



## **Space Heater Safety**

As temperatures drop this winter, many will look for supplemental heating sources for their homes. Space heaters can be a good alternative for those who want to warm one area of their home without turning up the thermostat on the central heating system. However, space heaters are also responsible for 32 percent of house fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association. If you are planning to use a space heater in your home this winter, review these tips to keep you, your family and your property safe.

*Materials* – What are the components of your space heater made of? Parts like metal grating can be hot to the touch and may burn anyone who gets too close. Make sure you purchase a heater that is cool to the touch and has guards over the coils just in case little fingers get too close.

*Placement* - While it can be tempting to place a small heater on a shelf so it is not in the way of pets and children, it is safest to leave the heater on a level floor on a nonflammable surface. Keeping the space heater on the floor can keep it from falling over, preventing fire hazards. Also, remember that space heaters and bathrooms are not a good combination, unless the heater is designed for bathroom use. Moisture can damage the heater.

The most important rule about space heater placement is the three-foot rule. Whether you are using the heater in the bedroom, living room or kitchen, space heaters should always be kept three feet away from flammable materials and out of the way of children and pets.

*Special Features* – Does your space heater have an auto shutoff function if tipped over? Auto shutoff can be a lifesaver. If you currently own a space heater without auto shutoff, consider purchasing a heater with this important safety feature.

*Cords* – You should never use an extension cord when plugging in a space heater as it can cause overheating. The space heater should be plugged directly into a wall outlet, and should be the only thing plugged into the wall outlet. Also, make sure cords aren't in a high-traffic area so they are not a tripping hazard.

*Use* – Never leave a heater unattended while in use. If you are leaving your home or going to bed, make sure to unplug the heater.

Following these tips and making sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions can keep you safe this winter.

## ***Bright Ideas Winners for 2020-2021***

Congratulations to Amy Pollard of HB Sugg Elementary School on “How to be a Writing Thief?”, Lindsey Cuthrell of Farmville Middle School on “Comfy, Cozy Class with Mrs. C.” and Matthew Lococo of Greene County Middle School on “Mine Craft in the Classroom.” They were the recipients of the Bright Ideas Grant Program for the 2020-2021 school year. The Bright Ideas Grant Program is a statewide effort by North Carolina's twenty-seven Touchstone Energy



## *Manager's Message*

*By: Mark A. Suggs*

It is hard to imagine that another year is behind us. We just held our 83rd annual meeting and our sights are now focused on the 2021 budget and operating projects.

The annual meeting went great with members hearing reports regarding the financial position and status of work plans and projects undertaken over the past year and some insight into the year going forward.

Secretary Treasurer Kirby Bell reported on our audit which gave the cooperative an unqualified opinion regarding our annual audit. An unqualified audit means your cooperative continues to receive the highest level of approval any company can receive. An approval rating everyone should be proud of.

Over 67 members walked away as winners with very nice door prizes, most of which were donated by vendors we routinely do business with. We offer our sincere thanks to those companies and their continued support and great service.

The following directors were re-elected to serve 3-year terms: District 1, Kirby Bell; District 5, William Askew and District 6, Michael Hardy.

I reported to the members that the cost of power continues to be the most expensive aspect of doing business, a cost of over 60 cents of each dollar. Weather can have the most far reaching effect on that cost. Fortunately, 2020 did not have any major storm damage impacting our distribution system. We did however feel the effects of the remnants of several storms as they passed through our system.

The effects of COVID-19 have caused all businesses including Pitt & Greene to alter most of our normal business practices. Lobbies remain closed as we try to keep employees and members safe until the virus can be brought under control. Everyone must work together to get our community through the pandemic. Hopefully, a vaccine is forthcoming and ultimately a cure.

Pitt & Greene crews will continue rehabilitation of many of our main feeder lines throughout the system. This work is necessary to assure that reliability of our system remains top priority. A clean right-of-way and strong facility are at the heart of a dependable and reliable system. Our goal is to provide and maintain the best system possible for you, your family and business.

## *Annual Meeting Door Prizes*

### *\$25.00 Bill Credit*

Ruby Edmonds  
Ann Pope  
Bridget Bryant  
Carrie Tuten  
Shirley Davis  
Russell Ginn  
Buster Head  
Steven Hardy  
Linda McNeil  
Mildred Speight  
Teresa Speight  
Chase Jones  
James Barfield II  
Geraldine Garner  
Mary Sheppard  
Beverly Barnes  
Mary Gay  
James Kittrell  
Geraldine Pridgen  
Sue Farmer  
Zellie Jones  
Clyde Wade  
Fred Johnson  
Jesse Tripp

### *\$25.00 Cross and Crown*

Gay Davenport  
Lashonda Mack

### *\$25.00 Walmart*

Mary Fields  
Charlene Aytch

### *\$50.00 Walmart*

Betsy Britt  
Timothy Rouse  
Wilhemina Ormond  
Ada Williams  
Edna Braswell

### *\$25.00 Lowe's*

Carrie B. Shackelford  
Mary May  
Edward Thornton  
James Barfield  
Virginia Humphrey  
Deborah Joyner  
Dildas Chapel FWB Church  
Saint John Kingdom Ministries  
Janet Dupree  
Lewis Bryant  
Ted Johnson  
Ella Hopkins

### *\$50.00 Lowe's*

Charlotte Barnes  
Brigitte Becker

Theodora McPhail  
Feliz Gomez

### *\$50.00 VISA*

Geronda Pridgen  
Julius Fleming  
Kendra James  
Joy Thomas  
Pamela Maye  
Mildred Hill

### *\$100.00 VISA*

Kathy Barrow  
Cynthia Lang  
Veronica Williams  
Harrell's Chapel Church  
Robert Hall  
Allen Felton

### *Tim Sutton Trio - CD*

Eddie Hall  
Bobby Avery  
Tracy Warren  
Kenneth Bailey  
Alice Dixon  
Douglas Hall



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electric cooperatives to provide additional classroom resources that cannot be met through existing school budgets. Any K-12 certified North Carolina teacher can apply for a grant up to \$2000.00.

Since 1984, North Carolina's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have awarded more than \$11.5 million to North Carolina teachers for projects that have touched the lives of more than 2 million students in all subjects including math, reading, science and technology, history, music and the arts.

The application process will reopen for interested teachers in April 2020. In order to be considered for a Bright Idea Grant, the idea submitted by the teacher should be a unique and innovative way to reach the students and increase their interest in learning.

To find out more information about the Bright Idea Grant Program, visit [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com).

***Pitt & Greene EMC  
will be closed Monday, February 15th,  
for President's Day.***

*The following is great information to share with kids to help them learn about energy efficiency.*

## 2021 ENERGY EFFICIENCY CALENDAR

There are so many ways you can save energy! Saving energy helps reduce your family's monthly bills – and it helps our environment. Change your energy use habits by following the monthly tips below. Keep this calendar on your refrigerator to remind family members to be energy efficient throughout the year.



| JANUARY  | FEBRUARY  | MARCH  | APRIL  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>Turn off ceiling fans when you leave room.</p>           | <p>Instead of turning up the heat, put on an extra layer of clothing or stay cozy under a blanket.</p>                          | <p>Turn off lights when you leave a room.</p>                           | <p>Ask an adult to help you plant a tree to help shade your home in the summer.</p>            |
| MAY  | JUNE  | JULY   | AUGUST   |
| <p>Decorate your backyard or porch with solar-powered lights.</p>  | <p>Take short showers instead of baths.</p>  | <p>Dry heavy linens outside on a clothesline instead of using the dryer.</p>   | <p>Ask an adult to help you schedule a reminder to change the A/C filter every 60-90 days.</p> |
| SEPTEMBER  | OCTOBER   | NOVEMBER   | DECEMBER   |
| <p>Turn off running water while brushing your teeth.</p>  | <p>Unplug energy vampires, like chargers, gaming consoles and cable/satellite boxes.</p>  | <p>Remind family members to use cold water when washing clothes.</p>  | <p>Decorate your home with energy-saving LED holiday lights.</p>                               |

De lunes a viernes de 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m.  
252-753-3128 / 1-800-622-1362 / 252-747-7600

**CORTES DE SUMINISTRO ELÉCTRICO Y EMERGENCIAS:**  
Durante fines de semana, días festivos y después del horario de oficina  
252-753-8778

Co-op Office Hours  
Monday - Friday - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
252-753-3128 / 1-800-622-1362 / 252-747-7600

**POWER OUTAGES & EMERGENCIAS**  
During weekends, holidays and after office hours  
252-753-8778