

Ruralite

2025 Calendar

LANEELECTRIC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



**The sun rises on a cowgirl
and her dog.**
By Theresa Stockard, Idaho—
Clearwater Power Co.



January

DECEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

A 2024 storm covers fir trees in ice in Eugene, Oregon.

By Billy Halvorson, Oregon—
Lane Electric Cooperative

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



1 New Year's Day

2 Hanukkah Ends

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

› First Quarter

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

○ Full Moon

19

20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

21

22

23

24

25

☾ Last Quarter

26

27

28

29

30

31

● New Moon



February

JANUARY 2025							MARCH 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					

Take in the view of Mount Rainier, as seen from west of Eatonville, Washington.

By Rob Benton, Washington—
Ohop Mutual Light Co.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5 › First Quarter	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 ○ Full Moon	13	14 Valentine's Day	15
16	17 Presidents Day	18	19	20 ☾ Last Quarter	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 ● New Moon	28	



March

It's a bad feather day
at the fountain.

By Jim Heric, Oregon—
Lane Electric Cooperative

FEBRUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

APRIL 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6 <small>› First Quarter</small>	7	8
9 <small>Daylight Saving Time Begins</small>	10	11	12	13	14 <small>○ Full Moon</small>	15
16	17 <small>St. Patrick's Day</small>	18	19	20 <small>First Day of Spring</small>	21	22 <small>☾ Last Quarter</small>
23 <small>30</small>	24 <small>31</small>	25	26	27	28	29 <small>● New Moon</small>



April

MARCH 2025							MAY 2025							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
						1						1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
30	31													

An American coot mother feeds her chick among the reeds.

By Jim Chiboucas, California—
Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric
Cooperative

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 ☾ First Quarter	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 ♈ Passover Begins ○ Full Moon
13	14	15	16	17	18 ☾ Good Friday	19
20 ☾ Passover Ends Easter	21	22 ☀ Earth Day	23	24	25	26
☾ Last Quarter	27	28	29	30		
● New Moon						



May

APRIL 2025							JUNE 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30				29	30					

A curious baby fox rests in Lava Hot Springs, Idaho.

By Marilyn Whitesides, Idaho—United Electric Cooperative

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
☾ First Quarter						
11 Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17 Armed Forces Day
	○ Full Moon					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		☾ Last Quarter				
25	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31
	● New Moon					



June

MAY 2025							JULY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	27	28	29	30	31		

Canola fields bloom in the foothills of the Blue Mountains.
 By Ron Ingram, Washington—
 Benton Rural Electric Association

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 First Quarter	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Full Moon	12	13	14 Flag Day
15 Father's Day	16	17	18 Last Quarter	19 Juneteenth	20 First Day of Summer	21
22	23	24	25 New Moon	26	27	28
29	30					 <small>A Touchstone Energy Cooperative</small>




July

JUNE 2025							AUGUST 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30						24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

A paddleboarder glides on Waldo Lake in Oregon's Cascade Mountains.

By Shonda Bartlow, Oregon—Consumers Power Inc.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 First Quarter	3	4 Independence Day	5
6	7	8	9	10 Full Moon	11	12 Lane Electric Annual Meeting
13	14	15	16	17 Last Quarter	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 New Moon	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



August

JULY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

A deer and bird see eye to eye.

By Arlen Ricke, Oregon—
Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



First Quarter

Full Moon

Last Quarter

New Moon

First Quarter



September

AUGUST 2025							OCTOBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2				1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30	31	
31													

A male Bohemian waxwing offers a dragonfly to his mate in a bonding ritual that improves their likelihood of producing chicks.

By Jim Dau, Alaska—
Kotzebue Electric Association

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6
7 ○ Full Moon	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 ☾ Last Quarter	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 ● New Moon	22 Rosh Hashanah First Day of Autumn	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 ☽ First Quarter	30				



October

SEPTEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

NOVEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Waves lap against Twin Rocks in Rockaway Beach, Oregon.

By Sydney Cyrus, Oregon—
Central Electric Cooperative

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Yom Kippur	2	3	4
5	6 ○ Full Moon	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples Day ☾ Last Quarter	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 ● New Moon	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 ☽ First Quarter	30	31 Halloween	



November

OCTOBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

DECEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

The water reflects the sky
at Amsterdam Bay on
Anderson Island, Washington.

By Laura Baughman, Washington—
Tanner Electric Cooperative

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Daylight Saving Time Ends	3	4 Election Day	5 ○ Full Moon	6	7	8
9	10	11 Veterans Day ☾ Last Quarter	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 ● New Moon	20	21	22
23 30	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Day ☽ First Quarter	28	29



December

NOVEMBER 2025							JANUARY 2026							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
						1						1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
30														

Apples remain unpicked south of Candy Mountain in Washington.

By Glenn Edgemon, Washington—Benton Rural Electric Association

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 ○ Full Moon	5	6
7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9	10	11 ☾ Last Quarter	12	13
14 Hanukkah Begins	15	16	17	18	19 ● New Moon	20
21 First Day of Winter	22 Hanukkah Ends	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27 ☽ First Quarter
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			

Electrical Safety

During and After Storms

Severe storms and natural disasters can cause a variety of electrical safety hazards in and around our homes. Lightning, downed power lines and floods are just a few of the serious safety concerns associated with storms. Many of these electrical safety hazards remain long after the storm has passed.

To help protect you from storm-related electrical hazards, the Electrical Safety Foundation International and your electric utility, provide answers to frequently asked safety questions.

Lightning

What should I do if I am caught outside during a lightning storm?

Move to a low point. Lightning hits the tallest available object, so get down low in a crouched position if you are in an exposed area. Stay away from trees. Avoid metal. Don't hold onto metal items like bats, golf clubs, fishing rods, tennis rackets or tools. Stay away from metal sheds, clotheslines, poles and fences.

Stay away from water, including pools, lakes, puddles and anything damp—like grass. Don't stand close to other people. Spread out.

What should I do if I encounter a lightning storm while driving in my car?

Slow down and use extra caution. If possible, pull off the road into a safe area. Do not leave your vehicle during a thunderstorm. A

vehicle is considered safe during a thunderstorm if it is fully enclosed with a metal top such as a hard-topped car, minivan, bus, truck, etc. While inside a safe vehicle do not use electronic devices.

Are we safe from lightning if we stay inside the house?

Follow these indoor lightning safety tips to help keep your family safe inside while it's storming outside:

- Stay away from windows and doors.
- If possible, unplug electronic equipment before the storm arrives. Avoid contact with electrical equipment and cords during storms.

- Avoid contact with water and plumbing, including sinks, baths and faucets.

Power Lines

What should I do if I spot a downed power line?

If you see a downed power line, move at least 10 feet away from the line and anything touching it. The human body is a ready conductor of electricity.

The proper way to move away from the line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock.

Electricity wants to move from a high voltage zone to a low voltage zone—and it could do that through your body.

What can I do to help someone who has come in contact with a downed power line?

If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with a downed line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim.

Call 911 instead.

Can I use something that is not metal to try to move a downed power line myself?

Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or stick. Even non-conductive materials like wood or cloth, if slightly wet, can conduct electricity and then electrocute you.

What should I do if I see a downed power line in the street while driving my car?

Do not drive over downed power lines. If you are in your car and it is in contact with the downed line, stay in your car. Tell others to stay away from your vehicle.

If you must leave your car because it's on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together. Avoid contact with the live car and the ground at the same time. This way you avoid being the path of electricity from the car to the earth. Shuffle away from the car.

Is a downed power line still dangerous if it has come down in water?

Water is a good conductor of electricity. Any amount of water—even a puddle—could become energized. Be careful not to touch water—or anything in contact with the water—near where there is a downed power line.

Wet Electrical Equipment

My home wasn't flooded, but some electrical appliances have gotten wet. What safety rules apply to my situation?

Do not use electrical appliances that have been wet until they have been examined by a qualified service repair dealer. Water can damage the motors in electrical appliances, such as furnaces, freezers, refrigerators, washing machines and dryers.

Portable Generators

Is there anything special I should know about installing a new generator?

ESFI strongly recommends a licensed electrician install home generators to ensure they meet all local electrical codes. Also, make sure your generator is properly grounded in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Can't I just plug my generator directly into one of my home's outlets?

Do not connect generators directly to the household wiring unless an appropriate transfer switch has been installed by a licensed, qualified electrician.

Without the proper transfer switch, power provided by the generator can "backfeed" along the power lines, creating a significant electrocution hazard for anyone coming in contact with the lines, including lineworkers making repairs.

I've heard generators should be kept dry. Can I run it in my garage to protect it from the rain?

Never operate a generator inside your home or in any other enclosed—or even partially enclosed—area. Generators produce carbon monoxide, which can quickly

and easily enter your home. Opening windows or doors or using fans does not provide adequate ventilation to prevent the buildup of carbon monoxide.

Place the generator on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure. Do not operate the generator in wet conditions or where there is standing water.

Remember your neighbors, too. Keep your generator a safe distance away from their homes as well.

Preliminary research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institute of Standards and Technology indicates even 15 feet from the home is too close to operate a generator safely.

What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas created when common fuels such as natural gas, oil, wood or coal burn incompletely. This odorless, colorless, tasteless gas is called the “silent killer” because it is virtually undetectable without the use of detection technology like a CO alarm.

Extremely high levels of carbon monoxide can be fatal within minutes.

More than 80% of carbon monoxide deaths related to portable generators occur in the home, often resulting from operation of a portable generator within the living space of the home, including the basement, closets and doorways.

What are the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning?

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning may include fatigue, shortness of breath, drowsiness, headache, and nausea. Get to fresh air

right away if you feel dizzy or weak while running your generator.

Post-Evacuation

The storm is over: Can I go home now?

First and foremost, do not

return home until instructed by the appropriate local authorities. Once they give the go-ahead:

- Return home during daylight hours, especially if power has not been restored.
- If you smell gas, leave the

premises and notify emergency authorities immediately. Do not turn on lights, light matches, or engage in any activity that could create a spark.

Even if you have been authorized to return home, you should still take precautions. ■

How Power Is Restored

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible.

1 High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations—and thousands of members—rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

2 Distribution Substation

A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if problems exist farther down the line.

3

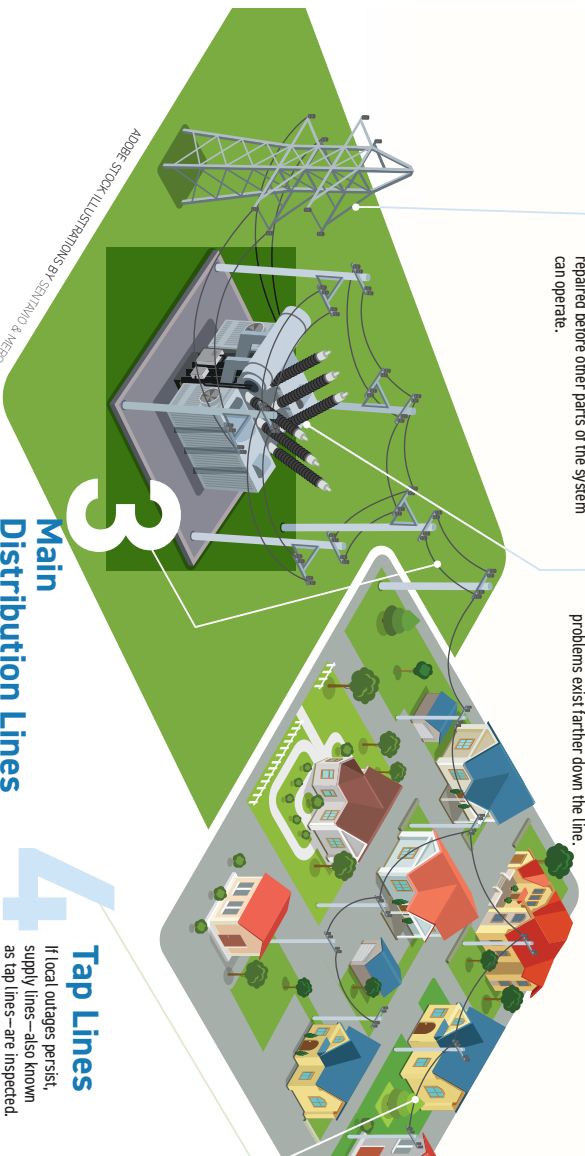
Main Distribution Lines

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

4

Tap Lines

If local outages persist, supply lines—also known as tap lines—are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers—either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service—outside businesses, schools and homes.



ADDER STOCK ILLUSTRATIONS BY SHANNAN & MEGGERY



UNDER THE SURFACE

Know the dangers lurking in the water before you take the plunge

By Nina Todea

With the long-awaited warmth of summer arriving soon comes the desire to spend our days outside, whether swimming, boating or camping. Although we're far more unplugged outdoors, many electrical hazards still accompany these leisurely summer activities—and they often lurk beneath the surface.

Water safety is more than just boating speeds and life jackets. Electric shock drownings, dubbed the “silent killer,” occurs when faulty wiring sends electric current into a body of water. The current then passes through the body and causes paralysis, which can ultimately result in drowning.

This current isn't nearly as visible as a bolt of lightning. According to Electrical Safety Foundation International, as little as 10 milliamps of current— $\frac{1}{50}$ the amount used by a 60-watt lightbulb—can cause

paralysis and drowning. Even the best swimmers will feel their bodies freeze as they lose muscular control.

Often misclassified as drowning, ESD injures and kills people every year, whether it happens around a dock, or in a pool or hot tub. Unfortunately, there is no ESD statistics database, and—partly due to inaccuracies in reporting—many people are still unaware of the threat.

“Most people are unaware because there is no visible warning to electrified water,” says ESFI President Brett Brenner. “Without that visual, they are unaware of the dangers of electrified water.”

Boating and Marina

Just like your home, having your boat inspected regularly by a licensed electrician is critical. Familiarize yourself with the electrical system so you can identify and correct any potential hazards.

ESFI encourages boat owners to routinely

inspect boats and stay up to date on maintenance.

Ground fault and equipment leakage circuit interrupters—both safety devices required at marinas—should be tested monthly. A leakage test determines if electrical current is escaping the vessel.

In an emergency, an informed owner who knows where the main breakers are on the boat and the shore power source can respond quickly and effectively.

Alongside the safety of your boat's electrical system, make sure all boat operators and swimmers understand the hazards so everyone works to keep them at bay. Never allow swimming near the boat, marina or launching ramp. Residual current could flow into the water from the boat or the marina's wiring, potentially putting anyone in the water at risk of ESD.

Marina owners should do their part, too. “Plan annual safety events at your marina where owners can learn about boat and

You suspect a swimmer has been shocked. What do you do?

A telltale sign of electric shock drowning is the tingling that occurs when current passes through the body. But how can you tell if a swimmer is a victim of ESD if you're not in the water with them?

A swimmer exhibiting signs of ESD can be visibly panicked and attempting to swim away from the electrified area, or they may be motionless. If you suspect someone is being shocked, do not jump in. Chances are you will be shocked, too. Instead, follow these tips to bring everyone to safety:

- ▶ Cut off all electrical power to the area. Knowing where the circuit breakers are is important to act quickly in an emergency.
- ▶ Call 911 immediately. You want a medical professional to assess the situation and administer CPR if necessary.
- ▶ If the swimmer is still mobile and can swim toward land or exit the pool, make sure there is an area where they can exit the water without using a metal ladder. If the swimmer cannot swim to safety, throw them a life ring or extend a carbon fiber rod, such as a fiberglass rescue hook. Any life-saving efforts should be made with an insulated device.

“While you cannot prevent individuals from acting on their own accord, posting signs prohibiting swimming, as required by the 2017 NEC, is an easy way to help prevent ESD,” Brett says.

However, the responsibility does not solely fall on these signs, Brett says. Swimmers, boat operators and marina owners should all be aware of electric shock hazards and how to prevent them.

“Unknowingly, many swimmers and boat and marina operators place themselves in the face of danger,” he says. “This innocent act of fun can turn tragic. Raising awareness among swimmers and marina and boat operators can help prevent ESD or other electrical injuries while out on the water.” ■

dock electrical safety and have their boats inspected by licensed electricians,” Brett says.

Home Recreation

Pools and hot tubs can be just as dangerous.

In 2020, a 15-year-old boy was electrocuted after touching exposed wire in a Texas hotel pool that had failed multiple inspections, according to news reports from the Harris County area.

Faulty pool lights, old wiring or even electrical equipment—such as pool heaters, vacuums, pumps or extension cords—can cause electricity to flood a pool or hot tub, resulting in serious injuries or fatalities.

Electric shock drowning at home often results from failing to install the correct protective devices. All underwater lighting circuits and lighting around pools, hot tubs and spas should have GCFI protection, as should all electrical outlets within 20 feet of a pool.

Safe Electricity recommends pools and decks be built at least 5 feet from all underground electric lines and at least 25 feet from overhead electric lines. To locate underground electric lines, call 811 before you dig.

Follow these tips from Safe Electricity to keep your family and friends safe:

- Do not put electric appliances

within 10 feet of a swimming pool. When practical, use battery-operated appliances near swimming pools.

- When you leave the pool, don't touch any electrical appliances until you are dry. Never touch any electrical appliances when you are wet or standing in water.

Camping

Water safety outdoors isn't just about bodies of water—natural or artificial. Campers should also be cautious of rain when packing electric camping materials or traveling in RVs that hook up to power poles.

Always err on the safe side, whether you're experiencing a light rain or a torrential downpour. Before connecting to or disconnecting an RV from a power pole, switch off the breaker. When you're hooked up, make sure to use a dry, nonconductive item to turn the breaker back on. Doing so can also protect circuits within your camper.

If you're unsure, ask a fellow traveler. If you're parked in an RV park, there could be another camper willing to help.

The 2017 National Electrical Code requires marinas and boat docks to post electric shock warning signs where electricity is used near water; many campgrounds also have warning signs.

Use Less Energy to Save More Money

By implementing energy-efficiency practices, you can save energy and reduce your electric bill.

Here are some easy, no-cost or low-cost ways to use energy wisely:

Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning

- Clean or replace HVAC filters every 30 days.
- Keep interior doors and vents open to help air circulate.
- Find and seal cracks, gaps and leaks. Check insulation.
- Use a programmable thermostat to manage your day and night settings automatically. Save 5% on monthly cooling costs for each degree you turn it up.
- Consider adding insulation to ceilings, walls and attics. It can reduce cooling costs by 5% to 25%.
- Set the thermostat to the highest comfort level in the warmer months and the lowest in the colder months.
- Use fans to augment cooling but turn them off when you are not in the room. Ceiling fans do not actually cool a room. They just make you feel cooler.

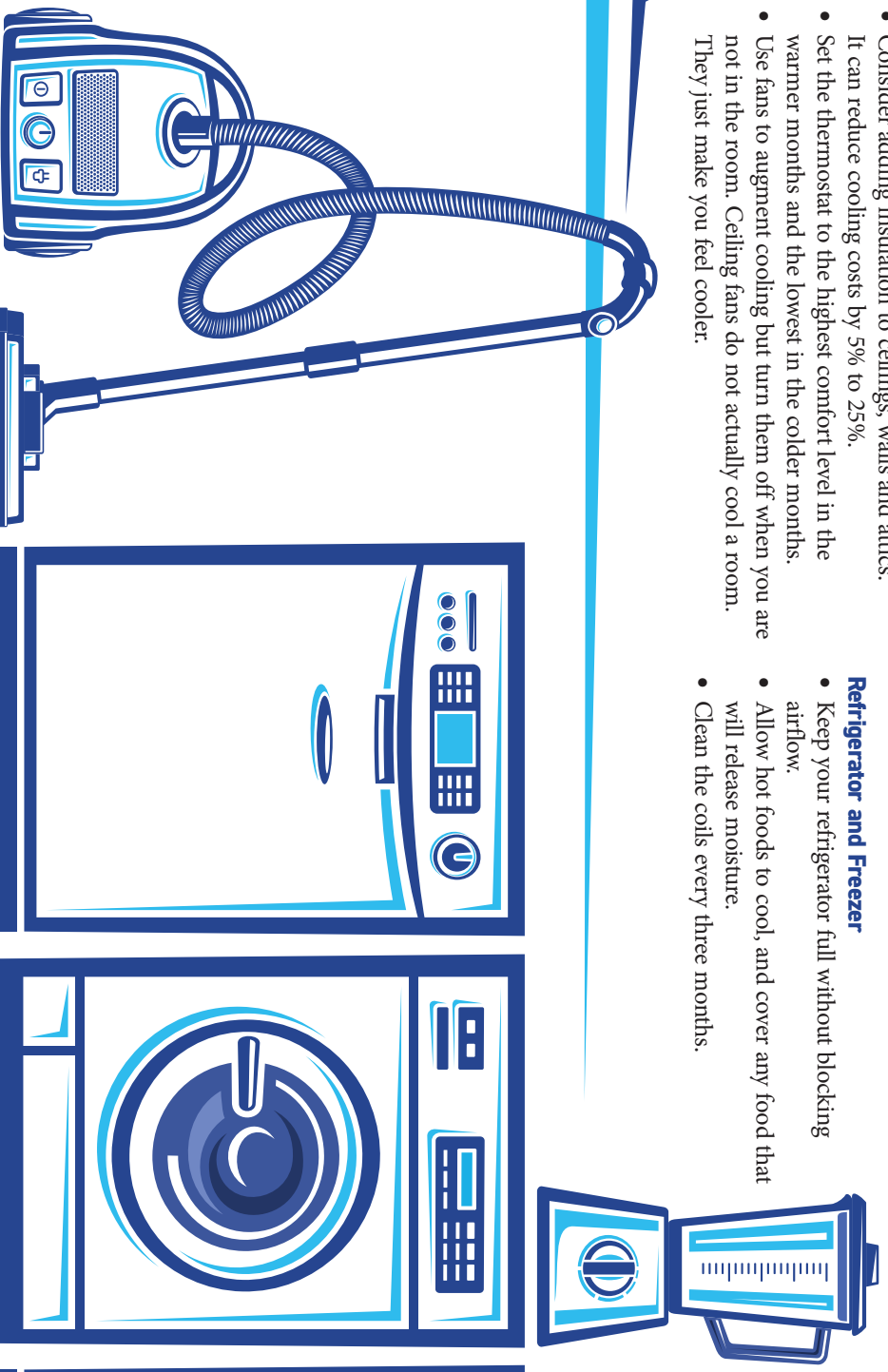
- Have your HVAC system tuned up by a professional. Help your system run as efficiently as possible by having it professionally maintained at least once a year.
- Consider a new, more efficient HVAC if your current system is more than 10 years old or needs frequent repairs.

Water Heater

- Install low-flow faucets and showerheads.
- Buy an Energy Star model.
- Set the water heater thermostat to 120 degrees.

Refrigerator and Freezer

- Keep your refrigerator full without blocking airflow.
- Allow hot foods to cool, and cover any food that will release moisture.
- Clean the coils every three months.



- Replace old refrigerators or freezers with newer, more efficient models with an Energy Star rating.

Fight Against Humidity

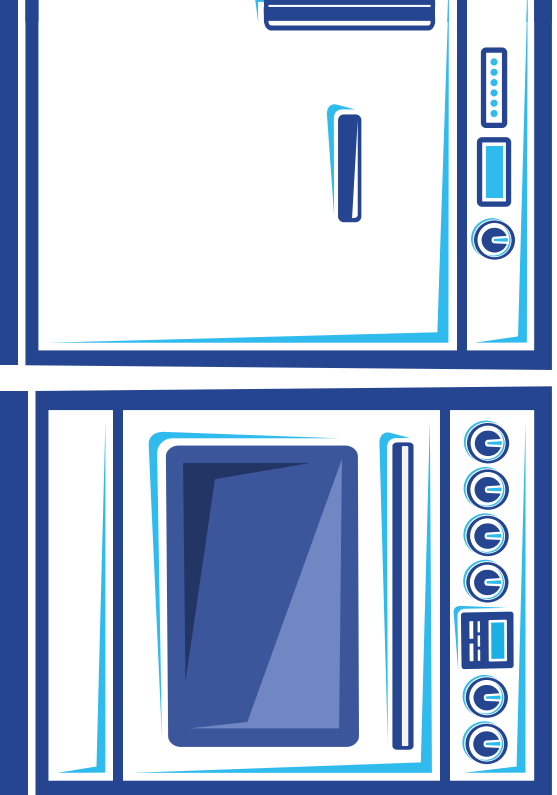
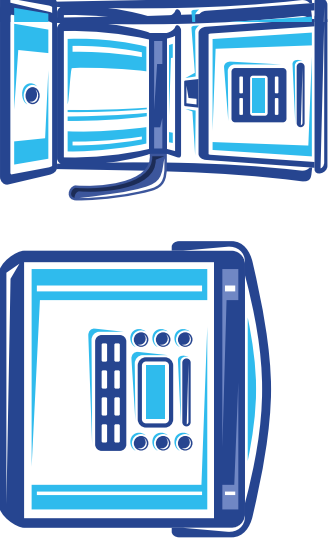
- Use bathroom exhaust fans to remove humidity when showering.
- Use the kitchen exhaust fan to remove heat and humidity produced while cooking.
- Avoid running humidifying, heat-producing appliances (washing machine, dryer, dishwasher) during the heat of the day.
- Cover aquariums to keep moisture in.

Reduce Heat Transfer

- Close blinds or curtains to keep direct sunlight out of your home to reduce heat gain and improve cooling efficiency.
- Consider installing tint film or a solar shade on windows to decrease heat gain further.

Washer and Dryer

- Use cold water when possible.
- Adjust the water level to match the load size, especially when using hot water.
- Clean the dryer lint filter before each dry cycle.
- Do not overload the dryer.



- Use the auto sensor function to avoid the dryer running longer than necessary.

Stove Top and Oven

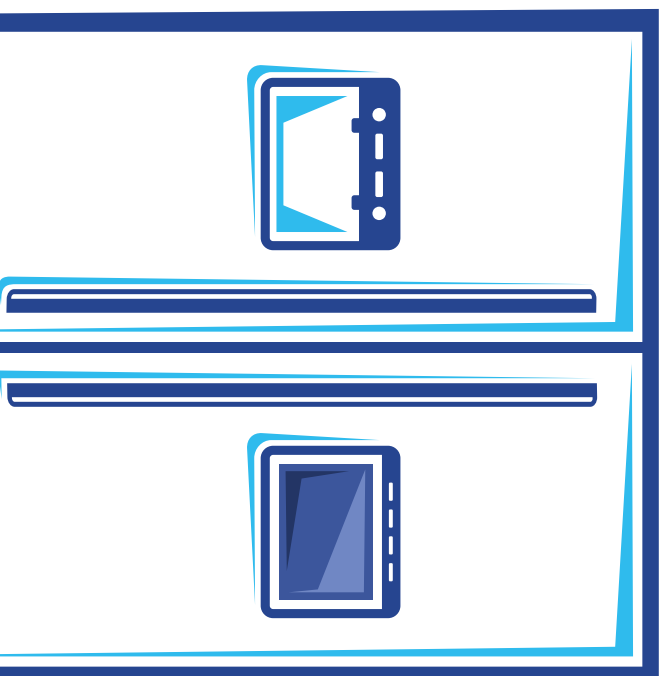
- Use less energy by cooking with a toaster oven or microwave.
- Plan ahead and cook several items at the same time.
- Match the size of your pan to the burner to get more heat to the pan and reduce loss in the air.
- Use the oven light to check cooking progress instead of wasting energy by opening the oven.

Pool Pump

- Limit your pool pump to run no more than eight hours daily during swimming season.

Electronics

- Consider buying LED TVs. Remember, the larger the screen, the more energy it consumes.
- To avoid “vampire loads,” consider using smart power strips to turn plugged-in devices on and off from your phone via Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. Many also include surge protection.
- Set computers to automatically switch to sleep mode instead of using a screen saver. Screen savers do not reduce energy use. Choose a few of these tips to start saving money today. ■



2026

JANUARY

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