

**LYON-COFFEY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

# EVENTS



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### FROM THE MANAGER

## Merry Christmas from Lyon-Coffey

As a nation, we have been blessed and far removed from the turmoil and danger that is experienced around the world on a daily basis.

During this holiday season let us pause and give thanks for this wonderful gift of peace and freedom. Let us give thanks to the ones responsible for this gift—the American soldier.

It is a gift that can never be reciprocated in full, and only asks for remembrance in return.

Many American soldiers will not come home from their stations around the world to be with their families and friends for the holidays. However, rest assured that they will stand steadfast and strong, continuing to protect us and fight for freedom in places with conditions that we cannot even begin to imagine.

May God bless them and their families, and may He hold them safe in His arms until they come home again.



Scott Whittington

### A Soldier's Christmas

#### AUTHOR UNKNOWN

*'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone, in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.*

I had come down the chimney with presents to give, and to see just who in this little house lived.

As I looked all about, a strange sight I did see, no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stockings by mantle, just boots filled with sand, on the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.

With medals and badges, awards of all kinds, a sobering thought came through my mind.

For this house was different, it was dark and dreary, the home of a soldier, I could now see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone, curled up on the floor in this

one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder, not how I picture a United States soldier.

Was this the hero of whom I'd just read? Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night, owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world, the children would play, and grown ups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year, because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wondering how many lay alone, on a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.

The very thought brought a tear to my eye, I dropped to one knee and started to cry.

The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice, "Santa don't cry, for this life is my choice".

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more, my life is my God, my country, my corps.

The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep, I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours, so silent and still, as we both shivered from the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave, on that cold, dark night, this guardian of honor, so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure, whispered, "Carry on Santa... it's Christmas Day... all is secure.

One look at my watch, and I knew he was right, Merry Christmas my friend... and to all a good night.

## Thank You!

A special thanks to all Lyon-Coffey Electric Co-op members who took the time to participate in our customer survey in November, either by telephone surveys or online at our Web site.

We sincerely appreciate your opinions. It helps us serve you better!

## Cold Weather Rule

The provisions of the Cold Weather Rule establish the disconnection procedures for any qualifying Kansas Residential Member of the Cooperative throughout the cold weather period, which extends from November 15 through March 15 for Lyon-Coffey Electric members. It is not a time period when you are not obligated to pay your electric bills.

The Cooperative will not disconnect a Member's residence between November 15 and March 15 when the local National Weather Service office forecasts the temperature will drop below 35 degrees Fahrenheit within the following 24-hour period unless:

- ▶ It is at the Member's request;
- ▶ The service is abandoned;
- ▶ A dangerous condition exists on the Member's premises;
- ▶ The Member violates any rule of the Cooperative which adversely affects the safety of the Member or other persons, or the physical integrity of the Cooperative's delivery system; or
- ▶ The Member causes or permits unauthorized interference with, or diversion or use of (meter bypass), electric service situated or delivered on or about the Member's premises.

The Cooperative will make at least one telephone call attempt with the Member of record or make one attempt at a personal contact with the Member of record on the day prior to termination of service.

The responsibility of the Member is to contact the Cooperative to make payment arrangements that are agreeable with both the Member and the Cooperative if you know that you will not be able to pay your bill before the delinquent date, which is normally the 24th of each month. Do not wait until the day of disconnection and expect the Cooperative to work with you at that point.

The Cold Weather Rule is to protect consumers from disconnection when the weather is extremely cold for you and your family's protection and the protection of your property. Please give us a call as soon as you know that your electric bill is going to be difficult for you to pay.

## Light Up Your World & Save Money

As a nation we use more energy during the holidays—mostly due to holiday lighting. A 2003 study estimated that the 37.1 billion miniature incandescent lights used during the holidays consume 2,220 gigawatt-hours of electricity annually. That's a big number.

Light Emitting Diode (LED) lamps offer an energy-efficient solution. From the National Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C., to the Times Square New Year's Eve Ball in New York, many of our nation's beloved holiday landmarks are going green with LED illumination.

Even if your normal outdoor lighting display does not cause aircraft to circle your house, using LEDs can save you money. Replacing 10 strings of incandescent mini lights with LED mini lights can save about \$10 every season (assuming the lights are on eight hours a day for 30 days with an average cost of electricity of 11.4 cents per kilowatt-hour). Decorate a six-foot tree with LEDs and save \$4. Doesn't sound like much, but your tree will only cost 38 cents to light for the entire season.

According to the ENERGY STAR® Web site, if all the decorative lights sold in America this year were ENERGY STAR®-qualified LEDs, we'd save over two billion kilowatt-hours.

LEDs are diodes (electronic components that let electricity pass in only one direction) that emit visible light when electricity is applied, much like a light bulb.

### Energy-Efficient

LEDs use 75 to 90 percent less electricity than incandescent holiday lights, saving you money and helping save the environment.

### Inexpensive

Stands of indoor/outdoor lights can be

purchased for as little as \$9.99 a strand.

### Longer-Lasting

LED lights last up to 100,000 hours, compared to less than 2,000 hours for incandescent lights. Assuming you use your holiday lights eight hours a day between Thanksgiving and New Year's, one string of LEDs could last over 300 years!

### More Durable

Since LEDs use light emitting diodes to produce light, there are no filaments to burn out; no bulbs to replace. Just plug them in and they're ready for use.

Also, since the bulbs are plastic, rather than glass, there's less chance of breaking lights while you're stringing them up, and less time spent fussing over how they're packed up after the holidays. Just toss them in a box, and forget about them until next year.

### Safer

Unlike traditional incandescent holiday lights, LED lights do not get hot—a big plus if you use them on a real tree or anywhere inside your home.

### Holiday Safety Tips

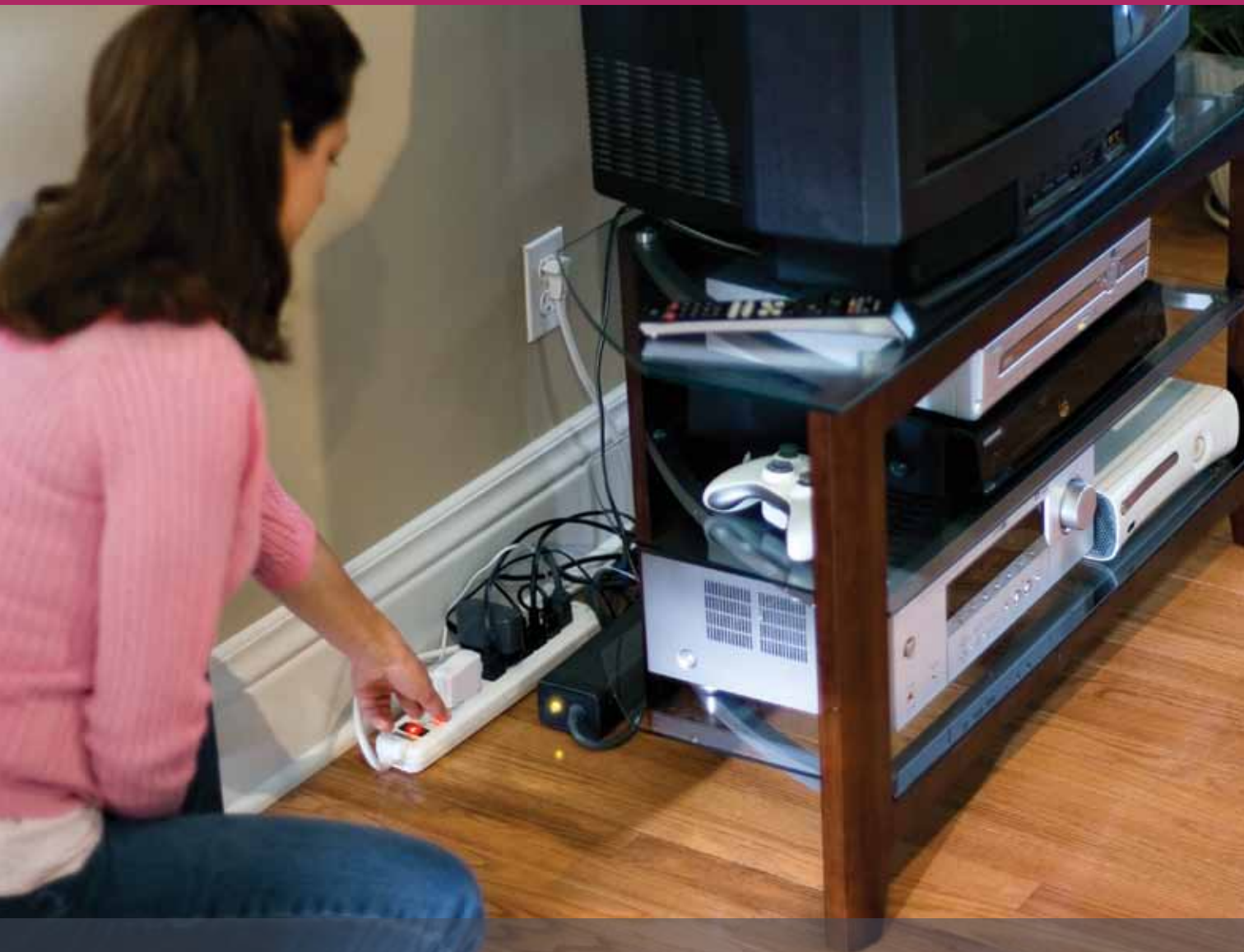
No matter which type of holiday lighting you use, follow these simple safety tips:

- ▶ Make sure the wire for the lights you buy has a holographic "UL Listed" tag.
- ▶ Discard any light strings with broken sockets, frayed or bare wires or loose connections.
- ▶ If you are installing lights outdoors, use light strings and extension cords rated for exterior use.

## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

The Lyon-Coffey Electric office will be closed on December 25 and January 1 to celebrate the holidays.





# I PULLED THE PLUG ON MY ENERGY COSTS JUST BY PULLING A FEW PLUGS.

TVs, gaming consoles, DVRs, cable boxes and almost anything that has a plug uses energy even when it's off. I'm saving around \$200 a year by pulling plugs and turning off power strips. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).



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