

Illuminate Your Holiday Season Safely

DON'T LET THE BRIGHT AND COLORFUL SPARKLE of the season distract you from taking the precautions that you need to stay safe when decorating. Wood County Electric Cooperative provides tips for safe holiday decorating.

If you are decorating with an artificial tree, make sure you choose one with fire-resistant protection. With a real tree, make sure that the needles are green and sturdy, and the trunk is sticky with resin. These are indicators that your tree is well-hydrated. Keep your tree stand filled with water so that the tree does not become overly dry and present a fire hazard.

Never place your tree near heat-emitting devices, such as space heaters or radiators, which can be fire hazards. The National Fire Protection Association reports an annual average of 210 home fires caused as a result of Christmas tree mishaps.

Any lights that are hung either inside or outside of the home should have a label indicating that they have been certified by an accredited independent testing laboratory. The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that 1,300 people are treated for injuries involving holiday lights each year.

Also make sure the lights are rated for the location where they will be used—whether indoors or outside. Before hanging your lights, check the strands for broken bulbs, as well as fraying or bare wires that could present electrical hazards. Always replace damaged products.

Typically, one extension cord should have only three strands of lights connected to it at most, but you should also check that the extension cord is rated for its intended use. Never run extension cords under carpets, through doorways or where they could be damaged by furniture.

When decorating outside, always be sure to look up and double-check that you and any equipment, such as a ladder or a light strand, are at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.

When securing light strands, never staple or nail them into place, as this could damage them. Outdoor lights and decorations should be plugged into an outlet with ground-fault circuit interrupter protection.

Be sure to turn off all lights before leaving home or going to sleep. A timer can help you do this.

Keep lights and ladders clear of power lines when decorating outside.



ONLINE IMAGES | ISTOCK.COM



Wood County Electric Cooperative

501 S. Main St. • P.O. Box 1827
Quitman, TX 75783

CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Debbie Robinson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pat B. Lindley, President, *District 1*
Lewis D. Young, Vice President, *District 7*
Cathy S. Roberts, Secretary-Treasurer, *District 5*
Burke Bullock, *District 2*
Kenneth Langley, *District 3*
Brent Glenn, *District 4*
Jane Roberson, *District 6*



Contact Us

CALL US
(903) 763-2203

EMAIL
info@wcec.org

OUTAGE HOTLINE
1-866-415-2951

FIND US ON THE WEB
wcec.org

MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES

- Online account access and bill payment
- Paperless E-Bill services
- Free bill-paying app
- Visa, MasterCard, and Discover accepted
- SmartPower prepay electric system
- Scholarships and youth programs
- Safety and energy conservation programs

MOBILE CONVENIENCE CENTER

Monday, First Methodist Church, *Van*
Tuesday, Family Dollar, *Mount Vernon*
Wednesday, City National Bank, *Hawkins*
Thursday, Brookshire's, *Winnsboro*
Friday, Economy Drug, *Grand Saline*

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

The employees, management and directors of
Wood County Electric Cooperative
wish you and yours a blessed and joyful Christmas season.