FORGET BATTERY-POWERED DECORATIONS

- Remove batteries from decorations before storage to prevent leaks and corrosion.
- Recycle used batteries according to local guidelines.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Lower your water heater temperature to save energy. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends 120 F for most households. Lowering the temperature can reduce energy use and help prevent scalding. Always check the owner's manual before making adjustments.

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



Why every step matters near a downed power line

When a downed power line touches the ground, electricity can spread out like ripples on a pond.

If your feet touch two different voltage levels, electricity can move through your body.

That is step potential, and it can be deadly.

IF YOU SEE A DOWNED POWER LINE:

- **STOP.** Keep yourself and others at least 50 feet away.
- **CALL 911.** Report it and wait for help.
- **NEVER TOUCH THE LINE** or anything it touches, including fences, vehicles, trees, equipment or people.

IF YOU ARE NEAR A DOWNED LINE, DO NOT WALK OR RUN AWAY:

- **SHUFFLE TO SAFETY.** Keep feet close together and on the ground.
- **HOP AWAY.** Keep feet together; hop and land together.

Downed lines can be silent, still and deadly. Stay away and call 911.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

Energy Explorers

FALL ENERGY SAVINGS WORD SEARCH



Fall is a great time to put energy efficiency into action! Read the following energy-saving tips, then find the **BOLDED** words in the puzzle below.

- Turn off the lights when you **LEAVE** a room.
- **UNPLUG** chargers when you're finished using them.
- On chilly days, open **CURTAINS** to let sunlight help warm your home.
- Wear a sweater instead of turning up the **HEAT.**
- Turn off the TV and other **ELECTRONICS** when you're done using them.
- Tell an adult if you see a dripping faucet or a drafty **WINDOW.**

WORD BANK:

LEAVE **HEAT**
UNPLUG **ELECTRONICS**
CURTAINS **WINDOW**

E	S	P	A	E	G	W	A	U	H	R	W	A	L	D
V	L	W	D	K	V	U	U	E	U	K	I	Q	Y	N
L	Q	E	G	D	H	A	H	E	A	T	N	N	U	W
C	U	U	C	B	S	L	E	D	N	Q	D	O	Y	A
A	D	I	E	T	R	B	J	L	C	W	O	Z	J	F
C	Y	G	I	R	R	P	M	J	B	U	W	S	P	L
Q	Q	U	T	D	F	O	W	L	A	D	N	T	Y	B
N	Q	L	M	O	A	Q	N	V	F	I	X	L	Y	W
Z	G	P	C	Y	I	M	M	I	A	I	L	O	X	B
C	N	N	W	E	Q	X	P	T	C	I	H	G	T	X
C	Y	U	V	Q	Q	V	R	D	P	S	B	G	G	A
B	K	R	O	R	X	U	M	T	O	M	C	V	W	S
J	E	Y	L	S	C	M	V	G	T	N	S	M	F	T
D	X	Y	D	M	U	R	J	G	Q	N	S	E	P	B
Y	A	K	T	J	H	H	G	J	L	Q	K	S	T	F