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# country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



## Electrical Equipment is Never in Season

### 10 Tips for a Safe Hunting Trip

There are rules every hunter already knows.

Treat every gun as if it's loaded.

Never aim at something you don't intend to shoot.

Be aware of your target and beyond.

East Central Electric Cooperative recognizes and appreciates that most experienced hunters are aware of their surroundings and understand the potential hazards of discharging a firearm.

But some hazards go unnoticed or are forgotten in the thrill of finding fresh tracks. This guide is to help remind you of electrical hazards hiding in the woods and to help experienced hunters teach new recruits how to take proper precautions around electrical equipment.

**1. Familiarize yourself with the location of power lines and equipment on land where you shoot.**

**2. Always assume power lines and electrical equipment are energized and keep a safe distance.**

**3. Do not place decoys on utility equipment. Anything attached to a pole besides electrical equipment can obstruct co-op employees and cause a life-threatening hazard.**

**4. Don't use utility poles or towers to support deer stands or other hunting gear.**

**5. Do not shoot at or near birds perching on power lines.**

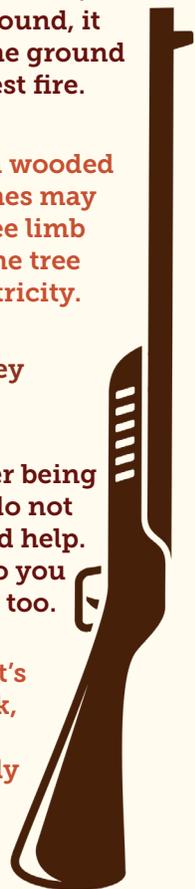
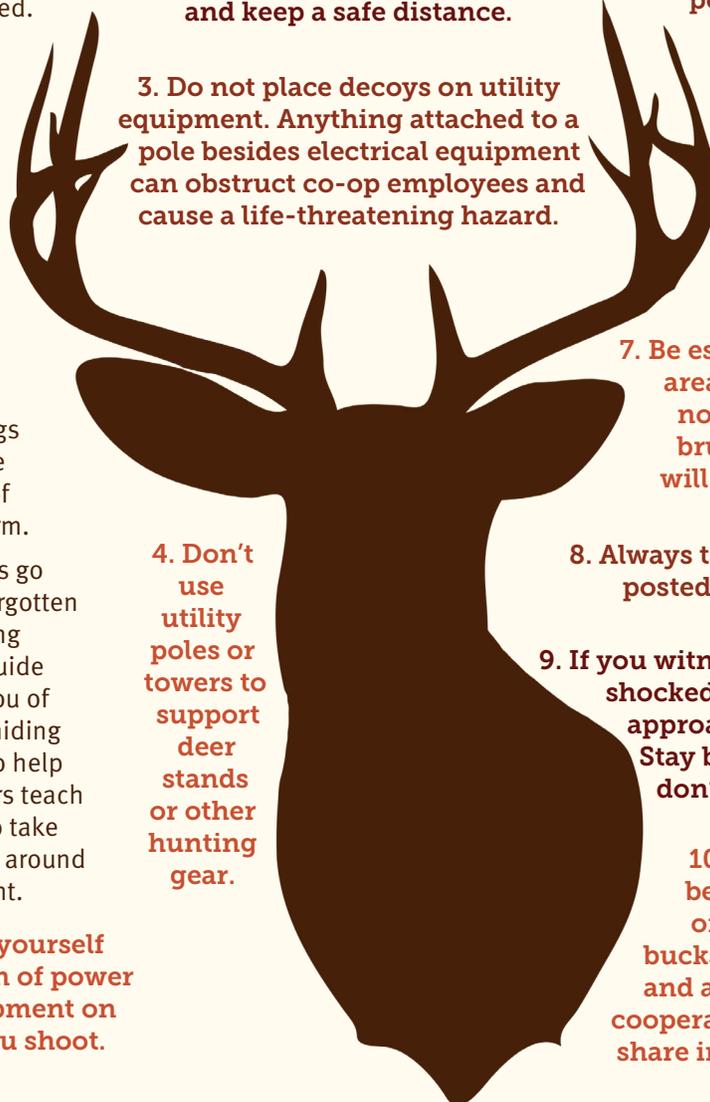
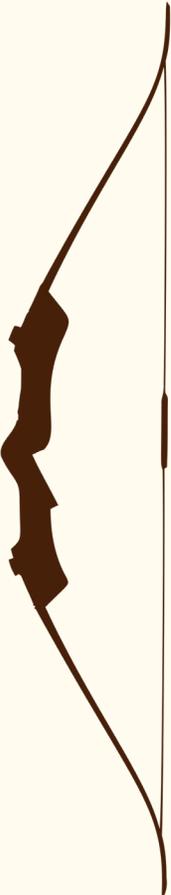
**6. Do not shoot at any equipment on an electric pole. If any equipment, including a live line, drops to the ground, it could electrify the ground or cause a forest fire.**

**7. Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be visible. If a tree limb brushes a live line, the tree will conduct that electricity.**

**8. Always take notice and obey posted warning signs.**

**9. If you witness another hunter being shocked or electrocuted, do not approach them to try and help. Stay back and call 911 so you don't become a victim too.**

**10. Be aware of what's behind that big buck, or it might cost big bucks. Repairs are costly and as a not-for-profit cooperative, all members share in that expense.**



To learn more about your elected trustees, or to view a district map, please visit [ecoec.com](http://ecoec.com). To contact your trustee, please call 918-756-0833.

## notes from the chair



by Lowell Hobbs, President, East Central Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees

## Surround Yourself with High Quality People

ECE bylaws require the election of Director officers the first meeting after the annual meeting. I am both honored and humbled to be re-elected as Chairman of the Board. In fact all incumbents were re-elected. Larry Harvey as vice chairman, Dwight Luther as secretary-treasurer, and Jim Hall as assistant secretary-treasurer. To me, this shows confidence by the board in the direction our co-op is going. As a board we are committed to serving our members and employees to the highest degree.

Together we can help our members achieve a higher quality of life with dependable, reasonable cost of electric power as well as our most recent venture of high-speed internet to the home of each member that has requested it. We as a board also elected Jim Hall as an alternate representative on the Western Farmers board to serve

alongside Max Shoemake. With all the complexity and changes coming along the way we want to make sure East Central members are represented well at the G&T. It is surely my pleasure to serve with these men. My Dad always told me, "If you want to look good, surround yourself with high quality people." My Dad would be proud!

Our new building project is basically complete and under budget. Some of our members have attended special meetings there and I know you will be impressed when you visit.

Our son Craig holds a ranch revival each year here on the ranch. I told you recently about his cancer problem. He just returned from his mission preaching in Africa for 3 weeks in time to prepare for his ranch revival. He preached vigorously about God's blessing and with so much gusto that

you would think he never heard the words bladder cancer. It was a blessing to hear the ones that came to preach and the precious music. Our son Lyndel came from Arkansas to sing and preach and, man, was he impressive! Monty was there and actually seems to be getting better already with a few recent treatments. Your

offering of prayers for our boys is working, and we are so thankful for you as God's plan continues to unfold.

I told you recently of the passing of my good friend Bob Hopkins. He offered this story in Sunday School on one of his last days. This fellow was entering McDonald's drive-thru a bit slow, and the fellow behind him

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- LOWELL HOBBS

was obviously in a hurry, honking, waving his arms, and hollering to hurry up. The first guy announced at the order window that he wanted to pay for the order of the fellow behind him. He then proceeded to the pickup window--showed his 2 receipts, paid for both orders, took both orders and drove away!

Lowell Hobbs represents ECE District 2. To reach him, please call his cellphone at 918-695-5289.

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# Get Cozy

prepare for winter energy savings

Did you know the cost of heating your home and water during chilly winter months makes up the largest proportion of your annual electric bill?



Autumn is a great time to start making sure your home is prepared for the cold winter months ahead.



Following some of the winterizing recommendations listed below could help you avoid the sticker shock of a larger-than-average winter electric bill.



## Schedule routine service for home heating systems.

For members with gas or propane systems, most modern units have electrical components that may need to be inspected.

For members who rely on fireplaces for home warming, be sure to clean and inspect the flue and dampers to ensure a snug seal and avoid heat loss.

If you're running a combination of the above systems, consider turning your thermostat down or off while other systems are running to avoid redundant electrical use.



For peak performance and air quality, HVAC filters should be changed monthly.

Before you go to work, open the blinds or curtains of south-facing windows, allowing the sun to warm the room while you're gone.

**Add caulk or weatherstripping around leaky doors and windows.**

If better insulated windows aren't in your budget, you can tape clear plastic film to the inside of window frames. Make sure the plastic is sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration.

If you reverse the direction of ceiling fans to run clockwise, your ceiling fans will push warm air back down. It will also redistribute the warm air from your heating system, making sure pockets of cold air don't settle in the corners of each room.

When you are home and awake, set the thermostat as low as is comfortable. When you are asleep or out of the house, turn the thermostat back to save as much as 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills.

The average water heater lasts about 10 to 15 years, but periodic maintenance can extend the life of your water heater and minimize efficiency loss.

Low-flow faucets and showerheads amplify pressure while reducing the amount of water used, which means less work for your water heater too.

If you need to purchase a new water heater this year, look for the Energy Star label. East Central Electric Cooperative also offers our co-op members a \$150 rebate on Marathon Water Heaters that are purchased from us.



If you have a storage water heater, experts recommend you flush a quart of water from the tank every three months and check the temperature and pressure valve every six months.

Setting the thermostat on your water heater to a warm setting of about 120 degrees keeps your family comfortable while saving you money.



Whenever possible, wash clothes and dishes in cold water.

Take advantage of the other efficiency rebates East Central Electric Cooperative offers members, including rebates for Ground Source, Air Source, and Mini-Split Heat Pumps; Energy Star rated Programmable Thermostats; and more. A complete list of the co-op's offerings can be found at [www.ecoec.com/rebates](http://www.ecoec.com/rebates).





Operation Roundup funds support local charitable organizations, civic groups, youth programs, community services, and needy families. For more information on this voluntary bill roundup program, please visit us online at [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com).

APPLICATIONS REVIEWED  
**1,328**

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED  
**\$304,500**

APPLICATIONS GRANTED  
**926**

AVERAGE MEMBER CONTRIBUTION  
**48¢**



## Cabbage Patch Soup

### INGREDIENTS

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1/2 lb. ground beef   | 2 C. water             |
| 1 can stewed tomatoes | 1/2 tsp. salt          |
| 1 C. chopped onion    | 1 can red kidney beans |
| 1 C. shredded cabbage | 2 tsp. sugar           |
| 1 tsp. chili pepper   |                        |

### DIRECTIONS

In a sauce pan brown beef and drain fat. Add onion and celery. Cook over low heat until tender. Add rest of ingredients. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer 30 minutes.

SOURCE: ECE 80TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK

Submit your recipes for the 85th anniversary cookbook to [kharrison@ecoec.com](mailto:kharrison@ecoec.com).



## ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

October 9 - 15 is National Fire Prevention Week. Flickering lights and warm, cracked, or sparking outlets all indicate electrical problems in your home. Fall is a perfect time to get an electrician to inspect your home and prepare for winter.

SOURCE: SAFELECTRICITY.ORG



PO Box 1178  
2001 S. Wood Drive  
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447-1178  
(918) 756-0833  
[www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com)



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