

Your energy provider yesterday, today and tomorrow.

NEWSLETTER

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

December 2016

Illuminate Your Holiday Season with Safety

Don't let the bright and colorful sparkle of the season distract you from taking the precautions that you need to stay safe when decorating. Safe Electricity provides tips on safe holiday decorating.

If you are decorating with an artificial tree, make sure you choose one with fire resistance protection. With a real tree, make sure that the needles are green and sturdy with a trunk that is sticky with resin. These are indicators that your tree is well-hydrated. Keep your tree stand filled with water so that the tree does not become overly dry and present a fire hazard.

Never place your tree near to heat-emitting devices, such as space heaters or radiators, which can become fire hazards.

Any lights that are hung either inside or outside of the home should have a label indicating that they have been certified by an accredited independent testing laboratory.

Also make sure the lights are rated for the location in which they will be used—whether indoors or outside. Before hanging your lights, check the

strands for broken bulbs as well as fraying or bare wires that could present electrical hazards. Always replace damaged products.

Typically, one extension cord should only have three strands of lights connected to it at most, but you should also check that the extension cord is rated for its intended use. Never run extension cords under carpets, through doorways, or where they could be damaged by furniture.

When decorating outside, always be sure to look up and double check that you and any equipment, such as a ladder or a light strand, are a minimum 10 feet away from overhead power lines. When securing light strands, never staple or nail them into place, as this could damage the product.

Outdoor lights and decorations should be plugged into an outlet with ground fault circuit interrupter protection. GFCIs are inexpensive electrical devices that can be installed in a home's electrical system or built into a power cord to protect against electrical shock. A GFCI constantly monitors the flow of electricity through a circuit and will shut the circuit down if it senses a ground fault.

Be sure to turn off all lights before leaving the home or going to sleep. A timer can help you do this.

Safe Electricity hopes your season will be merry, bright, and safe. For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Call Diggers Hotline before you dig! Dial 811



Season's Greetings

from Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative.

Our office will be closed December 23 and 26 and January 2.



We have expanded our Med-A-Lert offerings to better meet the needs of our clients!

Med-A-Lert makes a great Christmas gift for a loved one!

Today we are introducing three new offerings to our Med-A-Lert service.



Med-A-Lert in case of emergency

We still have our **Basic** package, with Linear equipment, tried and true, and only **\$25/month**.



We have added an option with **Fall Detection**. We still use the Linear system, but have added a pendant that has a Fall Detection feature. The Linear system with Fall Detection is only **\$27/month**. This pendant is water resistant (not waterproof as with the Basic package), and has a replaceable battery.



Two-way voice is now an option with our **Enhanced** system. This system has all the features of our Basic package, but in addition allows you to communicate with the Response Center directly via the pendant. This is a great option for those who are frequently outside of the home, gardening, doing yardwork, or even going to the mailbox. A spare rechargeable battery for the pendant is kept charged in the base unit. The Enhanced system is only **\$30/month**.



All of the above systems have the basic requirements: Working landline phone jack & power receptacle

Complete mobility is available for the active individual with the **mobile mySHIELD** option. The mySHIELD is a cellular device, about 2 inches square. Pressing the alert button on the unit immediately puts you in direct contact with the Response Center. Your location is sent along with the call. Alerts can be sent as a text message to a number you choose to notify of an event, low battery, or power on/off. The cellular service provider is Verizon. The mySHIELD is an option wherever there is reliable Verizon cellular coverage. The mobile system is **\$35/month**.



Installation is available with all of our systems for a one-time fee of \$38.50. During the installation we will review all of the features of the system, place a test call, and verify the list of responders.

CALL TODAY - 715.239.6800 or 800.300.6800

Winter Is Here: Be Alert for Peak Alerts

Winter is coming upon us, and with that comes the time for peak alerts for cooperative members. A peak alert is likely to occur on colder days during the winter months. On these days, the demand for electricity is highest, which also brings the need to conserve energy use whenever possible. The level of demand determines a large portion of the cooperative's energy costs during this time. Reducing or delaying your electrical usage during a peak alert helps lower this cost. The key is to reduce your consumption between the hours of 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. on these coldest winter days. This helps Chippewa Valley Electric save on our wholesale power bill, and this savings is passed along to the members. By turning off unneeded lighting and appliances, you can help us save a substantial amount. On these days, the peak-alert messages will be broadcasted on the following stations:

- WAXX 104.5 FM
- WAYY 790 AM
- WECL 92.9 FM
- WIAL 94.1 FM



In addition, you may visit us online at www.cvcoop.com and go to the Load Management page to find the up-to-date information regarding the status of the load control. Whether you hear the peak-alert message or not, please help us control our costs by reducing the amount of electricity you use during these winter evenings between 4 and 9 p.m.

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