

Practice Holiday Electrical Safety This Season

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is reminding those at home and in the workplace to keep electrical safety in mind when decorating for the holiday season:

- Before decorating, read and follow the manufacturers' instructions concerning installation and maintenance of all decorative electrical products.
- Use lights and other electrical decorations certified by a recognized independent testing laboratory such as CSA, UL or ETL.
- Outdoors, use lights and other electrical decorations certified for outdoor use.
- Carefully inspect each decoration before plugging into an outlet. Cracked, frayed, loose or bare wires, as well as loose connections may cause electrical shock or start a fire. Replace damaged items.
- Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing light bulbs or fuses.
- Do not mount or support light strings that might damage the cord's insulation.
- Never nail or staple light strings or extension cords.
- Do not connect more than three light string sets together.



Underwriters Laboratories Inc.

- Light strings with screw-in bulbs should have no more than 50 bulbs connected together.
- 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 use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights.
- Do not allow children or pets 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.
- Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable GFCIs can be purchased wherever electrical supplies are sold.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Charles Mix Electric Association, Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provision of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These provide that no person in the United States shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap under any of this organization's programs or activities.

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Happy Holidays to Everyone from Charles Mix Electric Association!

Charles Mix Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS 018-877)

Manager

Mark W. Mengenhauser

mengenhauser@cme.coop

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Jrnymn Jared Vanderwerff 337-3309

Jrnymn Mike Dangel 487-7999

Jrnymn Chad Loeffler 487-7568

Apprentice Tyson Brooks 685-5241

Charles Mix Electric Cooperative Connections is published monthly by Charles Mix Electric Association, PO Box 10, 440 Lake St., Lake Andes, SD 57356 for its members. Families subscribe to Charles Mix Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Charles Mix Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better rural living.

Subscription information: Electric cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodical Postage paid at Lake Andes Post Office, Lake Andes, S.D., 57356 and additional offices.

POSTMASTER: Send change of addresses to: Charles Mix Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 10, Lake Andes, S.D., 57356; Telephone (605) 487-7321; Toll Free 1-800-208-8587; FAX (605) 487-7868; e-mail cme@cme.coop

Web site: <http://www.cme.coop>

Co-op **News**

Who Wants College Money??



"Yes! Send me an application for the Basin Electric Scholarship contest!"

February 12th, 2007 to be considered.

The scholarship is paid in two installments of \$500 per semester. Applicants must be enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate program at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, or vocational/technical school.

CME is proud to recognize and encourage outstanding academic achievements of our local youth. Participation in the annual scholarship contest is another example of our commitment to our community.

Raise your hand if you can use an extra \$1,000 towards college expenses! Charles Mix Electric, along with Basin Electric Power Cooperative, is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to one student within the CME service territory. The contest is open to any high school senior or college freshmen, sophomore or junior whose parents are members of CME.

Applicants will be judged on their cumulative GPA and ACT or SAT scores, as well as on written essays covering their school and community activities and honors, future educational and career goals, and work experience. A letter of recommendation from a third party, usually a teacher or counselor, is also required.

Keep in mind that preparing a quality application takes time. Call today to request an application. Completed applications need to be returned to Charles Mix Electric no later than

Bits & Pieces

- New billing books are being prepared and should be mailed out in time for the January 1st billing. Anyone who does not receive their billing book by then should contact our office.

- Charles Mix Electric will be closed on Monday, December 25th, and also on Monday, January 1st for the holidays. Please call 1-800-208-8587 for outages or emergencies. (Internet technical support is not available at this number.)

- Remember that we can ship your UPS holiday packages. Ship early to ensure delivery by Christmas. Next-day-air and 2nd-day-air service available for the true procrastinator!

Office Hours
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Open over noon hour
Closed Saturday, Sunday & Holidays

Read meter 1st of each month. Bills due by 6th of month. Add \$2 to any bill paid after the 6th of the month.