



MAY 2025

# CO-OP CURRENT



## ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH



May is National Electrical Safety Month, dedicated to raising awareness and promoting safe electrical practices. SCI REMC is committed to helping members prevent electrical fires, injuries, and hazards at home and in the community.

One safety concern is overloading outlets. Overloading outlets with too many devices often leads to reliance on extension cords, which should only be used temporarily to reduce safety risks.

When circuits handle more power than they should, breakers trip to prevent overheating. Without this safeguard, overloaded wires can overheat and spark fires.

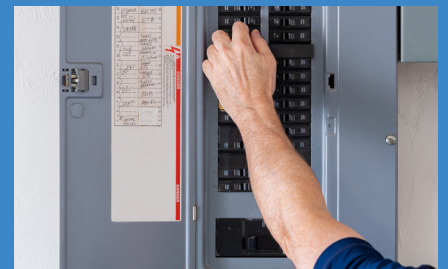
Signs that your home circuits may be overloaded include:

- Flickering, blinking, or dimming lights
- Warm outlet or switch covers
- Burning odors from outlets or switches
- Frequently tripped circuit breakers
- Crackling, sizzling, or buzzing sounds from receptacles
- Mild shocks or tingling sensations when touching appliances, receptacles, or switches
- Power tools, appliances, or electronics not operating at full capacity

If you notice any of these signs, check your circuit panel, typically located in the basement or garage, for any tripped or partially tripped breakers. Turn the affected switch off and then back on.

To prevent overloads, SCI REMC recommends mapping out your home's circuits. Grab a notepad and pencil to document which outlets and devices are connected to each circuit. Doing this now can help you manage your electrical load and avoid future issues.

SCI REMC remains dedicated to educating our members on electrical safety. By understanding your home's electrical system and taking proactive safety measures, you can create a safer environment for yourself and your family. Always consult a licensed electrician for questions or concerns. For more tips and resources, visit our website at [www.sciremc.com](http://www.sciremc.com).



### HOW TO RESET A TRIPPED BREAKER

Many of us understand how to operate our personal electronics, but what about your home's breaker box? Here's what to do if your breaker is tripped:

1. Unplug or turn off appliances in the affected room.
2. Find your main breaker panel and open the cover.
3. Locate the tripped breaker or blown fuse. A tripped circuit breaker will be in the "off" position or in a middle position between "on" and "off."
4. To reset the breaker, switch it to the "off" position and then back to "on."

If the problem persists, there may be additional serious issues. Contact an electrician to identify the problem.

*Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International*

## NEVER PLUG YOUR PORTABLE GENERATOR DIRECTLY INTO YOUR HOME



Plugging a portable generator directly into a wall outlet (a dangerous practice called “backfeeding”) can create serious safety hazards, both for you and utility workers restoring power if you’re experiencing an outage.

### Backfeeding Can Electrocute Lineworkers and Others

Your electrical panel connects to the grid, and without a transfer switch, a generator can send power backward through power lines. Lineworkers may think the lines are off, but backfeeding actually powers the line and can electrocute anything touching it.

### Fire and Equipment Damage Risks

Backfeeding can overload your system, causing fires or appliance damage. When power is restored, colliding currents from the grid and your generator may cause a surge, destroying the generator or causing an explosion.

*Only plug appliances into portable generators.*



# Hot Deal!

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# SURVEY TIME

You – our cooperative members – are our guiding force. This spring, we are conducting a survey to gather your input and shape our services.

In May, SCI REMC members may receive a survey invitation via phone call or email. Your responses will help ensure that we are serving our community effectively, planning to meet local needs, and taking opportunities to improve how we serve you.

As a community-owned cooperative, our members are our purpose. We exist to serve you, and we are committed to providing the highest level of service now and in the future. Thank you for your membership and your input!