

Holidays Approaching

Wow, it seems like summer flew by! We experienced the wettest July in many years, followed a late, but expected, dry spell. It's also time to move those plants you want to save indoors before Jack Frost makes his first visit of the winter. It's also time to complete any outdoor repairs or maintenance to your home before snow and ice begin falling.

Hazards and Safety

Keeping gutters clean and free of falling leaves means putting safety first.

- Be sure to correct ladder for the job.
- Use a fiberglass ladder which will not conduct electricity.
- Any ladder should be in good condition with adequate rubber-padded feet for hard surfaces and forked feet when used on the ground; both of which will stabilize the ladder and prevent skidding.
- Never lean too far to the right or to the left of the ladder. If your hips go too far in either direction, you run the risk to tipping over and falling.
- Always look up! Never place ladders near power lines. Although some power lines may appear to have insulation, they can still be deadly. Older power lines serving homes and businesses had a coating to protect the metal conductor from corroding. However, this will not prevent electrical shock or death.

When in doubt, stay clear from any overhead line connected to your home or business.

Decorative Lighting

Growing up, we hung lights only during the Christmas holiday season. Now, a lot of folks use decorative lighting throughout the year to enhance their home's ambiance. Whatever you use decorative or stringed lighting, please remember these safety tips:

- Examine all light sets, even new ones, for damaged wires and cables.
- Be careful where you place stringed lighting. Doors and windows can pinch and tear the protective insulation and expose the wiring.
- Some pets, squirrels, and other animals like to chew on wiring.
- Too much heat or cold will eventually crack the insulation and expose the wiring.
- Don't connect too many light sets together; the wire can overheat and melt or weaken the insulation.
- If you are using an outdoor-approved light set, make sure you plug them into a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), which is a protection device for damp or wet conditions. If your home does not have a GFCI, I highly recommend you have one or more installed. A licensed electrician can offer you suggestions on the best locations to install a GFCI.

Although upgrading or installing electrical safety devices may cost you a little money, they can protect you and those you love from injury or even death.

Preparing for Winter

Weather forecasters seem to disagree on the severity of the upcoming winter season. Either way, I encourage you to be as prepared as possible for Old Man Winter. I'm sure we all remember the winter vortex two years ago. Although last winter was closer to normal temperatures, both were colder than the previous two winters.

I feel badly for those members who, in the spring, are still paying big heating bills because they did not caulk, insulate, and weatherize their homes before winter hit. Other than a payment plan, there is really nothing Warren RECC can do. The extra energy used for heating has already been used.

If you would like to request some weatherization material, call our office at 270-842-6541, and ask to speak with Energy Advisor Scott Duvall. You can always access our website at www.wrecc.com and click on the "Ways to Save" tab.

Update on the President's Clean Power Plan (CPP)

You've probably already heard that the CPP rule has been finalized. The rule will require reductions in carbon dioxide, which is the gas emitted when we exhale and also from any fuels burned in automobiles, factories, and power plants that use coal and natural gas. In its final CPP rule, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) changed to rule to severely hammer the state of Kentucky. Both the Kentucky Governor and Energy Secretary are sorely disappointed, as well as both parties of the legislature. It appears the original rule would have been easier to meet than the final one.

One can only speculate as to why the requirements for Kentucky swung from one end of the pendulum to the other; however, politics probably played a role. One comment from the state's highest office was that the EPA appears to have made a computer-modeling error. The only option left to moderate or throw out the rule is in the court system. The courts did throw out the previous EPA Mercury Air Toxics (MATS) rule because the agency failed to calculate the economic impact of the rule. Those in the industry have indicated this will be the same argument they will use in the courts to fight the CPP. Only time will tell.

The next governor and energy secretary will have to prepare a strategy to comply with the CPP rule by 2020, and beyond. For electric companies, it will mean rising rates. Because Warren RECC receives its power from TVA, our rates will see less of an increase in the coming years when TVA commences operation of a new nuclear generating unit and two new combined-cycle gas-generating stations in the interim.

TVA Rate Increase and Structure Change

On October 1, TVA had a rate increase of approximately 1.5 percent (near the rate of inflation). TVA provides wholesale power to Warren RECC and 154 other local power companies in seven states. The move was required to offset increased costs to meet EPA rules on emissions. Also, TVA made some rate structure changes between rate classes – residential, commercial, and industrial.

Warren RECC elected to absorb some of those cost increases in order to NOT increase that portion of your bill. We are trying hard to soften rising costs, and we know that you, a member-owner, expect that of us. For more information, please refer to the President and CEO article that appeared in the September issue of the *Kentucky Living* magazine. Or, go to <http://www.wrecc.com/newsletter-from-chief-executive-officer-w-scott-ramsey/> to download the article.

Please stay safe during the holidays, and may God richly bless you and yours.