

# One in Ten Thousand

About a decade ago while living and working in Allen, Bill and Susan Zimmer began some long-range planning with their criteria for a retirement homeplace. Priority No. 1 was that it be within a 90-minute drive of Plano, where their sons reside. Secondly, Bill said, “I wanted a pine tree. So we went east until I found one.” That pine tree was one amid many, and situated on 50 heavily treed acres just west of Winnsboro. The Zimmers bought the property in 2005 and began making weekend jaunts to relax, play and work on their farm.

Over the years, a small cabin was built, water well dug and power hooked up. Then Bill and Susan, along with help from their two sons, Chris and Matt, began to clear space to plant fruit trees, pecans, blueberries, blackberries and other assorted plants the family could enjoy. After all that investment of time and labor, Bill wanted to ensure the productivity of his orchards. His research underscored the importance of pollination and the critical role of honeybees to that process. To this purpose, Bill decided to acquire some honeybees.

Not exactly sure how to go about setting up a successful apiary, or bee yard, Bill joined the Collin County Beekeepers Association in McKinney. They have beginners’ classes, where Bill

first learned the ropes. He says this is a thriving club with more than 250 members who meet monthly at the local Collin County College. As recommended by the club, he began his foray into beekeeping with two hives. Today, he has 35 hives and a full commercial-grade honey processing facility. He’s also planning to add more hives in the future, and he is now vice president of the club. Of his full-throttle beekeeping, Bill says with a chuckle, “I never intended for this to happen. I just wanted a couple hives and a couple fruit trees for the family, but things got out of hand. After spending 35 years in a corporate office, farming and beekeeping just got into my DNA, and I couldn’t stop.”

Now fully retired, Bill spends most of his time tending to his growing orchard of more than 60 fruit trees and 300-plus berry plants, beekeeping and extracting and processing his raw honey products, which he now sells under his brand, Texas Gold Honey. With 35 hives, each producing about 40 to 50 pounds annually, he’s moved well beyond a hobbyist’s “kitchen operation” status. His honey house includes all of the tools he needs to process honey. After taking a honey-filled frame from a hive, he first runs it through an uncapper to slice the wax ends off the combs. Then the frames are put into an extractor where centrifugal force releases the honey into a bucket. From



**LEFT: As good as it gets. The Zimmers’ Texas Gold Honey and the darker creamed honey are composed of all-natural, unprocessed, raw honey. RIGHT: Inside his commercial-grade honey house, Bill has all of the proper tools to strain and bottle his raw honey.**

that bucket the honey is strained to remove any wax bits, “bees’ knees” and other matter, and then poured into storage and bottling tanks for later filling of individual bottles and jars.

Bill does not heat or pasteurize his honey, preferring to preserve the natural vitamins, minerals and enzymes to retain the healthful benefits of its raw state. He offers several different types including clover and wildflower. To be able to call a honey a “clover” or other type, at least 45 percent of the pollen detected must be from that particular source plant. To reap clover honey, Bill places hives on a local farmer’s 200-acre clover pasture. Bill also sells naturally flavored cinnamon, jalapeño and blueberry creamed honey. He grows lavender and now is experimenting with lavender-infused honey. Creamed honey is a thickened honey that uses honey’s natural crystallization process to produce an almost jam-like spreadable honey.

To be a successful beekeeper requires a watchful eye and a healthy dose of bee knowledge. “An average hive has 40,000 to 60,000 bees,” Bill says. “A weak hive invites pests and diseases.

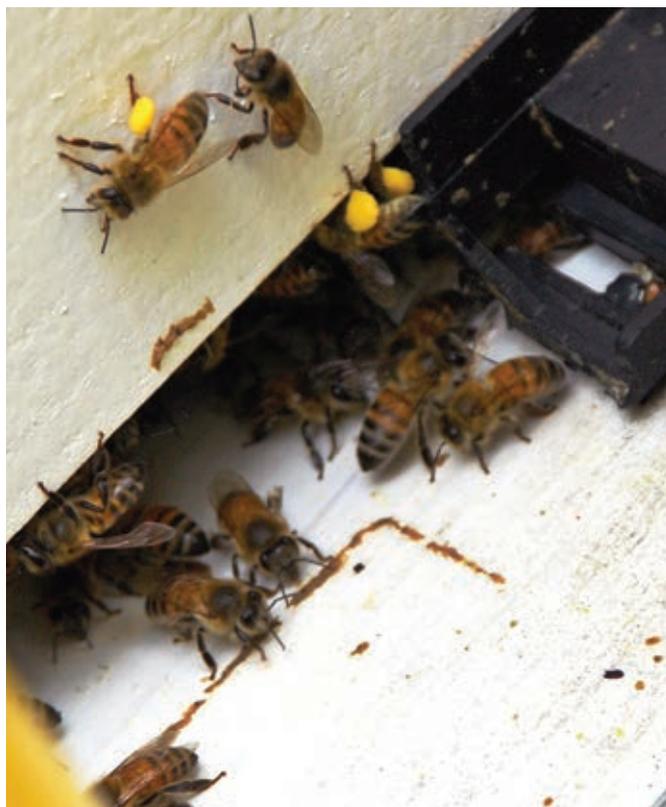
“You can tell a lot about the health of your hive by just watching the entrance. Are there a lot of bees coming and going? Are they bringing in pollen? If they are, they’re raising young bees. If pollen isn’t coming in, they are not raising young, and the queen could have died.”

A queen, he said, has a lifespan of about five years and lays up to 2,000 eggs every day. Drone and female worker/forager bees live only about six weeks. So, if a queen dies, the hive will eventually die if it can’t raise a new queen.

In a miracle of nature, a hive of bees can raise a new queen to replace the one they have lost. But they only have a short time frame to be successful. To raise a queen, the rest of the hive can use eggs or larvae that are less than three days old. They select a few and immerse them in copious amounts of a substance known as royal jelly, which will feed the egg and produce a new queen. The first of these to hatch will then kill all the other potential queens, then she will leave the hive to be fertilized by up to 20 drones during a one-time mating flight. Afterward, she will return to the hive and begin her queenly duties of laying eggs, possibly a million in her lifetime—and in this way, the hive is saved. But sometimes the hive fails in producing a queen, or the queen may never return from her mating flight. In that case, the hive is doomed—that is, unless someone like Bill Zimmer is there to add a new queen.

Bill explains that there are queen breeders, and you can buy a new queen for a hive for about \$25. They come in a box with a candy plug in the exit door. Beekeepers place the box in the hive, and the bees do the rest. They will, in a day or so, eat through the candy and release their new queen. This slow process allows the bees to smell the new queen and get acquainted with her pheromones, or scent. Otherwise, the hive may reject her as an interloper and kill her.

Another way a beekeeper ensures hive health is to control the number of inhabitants. An overpopulated hive will swarm. That means half the bees and the queen will leave the hive to start a new home. As a beekeeper, you do not want to lose half your bees. If you do, that could mean no excess honey for that year. To prevent this, in the spring beekeepers can move about



**FROM TOP: The ‘pollen basket’ on the back of a honeybee’s legs is used to collect pollen to take back to the hive. A beekeeper’s helmet with veil, a smoker used to calm bees, a metal hive tool and beehive frames are some of the items used in beekeeping.**

half of the inhabitants of a hive to another hive. This new hive needs to be about 3 miles away in another bee yard; otherwise, the relocated bees would just fly back home. When the beekeeper moves the bees, they are removed with honey, brood, pollen and everything they need to be successful, minus a queen. After waiting a day for them to settle down, the beekeeper will introduce a new queen. Beekeepers, too, must sometimes combine weak hives to create one healthy hive. To avoid a bee battle, this is done by placing paper between the two joined hives. The bees will slowly eat through the paper. But in the meantime, the two different “tribes” are smelling one another and becoming familiar. Then by the time the paper is eaten away, they’ve become one hive.

Bees are most active in the spring, March through June. This is the time when most of the nectar flowers bloom. The bees will busily work to maximize their pollen- and nectar-gathering capabilities to build up their food stores for the winter. For bees, pollen is akin to their protein, while the honey is their carbohydrate. These are the only two things they need to survive. The amount of honey they produce will be dependent

in addition to the veil, a full bee suit is ideal for close-up work to offer the best protection.

Bill works with more mild-mannered European bees that are not quick to sting. But depending on various factors, any hive can turn aggressive if the right conditions are in place, so it’s best to be prepared. And if that happens, he says, “The very worst thing you can do is swat. If you do get stung by a bee, the best thing to do is to scrape the stinger out as soon as you can. The stinger will continue to pump venom, so the quicker you remove it, the less swelling is likely to occur.”

Bill says we need more beekeepers in the United States. With the current hive count, we cannot produce enough to feed the country, and end up importing honey from who-knows-where and who-knows-what sources. In underdeveloped countries, one out of every 98 people is a beekeeper, but in the U.S., only one in 10,000 is a beekeeper. He’d like to see the United States’ number increase because of the importance of honeybees to our ecosystem as pollinators of more than one-third of the country’s food crops. He is also concerned about the presence in the market of pasteurized and filtered, imported Asian honey

that is reported to be watered down or mixed with fructose corn syrup, other sweeteners and even antibiotics. Once it is filtered to remove the pollen and heated, it’s not even real honey anymore.

Another issue Bill raises, which has been at the forefront of the news recently, is the decline of the honeybee population attributed to colony collapse disorder, or CCD. This is a phenomenon in which whole hive populations are dying or disappearing. There are many hypotheses about the cause. These include the overuse of pesticides, especially “neonics,” which are pesticides that are added directly into plant seeds. When the plant grows with the pesticide in the plant itself, it not only kills the target pest but also the plant’s pollinators.

Another factor in bee decline is lack of available forage diversity; thousands of acres of only corn will not support pollinators. And the biggest issue is with the Varro destructor, or “vampire mite,” which arrived in the U.S. in 1987. It attaches to a bee and sucks its blood, exposing the hive to all kinds of viruses and disease when the bee carries it home.

Bill has his own opinions about CCD, saying he believes it may be a warning to us humans. “Bees have been around for 40 million years. When all of a sudden they start dying, we may



**Bill checks his hives regularly to ensure their health, which also ensures good honey production.**

upon the number of nectar flowers available. Most apiarists (beekeepers) are strategic in robbing the hive of honey, making sure to leave enough for the bees. They may also supplement their bee colonies by feeding them sugar syrup.

July is usually the peak time for a beekeeper to extract honey from the hive. Bill says anytime you do any hive work, it is always a good idea to don a bee veil, at minimum. Getting stung in the face is something you won’t want to repeat. In



**For the heavy work, beekeepers Bill and Susan Zimmer don full suits that minimize openings and offer resistance to bee stings.**

want to ask what we are doing that is killing these bees. Are they our early warning system of things to come? Should we be changing what we do?" He thinks so, and wants to encourage others—first, by reducing their reliance on pesticides and second, by encouraging them to leave natural foraging areas or planting native and bee-friendly plants. And if farmers need a reason to leave some acreage fallow, Bill says, studies have proven that farmers who do so increase their pollination activity, thereby increasing their yield even with fewer crops planted.

For anyone thinking of beekeeping, Bill has a few recommendations. First, he suggests joining a club. Books and the Internet are great sources for supplemental knowledge for the beginner, but he says it's invaluable to gain hands-on mentoring from an experienced beekeeper. He says education is key and mentions the Texas Beekeepers Association, the American Beekeepers Federation and regional clubs in Texas all as good places to start. He also says the Texas Honey Queen, Hayden Wolf, is a great source of knowledge and is available for informative talks at businesses, clubs and schools to talk about bees. To request a presentation with her, send an email to [texashoneyqueenchair@gmail.com](mailto:texashoneyqueenchair@gmail.com).

Pure, raw honey is increasingly in demand for its purported health benefits, and because it just tastes good. To get the greatest benefit and ensure that they are purchasing pure honey without additives and extenders, Bill encourage buyers to look for the True Source label. Honey with this label has been certified as traceable to the source. He is in the process of certifying his own Texas Gold Honey. And he says, "There is such a demand for good honey that I could sell as much of it as I could possibly make."

It would take a fancy bit of calculating to determine how many bees and how many flowers it might take to make 10,000 pounds of honey—but as a one-in-10,000 kind of guy, Beekeeper Bill is doing his part to make it happen in East Texas.

*Bill and Susan Zimmer have been members of Wood County Electric since 2005. Texas Gold Honey can be found at the Winnsboro Farmers Market every Saturday through October. For more information, visit [winnsborofarmersmarket.com](http://winnsborofarmersmarket.com). Texas Gold products are also stocked at StarDragonFly Herb Company at 300 N. Main St. in Winnsboro, and Jersey Girls Milk Company at 5326 E. FM 852 in Winnsboro. If you wish to contact Bill Zimmer, he receives email at [zimtex4@aol.com](mailto:zimtex4@aol.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*
- Dennis Wright, Vice President, *District 3*
- Lewis D. Young, Secretary-Treasurer, *District 7*
- Burke Bullock, *District 2*
- Brent Glenn, *District 4*
- Jane Roberson, *District 6*
- Cathy S. Roberts, *District 5*

### MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES

- Online account access and bill payment
- Paperless E-Bill services
- Free bill-paying app
- Visa, MasterCard, American Express 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*



## Contact Us

**CALL US**  
**(903) 763-2203**

**EMAIL**  
**[info@wcec.org](mailto:info@wcec.org)**

**OUTAGE HOTLINE**  
**1-866-415-2951**

**FIND US ON THE WEB**  
**[wcec.org](http://wcec.org)**

# Power Onward. Power Upward.

*Announcing New \$6,000 Scholarship Program*

**Returning adult student? Nontraditional student? Adult learner? No matter what you call them, many people return to school after beginning a career or a family. The reasons are as varied as the people and the educational disciplines they pursue. The common denominators for most of them are an increased maturity level and a passion and drive to achieve an educational milestone.**

There are teachers who may want to move into administration or teach at a higher level, licensed vocational nurses who are taking steps to become registered nurses, or those who want to acquire a master's degree or professional accreditation of some kind in any field. There are still others entering college or trade school for the first time to become licensed as an electric lineman or an electrician, or in heating and refrigeration or the cosmetology trade.

Any educational undertaking, especially as an older adult, takes an enormous commitment—and no small bit of courage. At WCEC, we recognize that, and we want to help.

For the past several years, WCEC has awarded 10 annual regular scholarships. These were open to competition from adults, but an adult has never been awarded one. With increased numbers of returning adult students entering colleges and trade schools, as well as increased interest in WCEC's scholarships for them, WCEC has

now developed a program to serve these deserving adult students. It's called Power Upward, and it comprises three scholarships of \$2,000 each.

Qualified applicants must be active members or member spouses living on the system, and aged 21 or over. Adult children of members do not qualify. Qualifiers cannot have won a previ-

ous scholarship from WCEC. They must have been accepted into a college, trade school or another post-secondary program, and must be registered for a minimum of nine hours.

To apply, submit a completed official application with two letters of reference and a 500-word essay describing the following:

- ▶ Reasons for continuing your education.
- ▶ Why you have chosen your particular field of study.
- ▶ How it will help you with your future goals.

The deadline for applications to arrive at the WCEC offices is November 19, 2014. (This is not a "postmarked by" deadline, so please allow extra lead time for delivery by mail.) Late or incomplete applications will be disqualified. Applications will be judged and scholarships awarded by the end of the year. Applications are available on our website at [wcec.org](http://wcec.org) under the Community Programs tab, or by calling the cooperative at (903) 763-2203.

Adults: This one is all for you!



## Check HVAC Before You Switch

**Though most of us can't quite feel it yet, before long the Texas heat will begin to let up and we'll be switching our ventilation systems from air conditioning to heating. Make sure your home's ventilation system is in good repair to keep you comfortable when the seasons change.**

A long, hard summer of keeping you cool can put stress on an air-conditioning system, and if that equipment will also be expected to keep you warm in the winter, it needs to be checked by a professional HVAC contractor before you make the switch.

For the most efficient HVAC operation, make sure that you also have addressed the big air leaks in your house and duct system. Sometimes, these are the real sources of problems rather than your HVAC equipment.

Additionally, if your HVAC is more than 10 years old or not keeping your house comfortable at any time, you should have it looked at. If it is not performing efficiently or needs upgrading, consider replacing it with a unit that has earned the Energy Star label, meaning that it operates at a high level of energy efficiency. Installed correctly, these high-efficiency heating and cooling units can save up to 20 percent on heating and cooling costs.

For more ways of keeping your home comfortable in any weather, visit [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov).

*Source: Energy Star*



ISTOCK © STEVE DEBENPORT

## WCEC INVITES ALL MEMBERS TO THE



# Wood County Electric Cooperative 76th Annual Meeting

**October 10, 2014**

**Governor Jim Hogg City Park, Quitman  
Texas, at 2 p.m. • Meeting 2 p.m.**

**The 76th Annual Meeting of Wood County Electric Cooperative, Inc., will be held Friday, October 10, 2014, at Governor Jim Hogg City Park in Quitman, Texas, at 2 p.m. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.**

Beginning at 12:30 p.m., there will be musical entertainment by singer Myra Rolen, a traditional country artist who performs with Texas and western swing flair. She'll be accompanied by the Justin Trevino Band. Sure to be a crowd-pleaser, some of Rolen's accomplishments include appearing on the Shotgun Red Variety Show on the RFD cable channel and the Texas Picking Party on the Rural Network. Her second album was nominated by The Academy of Western Artists for Album and Song of the Year. Her first single, "Walk Out Backwards," reached No. 1 on the Indie World Charts, as did her second, "Hold That Thought." She was also named the 2013 Academy of Western Artists Pure Country Female Vocalist of the Year at the Will Rodgers Awards in Irving. Her album, "Hold That Thought," received a five-star review in Country Music People magazine. Myra is recording a new gospel album with many old-time favorites.

Elections for directors will be conducted by mail ballot and will include candidates for Districts 2, 3 and 7. Members currently serving on the board of directors in these districts are: Burke Bullock, District 2; Dennis Wright, District 3; and Lewis Young, District 7.

All members should look for their ballots to arrive in the mail this month. Be sure to detach and mail the postage-paid ballot in time for it to arrive at the Election Processor no later than noon, October 9. Members who mail in a ballot that arrives by the deadline will automatically be entered into a drawing from which four members will receive a \$250 credit toward their electricity bill.

Please DO NOT drop off or mail your ballot to WCEC with your bill. Only ballots received at the mailing address of the independent elections company address will be counted and entered into the prize drawing.

Be sure to save and bring the other half of the card with you to the annual meeting. This card will be used to participate in door prize drawings for those present. As always, there will be many prizes, with this year's grand prize being an HD flat-screen television.

We hope to see you at the annual meeting!



**Country artist Myra Rolen, accompanied by the Justin Trevino Band, will provide the entertainment at the WCEC Annual Meeting.**

# Board of Directors Elections

The Wood County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors is composed of seven member-elected representatives, each residing in the WCEC district they serve. These board members are all local residents who are members of the cooperative. They represent the needs of their neighbors and communities. The board meets monthly to determine guidelines for management of the cooperative and to approve policies and procedures.

As a qualification to serve on the board, each candidate must receive electric service within the WCEC district they wish to serve from the nine-county service territory. WCEC directors' terms are for three years each. Elections are held annually for alternate districts to allow for a continuity of business knowledge from year to year. WCEC's bylaws contain exact details about director qualifications and the nomination and election processes. The bylaws are posted on the website [wcec.org](http://wcec.org), and paper copies are available at the cooperative.



CALENDAR: ROMAN SHECHERBAKOV | IStock | THINKSTOCK. MYRA ROLEN: © KRISTIN LARUE PHOTOGRAPHY 2010 © JEROME | IStock.com

# 2014 ETREYS Attendees and Scholarship Winners



The delegates who represented WCEC for ETREYS 2014 were, back row: Chandler Poe, Quitman; Chase Turner, Quitman; Jhett Jackson, Quitman; Derek McCreight, Miller Grove; Javin Murdock, Winnsboro; Jacob Frazier, Winnsboro, and front row: Youth Director Makenzie Cox, Winnsboro; Katlin Davis, Yantis; Rachel Hays, Alba; Claire Pickens, Mineola; and Kaylyn Knight, Winnsboro.

Ten youth delegates sponsored by Wood County Electric Cooperative recently attended the 2014 East Texas Rural Electric Youth Seminar, or ETREYS, held on the campus of East Texas Baptist University in Marshall. These 10 youths joined approximately 120 other participants, each sponsored by one of eight East Texas electric cooperatives, to participate in the program, which is designed to foster positive ideals, enhance leadership skills and teach the cooperative philosophy.

The schedule consisted of many team-building exercises, as well as presentations by outstanding speakers that included teen motivational speaker, writer and producer Shannon Pickard; and retired professional New York Giants football player Keith Davis, among others.

The delegates who represented WCEC for ETREYS 2014 were: Katlin Davis, Yantis; Jacob Frazier, Winnsboro; Rachel Hays, Alba; Jhett Jackson, Quitman; Kaylyn Knight, Winnsboro; Derek McCreight, Miller Grove; Javin Murdock, Winnsboro; Claire Pickens, Mineola; Chandler Poe, Quitman; and Chase Turner, Quitman. Makenzie Cox from the 2013 delegates returned as WCEC Youth Director to help lead the 2014 seminar.

At the seminar, Jhett Jackson was awarded the Juan D. Nichols scholarship, valued at \$750; and Katlin Davis was awarded a \$500 scholarship. Katlin, chosen by her peers, was also selected as the 2015 Youth Director and will return to lead the 2015 delegates.

WCEC CEO/General Manager Debbie Robinson said, "Nothing pleases me more than to be able to offer wonderful educational and growth experiences for our youth. We had an exceptional group of students this year. I'm so pleased they were able to benefit from this program, and we look forward to watching them as they progress."

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH



© ISTOCK.COM | KATESMIRNOVA

## Apple-Cheddar Bread

- 2½ cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¾ cup sugar
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¾ cup milk
- ⅓ cup butter or margarine, melted
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1½ cups peeled, chopped cooking apples
- ¾ cup chopped pecans or walnuts

- ▶ Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- ▶ Combine flour, baking powder, salt, sugar and cinnamon in a medium bowl and stir well.
- ▶ In separate bowl, combine milk, butter and eggs and mix well.
- ▶ Add wet ingredients to dry, stirring until blended. Stir in cheese, apples and nuts.
- ▶ Pour batter into a greased and floured 9-by-5-by-3-inch loaf pan and bake for 1 hour, or until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Let cool in pan 5 minutes, then remove from pan and let cool completely on a wire rack.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at  
**TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM**

# Heed Household Hazard Warnings

**Household appliances and consumer products injure an estimated 33.1 million Americans every year as a result of both accidents and manufacturing errors, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.**

**APPLIANCES:** Small, portable appliances and large, stationary appliances both can pose risks to consumers and are often recalled by manufacturers for faulty wiring or shock hazards. Countertop appliances should always be unplugged when not in use to avoid overheating, as fires and electrical shocks have been reported from faulty wiring in appliances such as toasters, microwaves and mixers. Larger appliances such as refrigerators or ranges are often recalled for wiring problems. Heating appliances such as space heaters should never be left unattended or used while sleeping. Rechargeable batteries can sometimes overheat in laptop computers or other rechargeable items.

**BATHROOM:** Caution should be used to keep potentially harmful items out of the reach of children. All prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbs, cosmetics and cleaning agents should be kept out of sight and reach, and childproof or child-resistant packaging should be chosen if possible. Keep all chemicals and products in their original packaging to ensure accurate identification of items. The Poison Prevention Packaging Act requires that child-resistant packaging be used on all medications unless the product label includes a notice that the product is intended for homes without children.

**WINDOW TREATMENTS:** Windows and window treatments can pose falling or strangulation hazards. Window screens should not be expected to keep children or adults from falling out of windows, and window guards should be installed if children have access to a window. Window blind cords should be kept out of the reach of children, and there should never be a loop in the cord, as strangulation could result. Window blinds often get recalled due to strangulation incidents.

**ELECTRICAL SAFETY:** Households should be inspected for potential fire hazards and electrical dangers. Fire safety and fire prevention steps should be taken to ensure that appliances, extension cords and surge protectors meet all federal electrical standards. Ground-fault circuit interrupters should be used on all electrical outlets, and electrical cords should never be used if they are frayed or cracked. Outlets should never be overloaded, feel hot to the touch or give off an electrical shock. Plug protectors should be used on all unused electrical outlets to keep fingers and objects out of sockets. Lamps can pose fire hazards if they are placed near drapes or

bedspreads, and appliance extension cords can cause problems if they are left plugged in for long periods of time when the appliance is not in use.

**FIRE PREVENTION:** To keep your family safe from fire, install smoke alarms on every level of the house and near sleeping areas. Test the smoke alarms often and remember to change the batteries regularly. Fire extinguishers should be placed in kitchens and other accessible locations in the house.



Windows and blinds can pose risks for children.

© ALEKSEENKOV | DOLLAR PHOTO CLUB

Fire prevention steps can prevent the majority of accidental home fires.

**TOXINS AND CHEMICALS:** Many dangers in the home may be invisible to the eye, such as carbon monoxide poisoning, dry-wall fumes or lead paint hazards. Air quality can be monitored by CO<sub>2</sub> detectors and other devices, but dangerous air quality is often hard to identify. Chemicals such as pesticides, drain cleaners and paint should always be kept in their original containers and out of the reach of children.

**COMMON HAZARDS IN THE HOME:** The top five household hazards identified by the CPSC include magnets, recalled products, furniture tip-overs, windows and window coverings, and pool and spa drains. To keep homes safe follow these safety tips:

- ▶ Keep loose magnets, magnetic pieces and other small objects away from children.
- ▶ Stay informed about product recalls.
- ▶ Check that furniture (TVs, bookcases, desks, chests, etc.) is stable or anchored to a wall.
- ▶ Don't rely on window screens to prevent falls from windows.
- ▶ Use cordless window blinds or keep cords permanently out of the reach of children.
- ▶ Inspect pools and spas for entrapment hazards and use drain covers.