

Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning

According to Underwriters Laboratory (UL), more than 500 people die each year from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning in the United States. During the winter months, incidents of carbon monoxide poisoning increase due to the use of heating equipment.

With that in mind, prevent CO poisoning this winter by installing and maintaining a carbon monoxide detector, and by heeding these safety tips:

- Have a qualified technician inspect fuel-burning appliances at least once a year. Older or damaged appliances emit carbon monoxide due to wear and tear.

- Notice signs that signal a CO problem: streaks of carbon or soot around the service door of your fuel-burning appliance; the absence of a draft in your chimney; excessive rusting on flue pipes; moisture collecting on the windows and walls of furnace rooms; fallen soot from the fireplace; small amounts of water leaking from the base of the chimney, vent, or flue pipe; damaged or discolored bricks at the top of your chimney; rust on the portion of the vent pipe visible from outside your home.

- Signs of CO poisoning include headaches, dizziness, fatigue, confusion and breathing difficulties. If someone has these symptoms inside the house but not outside, it may be a result of CO.

- Install a CO detector outside bedrooms as most poisonings occur while sleeping.

- Follow the manufacturer's directions for installing the detector.

- If your unit is hard-wired into your home's electrical system, you should test it monthly. If it runs off of a battery, test the detector weekly and replace the battery once a year.

- Never use charcoal grills inside homes, tents, or campers. Don't leave vehicles running in an enclosed garage, even to "warm up."

- If your CO alarm sounds, immediately open doors and windows for ventilation. If anyone is experiencing symptoms of CO poisoning, evacuate the house and call 911. If the alarm sounds, but no one is experiencing symptoms, continue to ventilate the house, turn off fuel-burning appliances, and call a qualified technician to inspect your home.

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**Don't Let a Killer
in Your House This Winter.**

You can't see or smell Carbon Monoxide.
Get your heating system inspected by a trained professional
and install a carbon monoxide detector.

**Stay Safe and Warm This Winter
Keep Carbon Monoxide Out of Your House.**

 **Energy Safety Association
of South Dakota**

Charles Mix Electric Cooperative Connections

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Co-op **News**

It's Scholarship Time

If you're a high school senior, college student, or the parents of one, you probably think of January in terms of endless forms: college applications, financial aid forms, and of course, scholarship applications. Applications for the locally-awarded Basin Electric scholarship are now available at Charles Mix Electric.

The Basin Electric scholarship will provide \$1,000 to a local student

whose parents are members of Charles Mix Electric. Applicants must be high school seniors or college underclassmen (freshmen, sophomore, or juniors).

Applicants will be judged according to their cumulative GPA and ACT or SAT scores, written essays detailing their school and community activities and honors, educational and career goals, and work experience. Students will also need to submit a letter of recommendation from a third party, usually a teacher or counselor.

All applications will be judged locally. Completed applications need to be returned to CME no later than February 15th, 2008 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 the outstanding academic achievements of our local youth. Participation in the annual scholarship contest is another example of our commitment to our community.



Applications Available Online!

Scholarship applications are available online, and can be downloaded as follows:



- Visit our web site, www.cme.coop
- Click on the blue "Community" link, and choose "Scholarships" from the list of links on the left-hand side of the page.
- Click on the blue "scholarship application" link to find a printable version of the application.

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.