

Roanoke Electric FLASHES



Celebrating National Electrical Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month and to recognize and celebrate this month, Roanoke Electric Cooperative is encouraging every family to hunt for electrical hazards in the home. We encourage you to identify potential hazards and to make necessary changes and repairs to ensure your family is safe.

Cords

- ❑ Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets as a spark could start an electrical fire.
- ❑ Electrical cords should be discarded if they are cracked or frayed and only used according to their ratings for indoor or outdoor use and power needs.
- ❑ Three-prong plugs should NEVER be altered to fit into a two-prong extension cord or other receptacle.
- ❑ Never nail or staple cords.
- ❑ Always unplug cords by pulling on the plug instead of the cord.

Outlets

- ❑ In homes with small children, put safety covers on unused wall outlets.
- ❑ Avoid overloading outlets. Plug only one high-wattage appliance into each outlet at a time as not to stress the system.
- ❑ If outlets or switches feel warm, shut off the circuit and have them checked by an electrician.
- ❑ Listen for sparks or sizzling sounds in outlets or walls, and

have them checked by an electrician.

- ❑ If you feel a mild shock or tingle when you plug in an appliance, shut off the circuit and call an electrician.

Lights and Lamps

- ❑ Make sure when replacing light bulbs that the lamp's wattage is appropriate. If you smell a burning or rubbery smell, this may be a sign that the wattage level of the light bulb is too high for the lamp.
- ❑ Fluorescent bulbs are cooler and use less electricity, and replacing your incandescent bulbs can help prevent fires.
- ❑ Check to be sure that light bulbs are screwed in securely, but not too tight, to prevent overheating.
- ❑ Check to see that lamps are placed on level surfaces, away from curtains, carpet and other materials that burn easily.
- ❑ Dim or flickering lights may indicate an issue with home wiring or a discrepancy between lamp and light bulb wattage. Check to make sure the bulb wattage is right for that lamp. If it is and lights are still flickering, contact an electrician who will inspect your home's wiring.

Appliances

- ❑ Make sure all appliances have been tested by a certified product safety organization (like Underwriters Laboratories) and

follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.

- ❑ Appliances that take a lot of power to operate, like space heaters, should be plugged directly into an outlet rather than an extension cord. These appliances may draw more current than the cord can carry; it's best to be cautious.
- ❑ NEVER leave appliances plugged in where they may come into contact with water.
- ❑ If an appliance falls into water, DO NOT reach in to pull it out. Turn off the power circuit then unplug the appliance.
- ❑ Do not use electric appliances during a thunderstorm. Doing so not only increases your risk of shock, but many appliances are also susceptible to power surges, so unplug them if possible.
- ❑ If you experience frequent tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses, contact a licensed electrician who can identify the problem.

Please take the time to survey your home and contact Roanoke Electric Cooperative with any questions or concerns.



Mark your calendars for a “Straight Talk About Energy” Community Forum

These “Straight Talk About Energy” community forums are being conducted throughout Roanoke Electric Cooperative’s service districts from now through the end of the year.

Attendees learn about the rising cost of electricity as well as energy efficient measures that can be implemented to help reduce energy consumption, which has the potential to reduce electric bills.

Education is the foundation for a better understanding and that’s Roanoke Electric’s goal — to educate individuals in area communities about ways to save in today’s economy while preserving our environment and resources.

All attendees will receive a gift. Roanoke Electric members will have an opportunity to win Roanoke Bucks, which is money that can be used toward their electric bill.

Seating is limited, so call and reserve your seat today! The next meetings will be held:

- Saturday, May 5, 11:00 a.m.
Cedar Landing Missionary Baptist Church, Windsor
- Tuesday, June 12, 6:00 p.m.
Merchants Mill Pond, Gates
- Saturday, July 21 , 11:00 a.m.
Halifax Agricultural Center, Halifax
- Saturday, October 13, 11:00 a.m.
Northampton County Wellness Center, Jackson



Attendees at a recent forum learned about energy efficient measures to help reduce energy consumption in homes.

If you’re planning to attend, please call our “Straight Talk” message line at (252) 209-2267 and leave your name and event you wish to attend.

Energy efficiency tip

A home energy assessment or energy audit will show what parts of your house use the most energy and suggest the best ways to cut energy costs. You may conduct a simple home energy assessment yourself or contact Roanoke Electric Cooperative for a more detailed assessment. You can also reserve your seat at one of our “Straight Talk About Energy” community forums to learn about Roanoke Electric Cooperative programs and initiatives to improve energy use in homes, how to use efficient and renewable energy technologies, get financial incentives and save energy and money.



*Find your account number
in this newsletter, contact us and win
\$25 Roanoke Bucks!*

Bright ideas + education = grant program

Roanoke Electric Cooperative and North Carolina's electric cooperatives are giving Tar Heel teachers the opportunity to win grants for innovative classroom projects.

The electric co-ops have allocated more than \$600,000 to award teachers across the state during the 2012-2013 school year. Grants of up to \$2,000 are available, and teachers may start applying now.

Teachers can learn more about the program, called Bright Ideas, and apply online at www.ncbrightideas.com. Grants will be awarded to teachers in all disciplines and grade levels for creative, hands-on projects that would otherwise go unfunded.

Roanoke Electric Cooperative is accepting applications now through September 21. Educators who submit their application by the early-bird deadline of August 17 will be entered to win a \$500 Visa gift card.

To apply, educators must submit an application that includes a description of the project's goals, implementation, creative elements and budget 11124-001. Applications will be judged in a competitive evaluation process, and judges will be on the lookout



for projects that feature innovation and creativity.

The Bright Ideas Education Grant program is part of the electric cooperatives' ongoing commitment to North Carolina communities.

Roanoke Electric Cooperative is dedicated to education and is proud to be a supporter of the Bright Ideas Program.

REC's Fridge and Freezer Farewell Program

Did you know that your second refrigerator or freezer costs up to \$150 a year to run? Why not save that money and use it on something you'd really enjoy. The purpose of the "Fridge and Freezer Farewell Program" is to promote the removal of operational, second refrigerators and freezers in residences and to ensure that these appliances are properly dismantled, recycled, and retired.

The Program provides you free pick-up and a \$50 incentive for removing your less efficient refrigerator or freezer permanently from service. You must own the appliance and may only recycle two (2) units in any calendar year. For an appliance to qualify for the program, it must be a secondary appliance in the home, between 10-30 cubic feet in capacity, plugged-in, cooling, and empty. Refrigerators and freezers used in commercial applications do not qualify for the program.

To schedule a pick-up, please register online at: www.gorecycletoday.com or call 1-877-341-2310. Recycle that old, second fridge or freezer in your garage or basement and start getting some "cool" savings today!



Use your Co-op Connections Card and SAVE!

Because you are a member of Roanoke Electric Cooperative, you have the opportunity to receive special discounts from participating local businesses and also businesses in other electric cooperatives' areas across the country.

Nationally, members can save money on hotel lodging, dining, car rentals, online shopping, home and garden, health and fitness and entertainment venues.

Simply present your Co-op Connections card at local participating businesses and receive

discounts. The discounts vary with each business — either a percentage, a set dollar amount or a free item included with purchase.

Need a card? Simply stop by REC's office in Ahoskie or The Roanoke Center in Rich Square. There is no sign up and no fee. Businesses wanting to participate in the program can contact Diana Mitchell at (252) 539-4601 or by email at dmitchell@roanokeelectric.com.

Participating businesses enjoy free advertising and national promotion. "We want our members to start realizing the benefits of using this card," says Mitchell.



Connections Card Business Spotlight

Need electrical work, heating and air installation, repair or services to your home or business? Then contact Co-op Connections participant Joe Harris of NFES Contracting in Conway.

For 15 years, NFES has been offering dependable, quality services at affordable prices. Harris specializes in some of the most-trusted brands like Goodman and Comfortmaker but will service and install the brand of your choice in new construction or existing services 108612-001.

NFES hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday (and weekends for emergencies only). Just present your Co-op Connections card and receive a discount off the service provided (equipment not included).

NFES Contracting
(252) 578-1577

Joe Harris
Electrical, Heating & Air Contractor
Physical Address: 115 E. Main Street
Conway, NC 27820

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 392
Jackson, NC 27845
nfescontracting@yahoo.com

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P.O. Drawer 1326,
Ahoskie, NC 27910
Office: (252) 209-2236
or 1-800-433-2236
For outages call: 1-800-358-9437
For electronic bill payment:
www.roanokeelectric.com
We accept VISA, MasterCard
& E-check.

Editor: Robin Phillips
Visit our web site at:
www.roanokeelectric.com

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Office closed for holiday

Roanoke Electric Cooperative office will be closed on Monday, May 28, in observance of Memorial Day. For emergencies, call (800) 358-9437.

