

INTER-COUNTY ENERGY



www.intercountyenergy.net

NOVEMBER 2021

Safety Matters

How to safely install holiday lights

One of the most magical things about the holidays is seeing the lights. If you aren't careful, though, improperly installed lighting can cause injury or an electrical fire.

An important first step is to choose the right lights. Outdoor lights are manufactured to withstand rain, wind and snow, while indoor lights have a thinner insulation that can be damaged by weather, resulting in a fire or electric shock.

Be sure your cords are not frayed because damaged cords can cause an electrical short.

Always start with a decorating plan and avoid hazards to ensure that your project flows smoothly.

Don't hang your lights near power lines, and keep indoor lights away from space heaters, candles and fireplaces.

Avoid hanging lights when the weather is bad. Climbing a slippery ladder onto the roof can be dangerous.

Wear slip-resistant shoes, climb slowly, avoid sudden movements and make sure to place the ladder on a flat surface.

Always work with a buddy when hanging decorations. Extend the



SHERWOODSHUTTERSTOCK

ladder at least 3 feet beyond the roof edge. Don't step on the top two rungs of the ladder and ask a friend to hold the ladder to keep it secure.

While climbing, keep your hands free by using a tool belt. Lean the ladder at the correct angle by following this rule: for every 4 feet of ladder height, space the base of the ladder 1 foot from the wall. Stand on the ladder centered between the rungs.

Don't overreach. Always move the ladder when necessary.

Never use nails, tacks or staples for hanging because this can pierce the protective insulation on the lights and create a fire hazard. Use gutter clips especially designed for string lights to secure them in place.

By slowing down and being careful, you can stay safe as you deck the halls this holiday season.



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Solar 101: Know your goals before purchasing a solar system

There are important things to consider before making a major investment, if you're thinking about installing solar panels.

Remember that even if nature provides energy from the sun, there are significant costs to install solar panels. Prices vary significantly based on system size, location and much more. Take time to ensure your long-term expectations are reasonable, and that you understand your options and choose an option that meets your energy needs.

One of the most important things is to know your goals. Are you trying to save money? Are you trying to offset all your energy consumption or just a portion? Do you want backup sources to ensure your power stays on during storm outages?

Knowing these answers will make it clearer what type of system you need. Learn more by reading *Solar 101* under the EVs and Renewables tab on our website at www.intercountyenergy.net.



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Have a yummy and safe Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving dinner marks the start of the winter holidays and can be a time for family, fun and fabulous food.

It also creates a risk for kitchen fires, usually because of unattended cooking, the use of cooking fryers and the increase in the amount of baking and cooking.

Year-round, cooking causes more house fires and in-home injuries than any other activity. Increased cooking time around the holidays increases the chance of a fire.

Here are some tips for safe Thanksgiving meal prep from the National Fire Prevention Association:

- If the stovetop burners are turned on, you should be in the kitchen.
- Turkeys need to roast for hours. Check on yours often while the oven is roasting.
- Keep children 3 feet away from the hot stove. Not only could they burn themselves on a working burner, the splatter from steam, hot gravy and brewing coffee can harm them.
- Clean up before you cook. Too much clutter in the kitchen—especially near the stove or on the floor—can cause people to trip, hot food to spill and small appliances or pans to fall over.
- Don't leave knives out when you're not handling them. It might be inconvenient to take them out and put them away all day long, but that makes it harder for a child to pick one



AFRICA STUDIO/ADOBE STOCK

- up or a cook's helper to accidentally brush against one.
- Candlelight adds ambience to the Thanksgiving table, but don't light the candles until everyone is ready to sit down. And blow out the flames before you leave the room.
- Check the batteries in your home's smoke alarms. Simply push the test button and listen for the beep.

Inter County Energy will be closed November 25 and 26 in observance of Thanksgiving. Please use our mobile app or contact our 24-hour outage line at (866) 224-2235 in case of an emergency or outage.

JENIFOTO/ADOBE STOCK

Daylight savings reminder!
Do not forget to fall back on November 7. Set your clocks back one hour.

RAWF8AD/ADOBE STOCK

JOIN US FOR THE 14TH ANNUAL
INTER-COUNTY ENERGY CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS, INC. SILENT AUCTION

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2021
10:00 AM TO 6:00 PM**

**INTER-COUNTY ENERGY
COMMUNITY ROOM
1009 HUSTONVILLE ROAD**



Veterans, thank you for your service

OUR MISSION

The mission of Inter-County Energy Cooperative is to provide long-term valued electrical energy and services to our members through a culture of safety, accountability, innovation, integrity, and commitment to community.

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24-HOUR EMERGENCY/OUTAGE REPORTING (866) 224-2235

For major outage updates and restoration efforts, listen to the following radio stations; WPBK 102.9, WHIR 105.1, WOKH 102.7, WDFB 88.1 or WLSK 100.9.

FOR INFORMATION AND INQUIRIES:

Toll-free: 1-888-266-7322

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM

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This month our thoughts turn to Thanksgiving and the family feasts that often accompany it.

But in our hurry to get to the turkey and stuffing, we often overlook another important date: Veterans Day.

Kentucky is home to more than 300,000 veterans deserving of our gratitude for their service to this country. I'm proud to count many of them as owner-members of Inter-County Energy.

Three veterans are employees of our co-op. They include: Bruce King, engineering technician; Doug Walker, purchasing coordinator; and Brandon Martin, line technician.

For 10 years, Inter-County Energy has honored veterans by joining with Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives to sponsor an Honor Flight. The all-expenses-paid, one-day tour of Washington, D.C., canceled this year due to COVID-19, takes World War II, Korean and Vietnam war veterans to see memorials dedicated to their service.

Among the group is two-time Bronze Star recipient Bobby Gibson, who served in an artillery unit in the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division in the Vietnam War.

During a 12-month tour of duty in the Vietnam jungle, he spent time behind a 155 mm howitzer, an artillery piece that could strike with accuracy up to 9 miles away. Large Chinook helicopters constantly airlifted Gibson and his squad to "where the action was." The fighting was intense and often lethal.

It took "a little bit of bravery and a little bit of silliness" to survive the experience, he says.

Gibson and other veterans who were on the roster for Honor Flight 2021 are profiled in articles found at <https://honorflightky.org/aboutus/news-3>.

INTER-COUNTY ENERGY SALUTES TWO HONOR FLIGHT HEROES



Louis Walker



William Tungate

Mr. Louis Walker, an 85-year-old Vietnam veteran, and Mr. William Tungate, an 85-year-old Vietnam veteran, are Inter-County Energy's Honor Flight honorees for 2021.

Walker served in the Air Force from 1954-1958, where he was stationed in Spain. His rank was A1C, and he served as a military finance clerk.

Tungate served in the Army from 1955-1963, where he was stationed in Fort Riley, Kansas, and Baumholder, Germany. His rank was PFC and was the infantry squad leader. Tungate received medals for Expert Rifle and Good Conduct.

The two were sponsored by Inter-County Energy on an Honor Flight that was scheduled to Washington, D.C., in September. Unfortunately, this year's flight, coordinated by Winchester-based Honor Flight Kentucky, had to be canceled due to safety concerns related to the coronavirus, but we hope their mission will take place next year.

As we give thanks this month, let's remember the blessings of America brought to us by those who stepped up to defend our nation. To all veterans, we thank you for your service.