



DECEMBER 2025

CO-OP CURRENT



DECK THE HALLS SAFELY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

KEEP THE SEASON SAFER BY FOLLOWING SAFETY TIPS TO PREVENT DECORATIONS FROM STARTING A HOME FIRE.

Overloaded circuits and sparks can be significant safety issues this time of year. The National Fire Protection Association reports that U.S. fire departments respond to an estimated 835 residential fires each year that begin with decorations other than Christmas trees. On average, these incidents result in three civilian deaths, 30 injuries, and about \$14 million in direct property damage annually.

This holiday season is a good time to ensure you have smoke alarms on each level of your home. Test them once a month and replace the batteries regularly. Also, develop and practice a home safety plan so everyone knows what to do in a fire or other emergency.

Visit sciremc.com for more safety tips and information.

HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN DECORATING YOUR HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS:

Choose decorations that are flame-resistant or flame-retardant.

Make sure you use indoor and outdoor lights for their intended purposes.

Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions.

If you use a real tree, select one with fresh, green needles that don't fall off when touched.

Keep the tree at least 3 feet away from any heat sources and out of the way of exits.

Add water to the tree every day.

Don't use lit candles to decorate the tree.

CONSERVE & SAVE



Lower Energy Usage in Low Temperatures

You might notice higher energy use in the winter months. This happens because the difference between outdoor temperatures and the temperature you set in your home is greatest during this time of year. Heating your home to make up for the cold requires more energy, which can lead to higher bills.

Here are some tips to help you conserve energy.



TURN YOUR THERMOSTAT DOWN

Not by a lot, just a few degrees. Then stay comfy in your cozy sweaters and socks at home. You can lower your thermostat even more when you're away from home or sleeping.



TURN FANS CLOCKWISE

Turning your ceiling fan clockwise pushes warm air down from the ceiling, helping your room feel warmer and reducing energy use.



KEEP OUT THE DRAFT

Keep warm air in and cold air out by sealing cracks around doors and windows.



CONSIDER UPGRADING

In the market for a new appliance? Select an energy-friendly model.

2025-2026

John D. Rudd Memorial Scholarship

SCI REMC continuously looks for ways to support our community.

That's why each year we assist our young members in their pursuit of higher education by awarding scholarships to our graduating seniors.



HOW TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP:

Visit sciremc.com/scholarship to apply and learn more.

Application deadline is Feb. 28, 2026.