

# Cooperative Encourages Energy Efficiency



## MESSAGE FROM CEO AND GENERAL MANAGER RICK HAILE

**AS A MEMBER OF** As a member of Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative, you are in a unique position to take advantage of energy-efficiency programs offered by the co-op. You may wonder, “Why would my electric co-op encourage me to use less energy?” The answer is simple: We are committed to enhancing the quality of life for our members. This means helping you use and purchase only the amount of electricity that you need.

That’s in addition to providing safe, reliable power at the most affordable price for our members.

How does practicing efficiency habits save you money? It’s common sense that if you use less electricity, your bill will be lower, but there’s more to it than that. Heart of Texas EC purchases electricity from Brazos Electric Power Cooperative, a local generation and transmission cooperative. When electric use is high, we pay peak demand charges for the electricity we purchase. By incorporating energy efficiency into your daily routine, you are helping reduce the demand for electricity, thus lowering peak demand and the overall cost.

As a co-op, we pass these savings directly on to you! Let’s take a look at some of the ways you can save.

Basic energy-efficiency practices, such as caulking around windows and doors, turning off lights when you leave the room and using a programmable thermostat, are great ways to start saving.

When you use electricity is just as important as *how much* you use. Typically, most households use larger amounts of electricity in the mornings and in the evenings, when most people are either getting ready for their day or returning home. Remember that peak demand

**Washing and drying only full loads saves energy and money.**

charge? This can be avoided by lowering energy use during on-peak hours, when electricity is in high demand. In the winter, peak time is between 7 and 9 a.m., and in the summer, it is between 4 and 7 p.m.

Heart of Texas EC offers home energy assessments. Our energy experts can assess air leaks, insulation gaps and other common problems that cause homes to use more energy than required. We can tell you more about the latest technologies for heating, cooling and lighting in a home, including heat pumps, LED lights and more. We also offer energy-saving rebates and special programs to monitor your electricity use.

We are proud to offer these energy-efficiency programs for you, our members. As you can see, there are many ways to save, and we want to be your trusted energy information resource. To find out more about energy-efficiency programs and tips, contact us at 1-800-840-2957 or visit [hotec.coop](http://hotec.coop).



## PLX Upgrade Continues

**HEART OF TEXAS** Electric Cooperative works hard to provide the highest quality of electric services to our members.

Since 1996, HOTEK had used an automated meter-reading system to facilitate daily and monthly meter reads on most residential meters. Being 20 years old, the system was no longer supported by the manufacturer, so we began to look for a more useful system.

With this in mind, HOTEK began installing a state-of-the-art advanced meter-reading system in late 2014. The installation and transition to this new technology has gone well, and all the substations have been commissioned.

The next phase of the upgrade will include replacement of the remaining “turtle” meters with new PLX meters from Landis+Gyr. Anytime a HOTEK employee visits a location that uses an old “turtle” meter, a new PLX meter will be installed.

This upgrade will enable the cooperative to perform several functions remotely, such as reading meters in a more timely manner, monitoring voltage, and reconnecting or disconnecting power at some locations.

In addition, these meters will provide more accurate information about outages and restoration times, allow for faster response times to outages, and ultimately lead to fewer outages. Improved power quality and more efficient power distribution will help keep costs down for members. Better detection of power theft will be an additional benefit.

If you have any questions, contact our office at 1-800-840-2957.





## HOTEC Youth Tour Winner

**CONGRATULATIONS TO TERAN WILLBERG**, the 2016 Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative Youth Tour winner. He is the son of Dawn and Jason Willberg of Rosebud and is an 11th-grader at Rosebud-Lott High School.

His winning entry was titled, "The History of Electric Cooperatives in America." He compared the hardships of the 1930s during the Depression to the improvements in rural life following the creation of the Rural Electrification Administration and the resulting growth of electric cooperatives.

In his essay, Willberg notes that in the 18 months following the passage of the bill to create the REA, co-ops extended electric service to half a million American farms.

He went on to emphasize that these member-owned co-ops not only provide electricity but also participate in community service projects, economic development efforts and charitable volunteer work.

Willberg is enrolled in honors classes in his school district. He is a three-year member of the Rosebud-Lott Cougar baseball team and also plays golf. He is a member of the local National FFA Organization and holds the office of treasurer. He is a member of the Ag Mechanics team. Willberg exhibits goats and has won numerous awards at the county level. He also shows commercial steers. Willberg is a member of the Catholic Youth Organization at Church of the Visitation and the emergency responder program, C.E.R.T. team.

He is looking forward to visiting our nation's capital and representing Heart of Texas EC on the Government-in-Action Youth Tour.

Heart of Texas EC sponsors the Youth Tour Program in conjunction with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and Texas Electric Cooperatives.



## Brazos EPC Youth Tour Winner

**CONGRATULATIONS TO MACEY MALCIK**, the 2016 Brazos Electric Power Cooperative winner of the Government-in-Action Youth Tour. Brazos EPC awarded Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative the honor of selecting its Youth Tour sponsorship. Malcik is the daughter of Heart of Texas EC members Roy and Kim Malcik of Temple. She is a 10th-grader at Rogers High School.

Her winning entry was titled, "Bringing Rural America Into the Light." She compared the percentages of Americans lacking or benefiting from electric service in the 1930s: 90 percent of urban dwellers had power, while 90 percent of rural dwellers did not. In her essay, Malcik notes that not only did the co-ops bring light and electricity to rural Americans, but they also played a major role in the growth of agricultural and rural business.

Malcik is a member of the Catholic Youth Organization and is a scripture reader at her church. She is active in the Czech heritage society SPJST, participating in District 2 and State Youth Achievement Day, as well as Leader-in-Training in District 2. She serves as SPJST Lodge 24 Youth Club president.

Malcik is a member of Rogers Future Farmers of America, participating in the Green-hand Radio team, Senior Farm Business Management team and Senior Quiz team. She also competes in UIL events and is a 4-H member. She is a member of the Temple Christian School junior varsity Lady Eagles volleyball, basketball and softball teams, and also participates in track and field, and in summer league volleyball and basketball. Malcik has been an art exhibitor at Temple CAC and Temple College events. She is a member of the National Honor Society. She was vice president of her freshman class and the homecoming duchess.



## Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative

*Operating in Bell, Bosque, Coryell, Falls, Hamilton, McLennan and Milam counties*

### CEO AND GENERAL MANAGER

Rick Haile

### DIRECTORS

Garland Cook, District 1  
DeWayne Draeger, District 6  
Kermit Dreyer, District 7  
Paul Edge, District 2  
Dan Foster, District 9  
Kenneth Hollas, District 3  
Bobby Nawara, District 4  
Allen Shows, District 5  
Larry Stock, District 8



## Contact Us

### McGREGOR OFFICE

**(254) 840-2871** local  
**1-800-840-2957** toll-free  
1111 S. Johnson Drive • P.O. Box 357  
McGregor, TX 76657

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Drive-thru 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

### ROSEBUD OFFICE

**(254) 231-0444** local  
**1-800-840-2957** toll-free  
159 Loop 265 • P.O. Box 598  
Rosebud, TX 76570

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

### CREDIT/DEBIT CARD PAYMENTS

Online at [hotec.coop](http://hotec.coop)  
By phone at 1-855-399-2688

### FIND US ON THE WEB

[hotec.coop](http://hotec.coop)





The Cameron Yoemen baseball team has a new home, The Yards of Cameron. Phase 1 of the \$18 million sports complex is complete and includes Field #1, Founders Hall, the 44 Farms Farmers Market, a hike-and-bike trail and outdoor play area.

# The Yards of Cameron

*Community organizations work together to build state-of-the-art sports complex*

**IN SPRING, A YOUNG MAN'S THOUGHTS** turn to baseball. He dreams of home runs, stolen bases, double plays and, maybe one day, playing in the big leagues.

That dream became a little brighter for one Central Texas team when the Cameron Yoemen opened their 2016 season at “the finest field in high school baseball,” as described by Cameron Future Foundation President Bob McClaren during opening day ceremonies. “This will be the home of the greatest baseball experience for young people,” McClaren says.

The first game at the new field was the annual Yoemen Alumni game held in February. It was followed by other opening day activities after the dedication and ribbon cutting.

McClaren's enthusiasm is contagious when he talks about The Yards of Cameron. He was instrumental in ensuring that this field of dreams became a reality.

“An exciting thing happened six, maybe seven years ago. A young man moved back to Cameron and developed 44 Farms,” said Cameron Industrial Foundation President Jim Camp. “We could see some excitement in that young man, so we immediately got him involved in the industrial foundation.”

The idea of building the sports complex began in 2009 when the Industrial Foundation began looking for ways to improve the economic future of Cameron.

Also participating in the development of the project are the Cameron Economic Development Corporation, City of Cameron and Cameron Independent School District.

Cameron EDC purchased the land in 2012. A \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Agency funded various infrastructure improve-

ments. Funding through EDC has kept the project on track. Then, in 2014, Cameron ISD joined the project, funding the construction of the baseball field through a voter-approved bond package.

Phase 1 of the \$18 million project is complete and includes Field #1 with synthetic turf, a fieldhouse and batting cages, Founders Hall, 44 Farms Farmers Market, a hike-and-bike trail, outdoor play space and paved parking.

Two more baseball fields will be added as part of Phase 2 construction. Phase 3 will include three softball fields, additional walkways, restrooms and storage buildings. There are also four sites available for future retail development.

About an hour from the College Station, Waco and Austin areas, and within the circle of Dallas, Houston and San Antonio, The Yards will provide a first-class facility for youth baseball and softball tournaments, and playoff games.

What does it take to build a field of dreams? It takes years of work and community cooperation.

Cameron Mayor Connie Anderle said it best, “We would not be standing here ... without the vision and determination of many individuals and organizations.”

Cameron has proven that a community working together can achieve great things.

The sports complex is just off Highway 77/190 at 301 Adams Ave. in Cameron. For more information on The Yards of Cameron, contact Executive Director Ginger Watkins at (254) 697-4970 or visit [theyardsofcameron.com](http://theyardsofcameron.com).

Inquiries for information about using the baseball field should be directed to Cameron ISD at (254) 697-3902.

# Operation Round Up

*Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Making a difference in our communities!*



**OPERATION ROUND UP** is a voluntary program in which residential electric bills are rounded upward to the nearest dollar. For more information, visit [hotec.coop](http://hotec.coop).



**MOFFAT COMMUNITY CENTER**

Operation Round Up Trust Board Member Charles Boyd presents a \$1,000 Operation Round Up check to Edgar Bounds, president of the Moffat Community Center. Also pictured from Moffat Community Center are Board Member Jim Wingo, Secretary Carol Wingo and Treasurer Cheryl Hinkley.

- Central Texas Senior Ministry ..... \$2,500
- Economic Opportunities Adv. Corp. .... \$2,500
- Golinda Volunteer Fire Department ..... \$2,500
- Levita Volunteer Fire Department ..... \$2,500
- Moffat Community Center ..... \$1,000
- Jonesboro Community Center ..... \$1,000
- Westphalia Celebration Park ..... \$1,000
- The Contemporaries ..... \$500



**CENTRAL TEXAS SENIOR MINISTRY**

CTSM Director Paula Owen accepts a \$2,500 Operation Round Up check from Operation Round Up Trust Board Member Charles Boyd.



**JONESBORO COMMUNITY CENTER**

Henry Shipley accepts a \$1,000 Operation Round Up check from Board Member Charles Boyd.



**GOLINDA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Golinda Fire Chief Quincy Lee accepts a \$2,500 Operation Round Up check from HOTE District Manager Deidre Lauterbach.



**WESTPHALIA CELEBRATION PARK**

Emily Hering accepts a \$1,000 Operation Round Up check from HOTE District Manager Deidre Lauterbach.



**LEVITA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Jackie Featherston accepts a \$2,500 Operation Round Up check from Board Member Charles Boyd.



**THE CONTEMPORARIES**

Cheryl Hinkley and Joell Bedwell accept a \$500 Operation Round Up check from Board Member Charles Boyd.

# Heart of Texas eBiz Online Account Services

*Paying your bill is as easy as clicking a mouse.*

**HEART OF TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** recently upgraded its online account services program offered through eBiz. This makes it easier for our members to manage their accounts, and provides additional useful options.

To access your account, go to HOTEK's website at hotec.coop and click "Online Bill Pay."

The screen shot below shows the information new eBiz users need to set up their account.

## BASIC SCREEN

Once a member logs in to an account, the basic screen appears as shown below. There are four sections.

- ▶ **Consumer Information Box:** shows account holder information.
- ▶ **Message Box:** shows correspondence from HOTEK.
- ▶ **What accounts are linked to this eBiz sign on:** This will automatically link all accounts with the same base account (all subs), and any accounts that you add to your online profile.
- ▶ **Action Box:** This is the section where you can expand or collapse the menu on the left to view account details, make payments (when applicable) or make certain changes to the account or profile.

Account-Sub	Service	Service Address	Prior Balance	Balance
9999999-001	Electric	1111 S. JOHNSON DR	0.00	0.00
9999999-003	Electric	1111 S. JOHNSON DR	0.00	0.00
9999999-004	Electric	1111 S. JOHNSON DR	0.00	0.00
9999999-005	Electric	1111 S. JOHNSON DR	0.00	0.00
			Total due	0.00

## WHO CAN MAKE ONLINE OR CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS?

Any member can make online or credit card payments. HOTEK accepts credit card payments (VISA, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express), EFTs (electronic funds transfers) or e-checks. E-checks are not accepted on accounts that are in collections.

**New eBiz users must create an account.**

Automatic credit card sign-up and maintenance will be available in the future along with e-bills.

## ACCOUNT INFORMATION

The Account Information area also has three different sections that each have separate menu options: Account, Communication and Profiles. The screen below shows the information available under the Account menu.

- Pay Your Bill
- Current Billing
- Billing History
- Payment History
- Usage History
- Bill Calculator
- Add Account

- Pay your bill.
- Current Billing - View current billing information for your account, make a payment.
- Billing History - View billing history information for your account.
- Payment History - View payments on your account.
- Usage History - Chart your service usage by date.
- Bill Calculator - Get an estimate of your next bill from your meter reading.
- Add Account - Manage another account by adding it to your profile.

▶ **Pay Your Bill:** (See screen shot below.)

Account-Sub	Service Address	Notes	Due Date	Prior Balance	Current Balance	Payment
9999999-001	1111 S JOHNSON DR		Mar 21, 2016	0.00	0.00	0.00
9999999-003	1111 S JOHNSON DR		Mar 10, 2016	0.00	0.00	0.00
9999999-004	1111 S JOHNSON DR		Mar 28, 2016	0.00	0.00	0.00
9999999-005	1111 S JOHNSON DR		Mar 3, 2016	0.00	0.00	0.00
9999999-006	HWY 77		Mar 15, 2016	0.00	0.00	0.00

Payment amount \$ 0.00

Processing status: ●●●●●

Payment entry.

▶ **Current Billing:** This shows a recap of what was billed for the account highlighted in the account information (middle section of

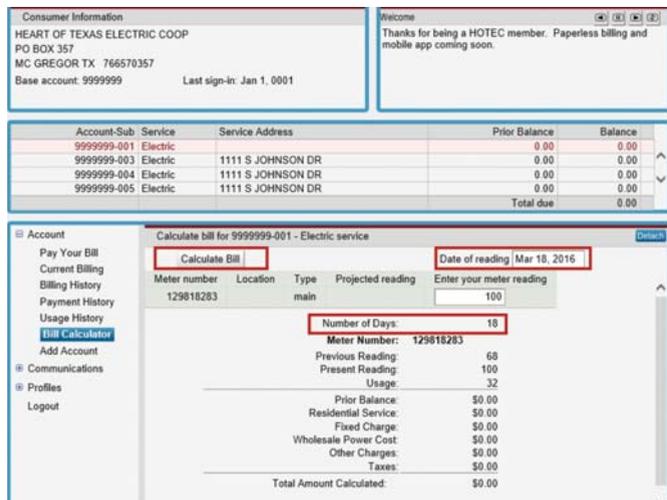
the page) for the last billing cycle.

► **Billing History:** This shows the last 12 bills. You can view it either by dollar amount or by kilowatt-hours.

► **Payment History:** This shows the payment history for the date range selected. It includes payments processed ONLY in the HOTEV system (if billing corrections, transfers of account balances or adjustments are part of the amount due, those are not shown in the payments sections).

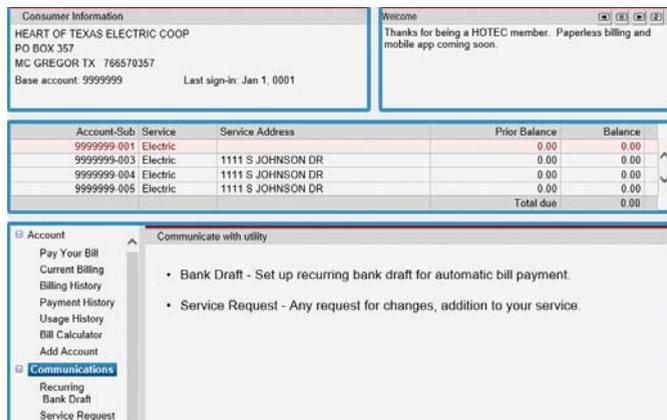
► **Usage History:** Select the desired date range and view a graph or table of this account's usage. This information can be downloaded.

► **Bill Calculator:** Enter the meter reading and the date the meter was read. Click Calculate Bill. Please note "Number of Days" billed.



► **Add Account:** This does not change the membership status but allows a user to view total amount due AND make payments on eligible accounts. No additional right or access is granted through this option.

## COMMUNICATIONS

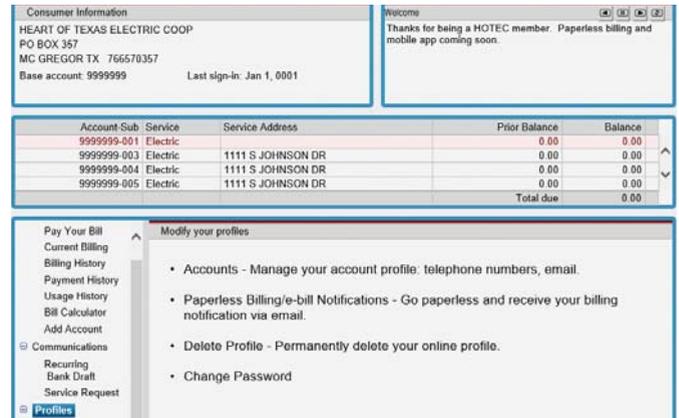


► **Recurring Bank Draft**

► **Recurring Credit Card:** Coming soon

► **Service Request:** Send an email asking for assistance with this option. Please note that additional forms may be required for disconnects, connects, changes in membership or requests for new service.

## PROFILES



► **Accounts:** Shows all account information, including address, phone number(s), email and added accounts. If you make changes to your phone number or email address, please note that your HOTEV account also will be updated automatically. (See screen shot below.)

**New:** If you have an account that you would like to make payments on, or if you assist with bill management (such as for a family member or elder who has asked for your help) but the account does not belong to you, you can now add that account to your profile by selecting Add Account. If you add an account, you will be able to do the following things: make a payment (as allowed); view current and prior billing(s); view usage history; or send an email for the service request.



► **Add Account:** Accounts added to your profile do not make you a joint member or responsible for the bill, nor relieve the member or account holder(s) of their responsibility to pay on time. No additional collection or notifications will take place based on this feature.

► **Account information:** Also includes the last four digits of the Social Security number of the account holder and driver's license number, if on file. SSN numbers CANNOT be changed via eBiz. You can also add a challenge phrase or change your password.

► **E-Billing Enrollment:** Coming soon

► **Delete Profile:** This deletes your online access, not your account with HOTEV. You would have to recreate a profile to view or make payments in the future.

► **Change Password:** This is where you enter your password to and create and verify a new one.

► **Logout:** This will log you out of the online account system. If you have questions, call 1-800-840-2957.

# Put Money Back in Your Pocket With HOTEK Rebates

HEART OF TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE and its power supplier, Brazos Electric Power Cooperative, are proud to offer the Energy-Efficiency Rebate Program to our members. This program is designed to encourage cooperative members to select cost-effective, energy-efficient measures to reduce the cost of power in their homes or businesses.

If you took advantage of the rebates in 2015, you are still eligible in 2016. Members wanting to redeem rebates need to provide proof of service or repair made after January 31, 2016.

**The following rebates are available to our Heart of Texas EC members.**

## Lightbulbs

- ▶ FREE lightbulbs

## Home Energy Audit—HVAC Tuneup

- ▶ Up to \$75 rebate on a HVAC audit and tuneup  
*Proof of both the audit and completed work required*

## Ceiling Insulation Upgrade

- ▶ \$275 rebate with upgrade from R0–R8 to R38+ (AC and resistance heating)  
*For existing homes only*

## Heat Pump Rebate

- ▶ \$100 rebate for 15-SEER heat pump and \$200 rebate for 16-SEER heat pump  
*For new or existing homes (all-electric only)*

## High-Efficiency Water Heater

- ▶ \$75 rebate on the purchase of water heater with a .92 EF or greater  
*For installation in a residence or business on HOTEK services*

## Commercial Lighting

- ▶ **Fixture Upgrade** – 20 cent rebate per watt saved on fixture upgrade
- ▶ **T-8 Bulb Replacement** – 32–28 W, \$1 rebate per bulb
- ▶ **T-8 Bulb Replacement** – 32–25 W, \$1.50 rebate per bulb

*Maximum rebate on commercial lighting:  
\$2,500 per BOD*

## Solar Installation

- ▶ 10 cent rebate per watt on solar installation  
*Maximum reimbursement per member: \$1,000*



ALEXRATHS | ISTOCK.COM

HAPPY  
MOTHER'S DAY  
SUNDAY, MAY 8

**Motherhood: All love  
begins and ends there.**

—ROBERT BROWNING



ISTOCKPHOTO | THINKSTOCK

MEMORIAL DAY  
MONDAY, MAY 30

Heart of Texas EC thanks all veterans for their service. Our offices will be closed in observance of the holiday. Please call 1-800-840-2957 to report an outage.

AMYBERK | ISTOCK.COM

# Electrical Safety Month

**May is National Electrical Safety Month.** Here are 31 tips (one per day in May) from Heart of Texas EC to help keep you and your family safe.

- 1** Children should always ask an adult for help when plugging in or removing cords from an outlet.
- 2** Bulb wattage matters. A lightbulb with wattage that is too high for the light fixture can overheat the fixture, causing a fire hazard.
- 3** Tamper-resistant receptacles help keep curious little ones safe.
- 4** Surge protectors can help prevent damage to expensive computers, appliances and other electrical equipment.
- 5** Big-screen TVs and computer equipment need to breathe. Make sure to leave plenty of space around these items for proper ventilation.
- 6** Working outdoors? Play it safe and use a wooden or fiberglass ladder, and keep at least 10 feet away from power lines.
- 7** Never touch anyone or anything that's in contact with a power line—the lines may still be live. Stay a safe distance away and call for help immediately.
- 8** Smoke detectors in your home should be tested every month to ensure they are properly working.
- 9** Never place extension cords in high-traffic areas or under carpets where they pose a potential tripping hazard or are exposed to excessive wear.
- 10** Using a window air-conditioning unit? Make sure the electrical circuit and the outlet are able to handle the load.
- 11** When you're cooking, set a timer to remind you to check on food that is simmering or in the oven. Always double-check to make sure burners and appliances are turned off when you're done.
- 12** Make a map showing which fuse or circuit breaker controls each switch, light and outlet in your home.
- 13** Smoke detectors should be installed in every bedroom, outside of each sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- 14** If you're working outdoors in a damp location, inspect all electrical cords and equipment being used, and make sure they are in good condition.
- 15** Recurring tripped circuit breakers or multiple blown fuses can signify a serious and dangerous electrical problem. Contact a licensed electrician immediately.
- 16** Traditional lightbulbs generate a great amount of heat, so if you haven't switched to cooler CFLs or LEDs, make sure to place lamps away from flammable items.
- 17** Flickering or dimming lights could mean bigger problems ahead. Contact a qualified electrician to check your home's wiring.
- 18** Frayed or damaged extension cords are dangerous and should never be used.
- 19** A wobbling ceiling fan can wear out the fan's motor. Turn it off and tighten mounting screws to correct the problem.
- 20** Power strips are great—but if you are relying on them too much, you may need to have a qualified electrician install more outlets in your home.
- 21** Anytime you see an overhead power line, you should assume the line is energized, even if the wire is down or appears to be insulated.
- 22** For outdoor work, use lighting and power tools that bear the label of an independent testing laboratory and are made for outdoor use.
- 23** Flying a kite is great for outdoor fun, but remember always to be mindful of overhead power lines.
- 24** Never throw water on an electrical fire. Use your chemical fire extinguisher instead.
- 25** Install lightbulbs with extended lifespans in hard-to-reach locations to limit the number of times you have to climb a ladder to change them.
- 26** Water and electricity do not mix. Keep electrical devices away from water.
- 27** Electrical equipment and devices should bear the mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
- 28** When cooking, remember to keep appliance cords away from hot surfaces like the oven, stove or toaster.
- 29** DIY project for the home? Always turn off the power to the circuit that you plan to work on by switching off the circuit breaker in the main service panel.
- 30** Use covers on outdoor power outlets, especially near swimming pools.
- 31** If using a portable generator, make sure it is properly connected to prevent dangerous backfeeding, and always use appropriately rated extension cords.

## #ElectricalSafetyMonth

We're committed to electrical safety excellence for our members and employees.