

The Dangers of DIY

EACH YEAR, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES ARE CRITICALLY INJURED and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and incidents in their own homes.

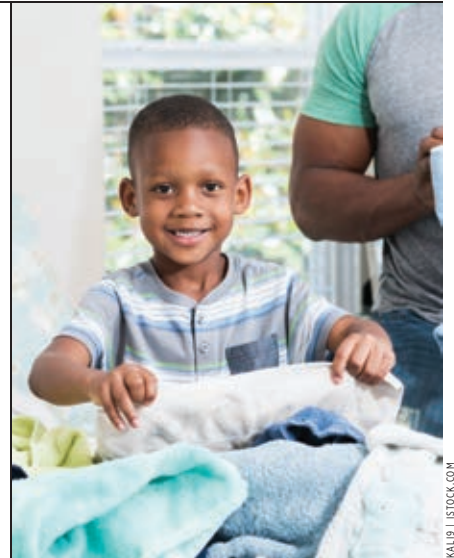
More homeowners than ever before are tackling do-it-yourself projects. However, most do not have the training or experience needed to safely perform home electrical work, increasing the risk of injuries. Working with electricity requires thorough planning and extreme care, and cutting corners can prove a costly mistake.

Wood County Electric Cooperative strongly recommends hiring a qualified, licensed electrician to perform any electrical work in your home. **However, if you do decide to do it yourself, consider the following important safety tips before undertaking any home electrical project:**

- ▶ Always turn off the power to the circuit that you plan to work on by switching off the circuit breaker in the main service panel.
- ▶ Take time to learn about your home electrical system so that you can safely navigate and maintain it.
- ▶ Never attempt a project that is beyond your skill level. Knowing when to call a professional may help prevent electrical fires, injuries and fatalities.
- ▶ Be sure to unplug any lamp or appliance before working on it.
- ▶ Test wires before you touch them to make sure that the power has been turned off.
- ▶ Never touch metal pipes when performing a do-it-yourself electrical project.

Many do-it-yourself projects involve the use of power tools. Using power tools safely requires skilled instruction and training. The most common scenario for power tool-related electrocutions occurs when the equipment comes in contact with live electrical wires while it is being used. **Stay safe by following these tips:**

- ▶ Use ground-fault circuit interrupters with every power tool to protect against electric shocks.
- ▶ Do not use power tools with an extension cord that exceeds 100 feet in length.
- ▶ Never use power tools near live electrical wires or water pipes.
- ▶ Use extreme caution when cutting or drilling into walls where electrical wires or water pipes could be accidentally touched or penetrated.
- ▶ When working with electricity, use tools with insulated grips.



Laundry Day Savings

TO SAVE MONEY IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM, use cold water and less water overall.

Unless the stains on your clothes are oil-based, warm or cool water in your washing machine will do just as good a job of removing them as hot water, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Here are some ways to clean your clothes without cleaning out your bank account:

- ▶ Wash clothes in cold water and use cold-water detergents.
- ▶ Wash and dry full loads only. If you must run the washer before it's full, adjust the water level so the whole machine doesn't fill up unnecessarily.
 - ▶ Towels and heavy cotton items like jeans tend to take longer to dry than lightweight clothing. Don't dry the two types together.
 - ▶ Let the dryer decide how long your clothes need to tumble. Newer models employ moisture sensors that automatically stop the cycle when clothes are dry.
 - ▶ Clean the dryer's lint screen after each load. Letting the lint build up creates a fire hazard.
 - ▶ If you have a high-efficiency washer, use detergents labeled "HE." The American Cleaning Institute says these low-sudsing detergents clean clothes well in machines that use less water.



Legal Notice

THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE OF WOOD COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE WILL MEET AT the cooperative office at 501 S. Main St. in Quitman at least 40 days prior to the annual meeting. The committee is composed of the following members:

Mrs. Carolyn Bryant

201 East Oak
Yantis, TX 75497

Mr. Clarence Meiske

1547 FM 2659
Hawkins, TX 75765

Mrs. Judy Peoples

1646 VZ CR 1222
Grand Saline, TX 75140

Mr. Willie Cicero

1010 State Hwy. 64
Ben Wheeler, TX 75754

Mr. Glenn E. Morris

268 FM 900 E
Mount Vernon, TX 75457

Dr. Beverly Waddleton

P.O. Box 996
Quitman, TX 75783

Mr. Bobby Rhea

3777 CR 2403
Winnsboro, TX 75494

Nomination and election of directors is defined in Article V, Section 3 of the bylaws. Copies of the bylaws are available upon request by calling the cooperative at (903) 763-2203 and at wcec.org. The Elections Committee shall make nominations for directors for districts 1 and 4. Directors whose terms are expiring are Pat Lindley, District 1 representative and president of the board, and Brent Glenn, District 4 representative. The annual meeting of Wood County Electric Cooperative will be held October 5 at 2 p.m. at Gov. Jim Hogg Park, 101 Governor Hogg Parkway in Quitman.



HAPPY EASTER! APRIL 1

from Wood County EC



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

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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 prepaid 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*