



## ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER

Please join us for the annual meeting of members on **Thursday, May 15, 2025** at Dunn Energy Cooperative. A light buffet dinner will be served from 5-5:45 and the business meeting will start at 6 p.m.

Your ballots have been mailed. If you haven't returned them, please do so in the envelope that was provided or bring it with you to the meeting. See you then!

## 11 Electrical Safety Tips for Seniors

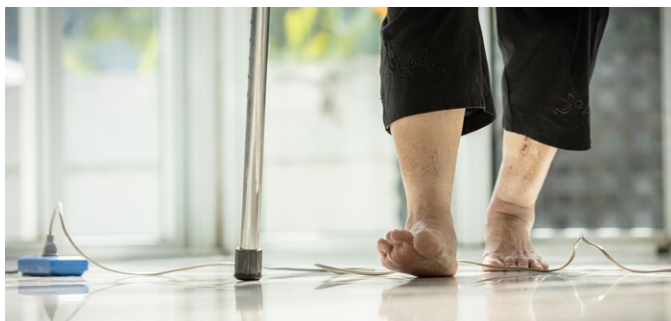
**At a glance:** Older adults and family members can learn how to take precautions for a safer home.

- Understand age-related vulnerabilities concerning electrical hazards.
- Learn tips for preventing shocks, fires, and accidents.
- Improve safety with proper lighting, safe use of space heaters, and maintenance of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Electrical safety is crucial for everyone, but especially important for seniors. Adults over the age of 65 are at the greatest risk of death from fire and this risk increases with age, according to the National Fire Protection Association. As we age, our reflexes slow down, eyesight decreases and senses become less acute, making it essential to take extra precautions when handling electrical appliances.

**Here are 11 ways for older adults to maintain a safe living environment:**

- 1. Ensure that electrical appliances are in good working condition.** Regularly inspect cords and plugs for damage or wear and tear.
- 2. Don't overload sockets or extension cords.** Plugging too many appliances or devices into a single outlet can cause overheating and increase fire risk.
- 3. Limit the use of carpets and rugs,** which are tripping hazards, and avoid placing extension cords under them to prevent overheating. To help prevent trips and falls, cords should not stretch across a room. For a safer and more permanent solution, consider having an electrician install additional outlets where needed.



- 4. Unplug appliances when not in use** and before cleaning or repairing them.
- 5. Keep electrical appliances away from water** and wet surfaces to prevent electric shock.
- 6. Install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs),** which are designed to prevent electric shock by shutting off power when a ground fault is detected. Install them in areas where water and electricity are in close proximity, such as kitchens, bathrooms and outdoor spaces.
- 7. Ensure proper lighting in all areas of the home,** especially in hallways and staircases, to prevent trips and falls. Consider installing nightlights in bedrooms and bathrooms for better visibility.
- 8. Set hot water heaters** to lower settings to prevent scalding.
- 9. When cooking on the stove,** never leave pots and pans unattended, and avoid wearing loose clothing when cooking. Never open the oven door if something catches fire inside the oven. Consider using toaster ovens and small appliances that come equipped with an auto shut-off feature for added safety and convenience. This feature is designed to turn off the appliance automatically after a set amount of time or when a task is completed, reducing the risk of overheating or fire.
- 10. Use space heaters with caution.** Space heaters can offer added warmth to a senior, who may get cold due to circulation issues that are common with aging. Use space heaters with built-in safety features such as an automatic shut-off switch. Keep space heaters on a steady surface and at least three feet away from flammable objects such as curtains, bedding or furniture. Plug them directly into an outlet — do not use an extension cord or power strip — and unplug them when not in use.
- 11. Install smoke detectors on every floor and carbon monoxide detectors near all bedrooms.** Test and replace the batteries twice a year — once in the spring and once in the fall.



**Dunn Energy  
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# HAVING A BACKUP PLAN FOR MEDICAL DEVICES CAN BE LIFESAVING

If you or someone in your household depends on life-sustaining medical equipment, it is important to have a backup plan in place in case of severe weather events, which can cause prolonged outages. Backup safety tips include the following:

- Have an emergency plan in place with friends and family that outlines places you can go in the event of a long-term outage.
- Before an outage occurs, find out if the medical equipment safely runs on a backup power source and for how long (see manufacturer's recommendations).
- Keep a full charge on battery-powered devices or have extra batteries available.
- If recommended by the manufacturer, consider purchasing a portable battery pack to power devices.
- Gather related resources that will last for several days, including batteries, supplemental equipment, and prescriptions.
- Realize that local shelters and hospitals that are also experiencing an outage may be at capacity and have limited resources, including auxiliary power. Think about the other special equipment you might need, such as coolers for refrigerated medicine.
- Like any important device, keep up regular maintenance.

## FROM THE BOARD ROOM

### March 2025 Board Meeting Highlights



#### Monthly Reports:

The CFO report discussed February financials. With a colder than average February, 2025 sales surpassed three of the last five Februarys and were 7.18% over budget. Several governmental reports were

completed and ready for submission.

The Operations report contained updates on brushing, substation upgrades, and day-to-day work. Quotes are being finalized for a future bucket truck and several staff members attended trainings over the last month.

The Engagement report included updates on the hiring of a New Service Coordinator, the completion of the Power Connection program, and the annual meeting.

The Information Technology report discussed a cybersecurity training results and the server room upgrades.

Energy Services provided updates on the Load Management Modernization upgrade, renewable energy

totals, and changes to the software for metering.

The CEO/General Manager gave an overview of the cooperative's current issues, including discussion and approval of 2025 line extension charges, staffing plans, and legislative issues.

#### The following items were approved:

- Capital credit estate payout for deceased members.
- Audit committee report of all checks, ACH payments, wire transfers, credit card statements, and investment accounts.
- 2024 Form 7.
- Line extension charges and corresponding policies.
- 2024 Annual Audit.

#### Other Business:

Reviewed the monthly report of new Cooperative members.

Safety Meeting recap