Taylor Report

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.

ATTENTION!!
3-PHASE PEAK ALERT MEMBERS

When you receive a phone message from the alert center advising of a "Peak Alert" during the months of December thru February, you have to reduce demand to -0- (zero) during the hours of 5 PM to 9 PM. "On-Peak" demand charges are $30.38 per kilowatt (KW) during the winter months.

TIME-OF-DAY MEMBERS

The on-peak hours will change in December to 4:00 PM — 10:00 PM.

OFFICE CLOSING

The office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 24th and 25th for Christmas and Tuesday, January 1st. Have a safe and blessed holiday season from everyone at Taylor Electric.

Board Report – October 2018

- Approved September disbursements totaling $585,541.45, reviewed the month's credit card charges, accepted 15 new member applications, and August construction in the amount of $224,174.77.
- Reviewed financial results through September 30, 2018 with year-to-date margins of $500,693. Eight outages occurred in September, with 97 total for the year, totaling just over 0.4 hours per member of outage time. Outage time is approximately one-half of the 2017 total to date.
- 57 accounts were processed for collection in September owing just over $21,500 (compared to 63 accounts owing just under $23,000 in 2017). They were given notice of intent to disconnect service if not paid in full within 10 days.
- Two applications for discounted early retirement of capital credits to estates were approved with total capital credits of $2,475.17 to be paid out at the net present value of $866.00.
- Policy No. 2.05, Rented Yard Lights, was amended to include a monthly rental rate of $13 for all dusk-to-dawn lights except 40-watt LED and 250-and 400-watt lights.
- The Dairyland Power report included: the financial report showing a loss of $700,000 for the month which was $1.2 Million better than budget; year-to-date Operating Margins are $7.9 Million compared to $10.5 Million in 2017 with Total Margins of $15.2 Million compared to $17.9 Million in 2017; a review of PURPA rules as they apply to renewable generation; and, a tour of Dairyland facilities by board members attending, "A Day With Your G&T".
- The Member Appreciation was held at the Centennial Community Center in Stetsonville on Thursday October 4th with breakfast served again this year. It was noted that the member turnout was just short of last year, with many positive comments from the members who attended.
- The Board reviewed the member complaint log, delinquent accounts list, Taylor County Broadband Committee report, and proposed amendments to the labor contract with IBEW Local 953.
- Director Engel reviewed the October 8th Safety Meeting held at the Co-op including: meeting of the Co-op's employees' Safety Committee; development of goals for the Co-op's Safety Improvement Plan; developing an Emergency Action Plan; fire action plans and fire extinguisher training; substation work procedures; and, close calls at other utilities were discussed.
- A proposed agenda for the Co-op's Strategic Planning session was reviewed. Two experts from CFC, the Co-op's lender, will facilitate the strategic planning sessions, which includes employee input.
- The Board appointed the following members to the 2019 Annual Meeting Nominating Committee: Frank Bohte, Darlene Peche, and Carmen Thiede, with Juleen Hallgren and Steve Suchomel as alternates.
- It was noted that a 1996 loan taken out to buy-out of the federal lending program under RUS has been paid in full.
- The Board reviewed the Cooperative's policies on Identity Theft and Privacy, with no recommended changes.