

# Electric Line Newsletter

## Keep Warm Air In Your Home And Money In Your Pocket

When the harsh cold winds of winter blow, having a nice warm home in which to retreat is great. The only problem is making that home nice and warm can be expensive. With some preparation and work before winter hits, you can reduce your energy use and save money. It is worth making sure your home heating system is as efficient as possible to prevent the waste of energy and your hard-earned money.

Start by locating air leaks. Some of the air leaks can easily be fixed yourself with caulking and weather stripping. Other leaks might take a contractor's help to repair. Some common areas to find air leaks include:

- Behind or under knee walls
- The attic hatch
- Wiring holes
- Plumbing vents
- Furnace vents
- Dryer vents
- Recessed lights
- Windows and doors

There are other steps you can take to save on your power bill and increase the efficiency of your home as well. One of the easiest ways is to make sure the furnace filter is clean. Clean or change the filter monthly to keep air flowing freely. Dust and dirt slow down air flow, which makes the system work harder and ends up wasting energy and costing you money.

Another step you can take is to install a programmable thermostat. This can help automatically turn the heat down when no one is home and turn the heat up when you need a warmer home.

Finally, when it comes time to replace your Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system, invest in energy efficient equipment that will help save money on heating bills. EnergyStar recommends having your HVAC system evaluated if it is over 10 years old or if it is not keeping your home comfortable. If your system needs to be replaced, talk to your installer about getting the most efficient unit you can afford.

### Contact Us

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7: 30am - 4:00pm*

### Need Help Paying Your Energy Bills?

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's Commitment to Community Program is designed to help households with their energy costs, including electric bills. For many Wisconsin households, energy costs place a severe and continuing stress on the family budget. To better serve our members, CWEC is joining the Wisconsin Home Energy Plus (HE+) program. This program is funded through public benefits and federal dollars to help eligible low-income households pay for home energy assistance and weatherization. Members may be eligible for energy assistance if they meet the HE+ program guidelines. Members should contact their local agency to determine eligibility

<b>County</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Marathon	Energy Services, Inc.	715-842-3111
Portage	Energy Services, Inc.	715-344-5999
Shawano	Dept. of Human Services	715-526-4740
Waupaca	Energy Services, Inc.	715-258-6820

# Electric Line Newsletter

## Add Safety to Your Holiday Traditions

For millions of people every year, the holiday season comes with traditions of festive lights and decorations, extraordinary foods and lavish parties. Add an extra measure of caring to your time-honored traditions. Make a point to take care of yourself and those you love by taking time to decorate safely—without skipping any safety steps.



Follow these precautions:

- ✓ When decorating outside, look up and look out. Never throw holiday lights or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- ✓ Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep ladders, equipment, and yourself at least 10 feet from power lines.
- ✓ Use only lights, cords, animated displays, and decorations rated for outdoor use. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use them. Use plastic or insulated hooks to hang lights.
- ✓ Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs). Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets are not equipped with them. GFCI protection is very important outdoors, where weather conditions can create dangerous electrical situations.
- ✓ Do not staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords, and do not attach anything to utility poles.

- ✓ Outdoor holiday lights are for seasonal use, up to 90 days. Bring them inside after the holidays.

Avoid decorating outside on windy or wet days. Choose to decorate in favorable weather conditions and during daylight hours.



## Area Kids Need Our Help!

We are happy to once again partner with the U.S Marine Corps to help make area children's Christmas a little brighter through the Toys for Tots program. We ask you to help us spread a little Christmas joy this holiday season by donating a toy.

Last year we were able to provide toys to more than 800 area children. All indications are that the amount will increase this year. As you can image, it is a pretty daunting task to collect that many toys. This is where you can help. Help us spread a little Christmas joy this holiday season by donating a new unwrapped toy. All of the toys we collect are distributed locally.

To find the collection site nearest you, please see our webiste. If you would like us to do the shopping for you, you can make a check to Toys for Tots and mail it to us at Central Wisconsin Electric Coop, PO Box 100, Rosholt, WI 54473. If you would like to make a donation on line go to <http://iola-wi.toysfortots.org>. You can also drop donations off at our office located at 10401 Lystul Road, Rosholt WI 54473, we are open Monday-Friday, 7:30am-4:00pm.

Best Wishes for a Joyful Christmas!

# Electric Line Newsletter

## *Winter Increases the Potential for Power Line Accidents*

### **Staying Safe in a Car Accident with a Power Pole**

Winter wonderlands are beautiful, but they can be a driving nightmare. Snow, slush, ice, and wind make it stressful and difficult to drive. These driving conditions also make it more likely that your car will skid off the road. Losing control of your car may seem like the worst-case scenario, but if you do not know what you are doing, the moments following an accident could potentially be more dangerous than the accident itself.

In an accident, a car may slide off the road and into a power pole. The pole may fall down, lines may fall on your car or nearby, and the area around your car may become charged with electric energy. If you stepped out of the car in this scenario, your body would become the path to ground for the electricity, and you could be electrocuted.

While downed lines can sometimes show they are live by arcing and sparking with electricity, this is not always the case. Power lines do not always show signs that they are live but are just as lethal.

Stay in the car after an accident with a power pole. Warn those who try to come near your car to help that they must stay far away. Call 911 for help, and wait until a professional from the electric utility tells you it is safe to leave the car.

The exception to this rule is if your car is on fire. In that case, jump clear of the vehicle without touching it and the ground at the same time. Then hop away with feet together. This way there will not be a voltage difference between your two feet, which would give electricity the chance to flow through your body.

If you witness a car collision with a power pole, do not approach the accident. By trying to help, you will put your own life at risk. The best thing to do is contact emergency responders and stay far away from the accident.

Power lines may be difficult to see if they are covered in snow or ice, so be cautious if you must be out driving after a winter storm.

