

Make electric safety top priority beyond Electrical Safety Month

In May, St. Croix Electric Cooperative will recognize National Electrical Safety Month. While safety for our members is top priority year-round, Electrical Safety Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of safety excellence.

Electricity is the cause of more than 140,000 fires each year, resulting in more than 500 deaths, 4,000 injuries and \$1.6 billion in property damage, according to Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

There are many measures you can take to ensure the safety of your loved ones. Use these helpful tips from ESFI to safeguard your home.

In the kitchen

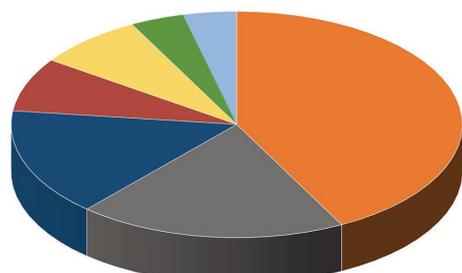
- Vacuum refrigerator coils every three months to eliminate dirt build-up that can reduce efficiency and create fire hazards.
- Ensure all countertop appliances are located away from the sink.
- All appliance cords should be placed away from hot surfaces. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens and ranges. Cords can be damaged by excess heat.

Outage report:

We strive to provide a reliable supply of electricity to all customers.

Outages from Feb. 25 to April 23:

Cause (accts affected)	Incidents
Material/Equip. Failure (37)	11
Animal (8)	5
Trees (390)	4
Cause Unknown (81)	2
Motor Vehicle (27)	2
Xcel (255)	1
Public Cuts Tree (1)	1



- The top and the area above the cooking range should be free of combustibles, such as pot holders and plastic utensils. Storing these items on or near the range may result in fires or burns.

Light the way to safety

- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.
- Check lamp cords to make sure they are in good condition, not damaged or cracked. Do not attempt to repair damaged cords yourself. Take any item with a damaged power cord to an authorized repair center.
- Extension cords should not be used to provide power on a long-term or permanent basis. Have additional receptacles installed by a professional to provide power where needed.

Be prepared

- Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
- Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries should be replaced at least once a year or sooner, if indicated in the manufacturers' instructions. All smoke alarms should be replaced at least every 10 years.
- Talk to your family about an emergency plan in the event of a fire in your home. If you have small children, include them in planning an emergency escape route – they are more likely to remember the plan if they're involved in creating it.

Electrical safety awareness and education can save lives. For more tips and information about electrical safety, follow St. Croix Electric Cooperative on social media and visit www.esfi.org.



@StCroixElecCoop



St. Croix County Energizer



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

From the Board Room

The following policies were amended at the Board of Directors' meeting on Monday, April 6, with the following changes or additions noted. Agendas for each meeting are available online at www.scecn.net.

Policy 623 Distributed Generation Interconnection Guidelines

A member selling power to a third party by wheeling energy over the cooperative's distribution lines must provide a copy of the Purchase Power Agreement to the Cooperative (subject to any applicable nondisclosure provisions.) The export of power via the Cooperative's distribution line is now subject to wheeling charges.

Policy 623A Distributed Interconnection Agreement 20 kWh Capacity

Generation facilities qualifying for net energy billing must be owned by the cooperative member. The Cooperative agrees to purchase all the member's generation and the member must purchase all their energy from the Cooperative to qualify for net energy billing.

Policy 623A.3 Distributed Generation Interconnection Application

The policy change acknowledges larger capacity power generators will be selling energy to entities other than the Cooperative. The member generator agrees to purchase all their energy from the Cooperative at the generation site.

Policy 219 Bankruptcy Proceedings

The policy was amended to include Receivership as a triggering event when a member account may be required to post a deposit.