

Know the warning signs of overloaded outlets:

- Flickering/blinking lights
- Warm or discolored wall plates
- Burning odor from receptacles
- Mild shock or tingle from appliances, receptacles or switches
- Frequently tripped circuit breakers

May is National Electrical Safety Month

 plug into safety

National Electrical Safety Month

In May, electric cooperatives across the country promote safety awareness to coincide with National Electrical Safety Month.

Every year, thousands of accidents occur due to shock hazards, and CVEA, a not-for-profit electric utility, is committed to educating the public about potential electrical dangers in the home.

In 2016, 475,500 structure fires (including residential fires) were reported in the U.S., causing 2,950 deaths, 12,775 injuries and \$7.9 billion in property damage. According

to the National Fire Protection Association, a residential fire was reported every 90 seconds. Many home fires occur when electrical equipment is outdated, overloaded, or improperly used.

“It is critical that the public understands their home’s electrical system and the safety concerns associated with the latest residential technologies before bringing them into their homes,” explains Travis Million, CVEA CEO. “With newer technologies and more electrical gadgets being used in the home than ever before,

people need to ensure they have an electrical system that’s compatible with the increased load.”

Here are a few safety reminders:

- Only use lightbulbs that meet (or are below) maximum wattage listed on the fixture; exceeding can cause overheating
- Extensions cords should be temporary; not used as a permanent solution
- Never use electrical cords that are warm to the touch, frayed, or damaged in any way

- Watch for frequently tripped circuit breaker and blown fuses; these are warning signs of aging or faulty wiring
- Smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home; remember to test once a month

Through electrical safety awareness and education, we can all play a part in preventing electrical hazards and injuries in the future. Together, let’s plug into safety this May. ■



4 COMMON CULPRITS OF ELECTRICAL FIRES

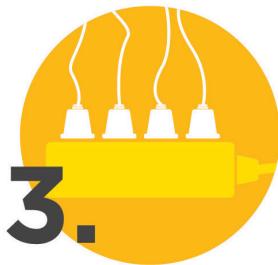
Outdated wiring and overloaded circuits are the most common causes of electrical fires. Check the following areas of your home to ensure your home's electrical safety is up to par.



Electrical outlets: Faulty electrical outlets are a leading cause of home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them that you can't see. Any loose, damaged or warm-to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.



Electrical wiring: Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires. Frequently tripped breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are clear warning signs. If your home is more than 20 years old, it may not be able to handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, leave this one to the pros and contact a qualified electrician.



Overloaded cords and outlets: Extension cords are not permanent solutions. If your big-screen TV, home theater system and other electronics are plugged into one extension cord, it's time to call an electrician and install additional outlets.



Old appliances: Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets. A qualified electrician can help with installation.

CVEA is Plugged In to Safety

By Anne Prince

This month, take a moment to reflect on the importance of safety. May is Electrical Safety Month. Throughout the month Copper Valley Electric will share safety tips and reminders on the co-op's Facebook page to help raise awareness of the dangers of electricity. We all depend on electricity to power our lives, but accidents can happen when electricity is improperly used.

Responsibility to CVEA employees

It is no accident that safety is a top priority at CVEA. The co-op is committed to a culture of safety that is integral to daily operations. Lineworkers and power plant operators are required to wear personal protective equipment at all times when on the job.

This includes special fire-

resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect from electrical shock.

The CVEA safety team regularly discusses important safety issues pertaining to work in the field as well as within the building. Employees meet annually to discuss the safety program and receive reminders on staying safe at work and at home.

Responsibility to CVEA members

CVEA's concern for safety extends beyond just employees. The entire team cares deeply about the safety of cooperative members. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation



International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes.

To promote safety education in local communities, CVEA frequently provides electrical safety content in *Ruralite*, the monthly member magazine, on Facebook, and cvea.org. Co-op representatives also provide live 'Power Town' safety demonstrations at the annual meeting, community events, and in the classrooms at schools within the service territory.

In addition, CVEA encourages the public to contact the co-op if they see a downed power line or any other type of dangerous electrical situation.

CVEA strives to provide our communities with safe, reliable

and affordable electricity and to serve as your trusted energy provider, now and well into the future.

CVEA believes in its responsibility to raise awareness about the importance of electrical safety and encourages everyone to take a moment to plug in to safety this May. In addition to looking for tips on CVEA's Facebook page and website throughout National Electrical Safety Month, visit esfi.org for information on electrical safety in and around your home and workplace. ■

Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Communication Is Critical During a Pandemic

By Michael Rovito

Electric utilities in Alaska are doing their part to help slow the spread of COVID-19. While taking extraordinary measures to help flatten the curve, electric utilities are still focused on providing safe, reliable and economical electric energy to Alaskans.

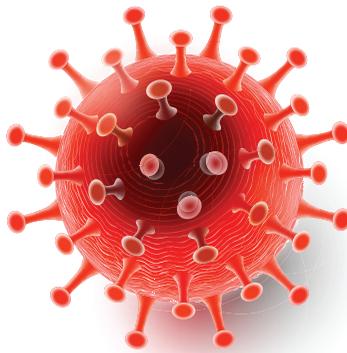
As the seriousness of the pandemic became known across the globe, electric utility managers in Alaska began implementing plans to maintain electric service while protecting workers and the public alike. Electric utility employees are essential workers who are reporting to work—with safety protocols in place—to keep the lights and power on. That is crucial during normal times and especially under the current crisis.

Electric utilities recognize the hardship some members and consumers face from widespread shutdowns. Very quickly, electric utilities implemented freezes on service disconnects for nonpayment due to COVID-19 financial hardship before the state legislature passed a disconnect moratorium in March.

Amid the deluge of news about coronavirus and its effects, electric utilities ramped up their communications efforts to ensure consumers are aware of changes and new procedures.

At Copper Valley Electric Association, new content goes out daily, says Sharon Scheidt, CVEA's director of communications.

"We are communicating more often, trying to keep a steady stream of information regarding relevant topics as they're related to COVID-19," Sharon says. "We have started doing more quick



COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

videos to address topics, especially topics that have a lot of information. Video is a quick, easy-to-follow and understand communications method."

The information CVEA shares with members includes topics such as economic hardships, office closures, the remote staff work situation and alternative payments. Sharon says creating so much content has been difficult, but CVEA believes it is necessary.

At the top of the world in Utqiagvik, Barrow Utilities and Electric Cooperative has implemented a range of procedural changes to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The cooperative placed restrictions starting April 1 on how many members can enter the lobby. The policy restricts the lobby to one member at a time by appointment for cash payments only. No groups, families or children may enter.

A memo from BUECI General Manager Ben Frantz says the front lobby counter and door handles will be disinfected between each appointment, among many other mitigation procedures.

Office restrictions are common among electric utilities in the state. Many utilities

are coming up with other ways to collect payments or handle member questions. Technology is helping greatly, with numerous methods of making utility payments available through online platforms. Part of the messaging electric utilities have provided often include instructions for those who haven't yet adopted technological means of submitting payment.

BUECI and CVEA set policies implementing telework for employees whose positions can be performed remotely, and procedures to keep employees still reporting to the office separate. Many utilities are instituting staggered schedules for staff who cannot work remotely. This approach promotes social distancing.

Those are just some examples from two of Alaska's electric utilities that are taking special measures during this crisis. Electric utilities across the state have implemented new procedures to help consumers, and to keep the public and employees safe.

All actions are being taken to protect the public and utility staff, and ensure a healthy workforce that can keep the power on. ■

Look for Fun Things to Do Indoors

By Alyssa McDougale

The past several weeks, the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically changed the way we shop, work and gather for all kinds of social activities. We are challenged to find activities that can be done indoors.

Social distancing doesn't have to mean boredom and isolation. From homeschooling tips to porch decorating competitions, try out some of these fun and creative ideas.

Book Binge

There's no better time to dive into books you haven't had the chance to read yet. Sitting down with a good story can help ease tension—and you can support local businesses.

Bookstore Finders:
bookshop.org

www.indiebound.org/indie-bookstore-finder

www.newpages.com/independent-bookstores



Get around to reading your pile of books. PHOTO BY RASTLILY

Live Webcams

Streaming footage of a zoo's animal exhibits has become a popular trend in recent years. While it is not quite like being there in person, webcam feeds are the next best way to marvel at some amazing animals until zoos reopen.

Smithsonian National Zoo, Washington, D.C.:
nationalzoo.si.edu/webcams

Miami Zoo Meercat Cam:
www.zoomiami.org/animals#item=429890

San Diego Zoo:
zoo.sandiegozoo.org/live-cams

Monterey Bay Aquarium:
www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams

Activities for Youngsters

Keeping children busy and helping activate their young brains while school is closed can challenge families. Resources to help parents are plentiful.

Scholastic, Mystery Science and Khan Academy are free resources for at-home learning and activities. Khan Academy is ideal for high school students, and offers free ACT, SAT and AP test prep help. Scholastic has activities for many age ranges and lists ways for parents to discuss COVID-19 with their children.

Toddler-specific sites offer activities for homeschooling environments—perfect for helping little ones release their crankiness and promote indoor independent play. Days With Grey sells materials, with prices ranging from \$9 for a PDF activity card to \$42 for activity bundles. Busy Toddler offers its Playing Preschool—190 days of



Take a virtual visit and watch penguins hanging out in California.

at-home learning—for \$39.90, or \$69.80 with two e-books.

Toddlers
www.dayswithgrey.com
www.busytoddler.com

Scholastic Learning K-9:
classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html

How to talk about COVID-19:
classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/coronavirus.html

Mystery Science, K-5:
www.mysteryscience.com/school-closure-planning

Khan Academy, ages 4-18:
www.khanacademy.com

For Older Adults

Because they are in a higher risk category from the virus, seniors may suffer the most from self-isolating.

Covia's Well Connected is a phone and internet program that offers classes and support groups to seniors from the comfort of their home. It is free to anyone 60 or older. All phone numbers are toll-free.

AARP's Connect2Affect offers a database of resources for seniors to help mitigate social isolation. It can be searched by area and has an option to

highlight activities compatible with social distancing.

Well Connected, Covia: 877-797-7299; coviaconnections@covia.org; www.covia.org/services/well-connected

Connect2Affect AARP:
www.connect2affect.org

Porch Design Competitions

Residents in Jacksonville, Florida, decided to keep their neighborhood connected with a front porch design competition. It's a simple idea anyone can replicate with holiday lights, cardboard and a little creativity.

To hear more and see photos to inspire ideas for your own porch, check out the reporting.

Sarasota Herald-Tribune:
www.heraldtribune.com/news/20200326/coronavirus-florida-residents-host-porch-decorating-contest

Free University Courses

At-home learning does not have to be exclusive to students currently enrolled at a university. Many schools and e-learning sites feature free classes and educational content to keep your mind sharp. Open Culture's e-learning site offers free e-books, audio, movies,



Maggie Noe, 4, draws with children's author and illustrator Peter Reynolds. He reads and draws live daily on his Instagram channel, then the video is available for 24 hours. In this picture, she's making a heart flower after Reynolds read a book he illustrated, "I Am Love: A Book of Compassion." PHOTO BY MEGAN MCKOY-NOE

lectures and more. To find free college courses throughout the world, check out Classroom Central's website, which catalogs free university courses. It even has an Ivy League-specific section for the extra-ambitious.

Open Culture:
www.openculture.com

Classroom Central:
www.classcentral.com

Indoor Gardening

The outdoors might have felt far away in recent weeks—especially for those without gardens or backyards.

Epic Gardening offers tips on indoor gardening for beginners interested in reconnecting with the natural world.

For a step into the more

fantastical, consider an indoor fairy garden, which can be a great activity for the entire family. HGTV's article offers step-by-step pictures to get your fairy garden started.

Epic Gardening Tips:
www.epicgardening.com/indoor-gardening-for-beginners

Fairy Gardens:
www.hgtv.com/design/make-and-celebrate/handmade/make-an-indoor-fairy-garden-pictures

Virtual Tours and Exhibits

Like zoos, museums have temporarily closed. Many have adapted, offering free virtual tours and online content.

Google Arts and Culture provides free virtual tours of the Guggenheim Museum, the Louvre Museum and the

Uffizi Gallery. It also features 360-degree interactive virtual reality views of iconic sites such as the Great Wall of China, the Eiffel Tower and the Taj Mahal.

Salvador Dalí Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida—which houses the largest American collection of the famous surrealist's stunning work—offers an interactive tour.

Google Arts and Culture:
artsandculture.google.com

The Dalí:
www.thedali.org/virtual-tour

Exercise and Relaxation

Many who rely on gyms or exercise classes have had their normal routines upended. Luckily, gyms including Planet Fitness, Corepower Yoga and

Moda Yoga are offering online classes to keep you moving. Some are free. Moda Yoga suggests a \$5 to \$10 donation.

Planet Fitness:
www.facebook.com/planetfitness/videos

Corepower Yoga:
www.corepoweryogaondemand.com/keep-up-your-practice

Modo Yoga:
www.instagram.com/modoyoganyc

Streaming Concerts

Artists are taking the show online to share musical joy.

Billboard staff regularly updates its list.

Billboard:
www.billboard.com/articles/columns/pop/9335531/coronavirus-quarantine-music-events-online-streams



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Board of Directors

Paul Kildal, President
Will Stark, Vice President
Dan Stowe, Secretary
Yvette Delaquito, Treasurer
Lon Rake, Director
Jeff Saxe, Director
Mark Shorten, Director
Vacant, Director

P.O. Box 45
Glennallen, AK 99588
www.cvea.org

Copper Basin District
907-822-3211

Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

Valdez District

907-835-4301
367 Fairbanks Dr.

After hours outage line
866-835-2832

Important Dates

May

CVEA Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting scheduled for May has been postponed until further notice

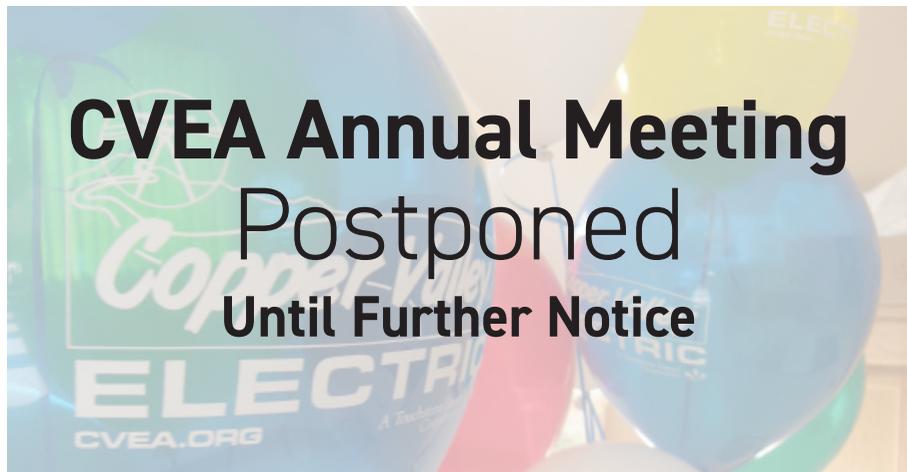
CVEA Board Meeting: The May meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, May 21, 2020, in Valdez

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will be closed Monday, May 25, 2020, for Memorial Day

June

CVEA Board Meeting: The June meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, June 18, 2020, in Glennallen

AK-34



Offices Remain Closed to the Public

CVEA offices remain closed to the public as of this time, but we continue to work hard for you. If you have important CVEA business, please contact either office Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Safe, Convenient Payment Options

CVEA has many great options for paying your bill that support your efforts to stay home and stay safe. Use SmartHub via cvea.org or the SmartHub app on your computer, phone, or tablet, call 833-890-7728 to make a phone payment 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through a secure third party phone pay system, drop your payment in the convenient dropbox located outside each office, or call the local office for assistance.

COVID-19 Information Page at CVEA.ORG

It is CVEA's goal to provide members important, timely updates on the COVID-19 situation as it relates to your Cooperative. A single web page, organized by date and topic, was created to consolidate all notices so they are easy to find and reference. Just look for the COVID-19 feature at cvea.org.

Economic Hardship

CVEA urges members who are experiencing financial hardship caused by COVID-19 to contact Customer Service. Evaluations will be made on a case-by-case basis. Please reach out by calling 822-3211 in the Copper Basin, and 835-4301 in Valdez. Someone will be able to assist you during normal business hours.

The health and safety of our members and employees are of utmost concern to the Cooperative at this time. We are thinking of each of you and know we will get through this difficult time together.