



POWER FACTS

An informational publication for members of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative concerning electricity and related subjects.

DECEMBER 2011

Are you ready for the bright lights, green trees, and joyous music . . . the warmth of friends and loved ones . . . wondrous children . . . and a renewed hope for peace this holiday season? As you begin your celebration by preparing those festive decorations, try these energy saving tips that will help keep extra money in your pocket this season . . . and most importantly, please remember to keep electrical safety in mind when filling your home with the spirit of the season.

Save Energy during the Holidays

- Switch to LED Christmas lights - they use 90% less electricity than regular Christmas lights.
- Use fiber optic decorations - in most cases, they use a single light bulb to light the entire decoration. Very energy efficient!
- Limit the time lights are on - aim for no more than six hours a day.
- Turn off room lights when the tree is lit.
- Decorate with candles - use luminarias along your walkway and lit candles throughout your home. Not only does this give your home a beautiful glow but it cuts down on your electric bill.
- Turn the thermostat down when you have guests - more people mean more body heat.

Decorating Safety

- Before decorating, read and follow the manufacturers' instructions concerning installation and maintenance of all decorative electrical products.
- When decorating outdoors, use lights and other electrical decorations certified for outdoor use only.
- Never nail or staple light strings or extension cords.
- Check all decorations and power cords before plugging them in. Look for cracks, frays and loose or bare wires which could cause electrical shock or start a fire.
- Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing light bulbs or fuses.
- Do not overload extension cords - they can overheat and start a fire. Keep all outdoor extension cords and light strings clear of snow and standing water.
- Never hang lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights.
- Do not allow pets or children to play with electrical decorations. Even small light decorations can produce a fatal shock if they are misused.
- Turn off all electrical decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

Happy Holidays from Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative!!



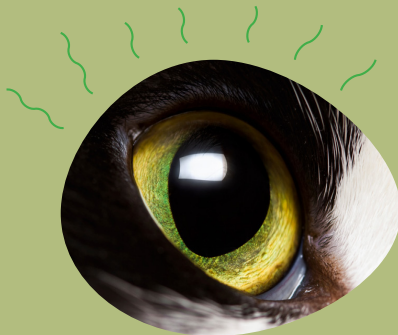
Does your heating system need a tune-up?

If you haven't had your heating system checked by an HVAC professional this year, then the answer to this question is YES! Much like a car, a tune-up is needed on your heating system to ensure that it runs smoothly, works more efficiently, and is less likely to break down. Your heating system needs periodic inspection, lubrication and cleaning. Filters need to be replaced, belts checked, thermostats inspected, and all vents cleared of obstructions. So call a heating professional today for a tune-up. It could save you time and money.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

As we all know, we live in a new era since the tragedy of 9/11 at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. No longer can we feel the security we once did, even in our small rural communities; and unfortunately the holidays seem to bring out the worst in criminals. So keep a watchful eye this season for anything that looks strange. During the holiday season and throughout the year, all Americans should continue to be vigilant, take notice of their surroundings, and report suspicious items or activities to the local authorities immediately.

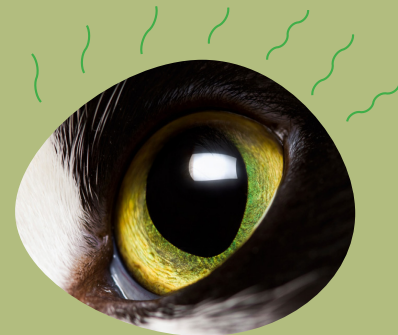
Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (MEC) is requesting your assistance in reporting any suspicious activity near our substations, meters, poles or other facilities. Please report anything you consider out of the ordinary to your MEC district office at one of the numbers listed below:



Chase City District
Toll-free (800) 989-4161

Gretna District
Toll-free (800) 989-1289

Emporia District
Toll-free (800) 989-0776



After business hours, on weekends, or during holidays,
Call 1-877-MECK-OUT (1-877-632-5688)

If you need to report suspicious activity that does not involve Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative facilities, please contact your local law enforcement by dialing 911.

**MEC offices will be closed
on Friday, Monday and Tuesday,
December 23, 26 and 27,
for Christmas and on
Monday, January 2, for
New Year's Day.**