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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 🔨



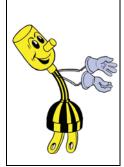
Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Electronics account for 8.1 percent of your home's energy use. Cut costs by plugging items into a power strip, and turning the strip off when not in use. "Smart" power strips are another good option-when one master device like a TV is turned off, it cuts power to other selected items (DVD players, gaming consoles, stereos, etc.).

> Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Congratulations Terry Kimble is our

online survey winner!



Know How to Survive Auto Accidents Involving Utility Poles & Power Lines

Instincts tell us to flee danger. Unfortunately, in vehicle accidents that bring down power lines, these natural inclinations can lead to tragic results.

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative wants everyone to know: If your car hits a power pole, or otherwise brings a power line down, stay in your vehicle and wait until the local electric utility arrives on the scene and ensures that lines have been de-energized. If you come upon or witness an accident involving toppled power poles and lines, don't leave your vehicle to approach the scene.

Indiana teenagers Lee and Ashley saw a power line safety demonstration at their high school and never dreamed their new knowledge would be put to the test. Five days later, they and two classmates were in a car that crashed into a utility pole, bringing live power lines to the ground.

Fortunately, they heeded the safety advice they had received, and survived because they knew the right actions to take. And they helped others who approached the scene by warning them to stay away. A video of their story can be seen on **www. SafeElectricity.org**.

According to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, tens of thousands of accidents each year occur where power poles are struck by cars or large equipment. Each one of these accidents has the potential to bring down power lines. Surviving the accident itself might not be enough to stay alive without awareness of the right moves to make.

In the vast majority of those incidents, the safest place to remain is inside the car. Only in the rare instance of fire should people exit a vehicle. Then, they must know how to do so safely, jump-



Photo Courtesy of SafeElectricity.org

ing free and clear, landing with feet together and hopping away. It's difficult to get out without creating a path for current to flow, which is why one should get out only if forced to.

When people are involved in a car accident, electricity is usually the last thing on anyone's mind. Often they are more concerned about whether anyone was injured, or how badly the vehicle is damaged. We forget that by exiting the vehicle, we are risking bodily exposure to thousands of volts of electricity from downed power lines.

Lee and Ashley are grateful to their electric cooperative, which sponsored a live line demo program at their school. The students are encouraging everyone to learn from 568900 their experience.

To learn more, members can visit **www. SafeElectricity.org**. Schools may also contact Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative to schedule a similar safety demonstration for their classroom or organization.

Hot Watts

is published monthly by **Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.** *Hot Watts* informs members in parts of seven Eastern Oklahoma counties about Cookson Hills' programs and issues. Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative continually strives to provide quality electrical service at a reasonable cost for its members.

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Cookson Hills welcomes members to submit photos, and articles which will be subject to Cookson Hills editing. Any submissions must be received before the 12th of the month prior to the publication date.

If You Find Your Account Number Hidden in this Issue of the *Hot Watts* You'll Receive a \$25 Credit on Your Electric Bill.

Energy Efficiency

Seal Manufactured Home Air Leaks to Slash Electric Bills

If energy bills for your manufactured home (trailer) seem too high, the likely culprits are air leaks. Here are some tips from Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative that can help you stop leaks from your home, and your wallet.

Older manufactured homes, especially those built before 1994, may be plagued by leaking ducts and inadequate insulation. Leaky ductwork can reduce the efficiency of your heating and cooling system by as much as 20 percent. A good time to check for leaks is on a windy day, when you will be able to find drafty spots.

Experts recommend going after big leaks first. That means plugging all holes around chimneys, vents, water pipes, and heating system ductwork. Seal any duct leaks with mastic. Avoid the use of duct tape, which can dry out and disintegrate when used. Adding insulation to floor, walls, and ceiling cavities can improve energy efficiency, but may be a job for a professional contractor.

Once you have sealed major leaks, look for smaller ones, around windows, doors, electrical outlets, and light switches. Seal gaps around windows and doors, using caulk on non-moving parts. And replace any worn weather stripping.

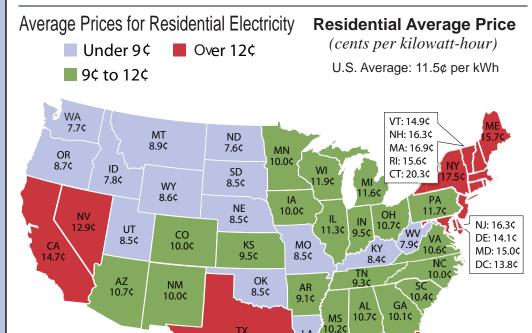
Caulk or expanding spray foam is perfect in



Touchstone Energy Photo

spots where plumbing, wiring, vents and ducting penetrate through walls.

For safety's sake, make sure that all combustion appliances, such as furnaces, stoves, and water heaters, are properly vented. For other tips on how to save energy and money visit www.energysavers.gov and www.TogetherWeSave.com, or call Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative at 918-967-4614 or 800-328-2368.



TX 12.4¢

LA

8.1¢

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Unclaimed Capital Credit Checks

The names listed are accounts that have capital credit refund checks available to them. The owners of these checks received service from Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) and were issued a check which was returned by the Post Office as undeliverable or never cashed. If your name appears on the list, or if you are the surviving heir of a name listed below, please contact CHEC about the capital credit refund check. Below is a list of names (A-M). The second half of the unclaimed capital credit check list will appear in the June issue of the Hot Watts. If you have any questions about capital credits, please feel free to contact CHEC at (918)-967-4614 or 800-328-2368.

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