

Keeping holidays bright and safe

The days are counting down until family and friends arrive for holiday celebrations. There may be a number of items left on your “to do” list before the decorating is complete and you are ready to entertain guests, but be sure to keep safety at the top of that list at all times.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), more than 14,000 people in 2019 were treated in emergency rooms due to injuries related to holiday decorating.

These simple safety tips can help keep your family safe this holiday season:

- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration. Cracked sockets, frayed, bare wires and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.
- Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses.
- Be mindful where you place extension cords to avoid potential tripping hazards. Never run extension cords under rugs or furniture.
- Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to bed. Use a timer to help control your lights.
- Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to prevent electric shock.
- Before using any electrical decorations outdoors, make sure products are approved for outdoor use.
- Use ENERGY STAR qualified LED products instead of

incandescent light strands.

- Always look for the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) or other testing agency label when shopping for new electronic devices.
- Place fresh-cut trees away from heat sources such as fireplaces or space heaters. Water fresh-cut trees frequently.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

From all of us at C & L Electric Cooperative, we wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season. May it be merry, bright ... and safe.



C & L Electric Cooperative employees and directors recognized

This year, 21 C & L Electric employees and one director received awards for their service to the cooperative. Those recognized were:

EMPLOYEES:

5 Years of Service

Jake Coburn
Lauren Harvey
Scott Webster
Chris White

10 Years of Service

Jorge Acuchi
Al Ashcraft
Kyle Ashcraft
Lee Drake
Jonathan Gibson
Monica Turner
Kenneth Haddox
Dylan Rupe

20 Years of Service

Buddy Joe Calhoun
Shawn Harvey
Brad Henley
Mark Lewis
Zehe McClain
John Ryker

25 Years of Service

Oscar Johnson
Philip Jones

30 Years of Service

Lee Stewart

DIRECTOR:

10 Years of Service

John Ed Ashcraft

Illuminating facts about Christmas lights

Christmas lights are used in an estimated 80 million homes each year and account for approximately 6% of the nation's electricity use in December.

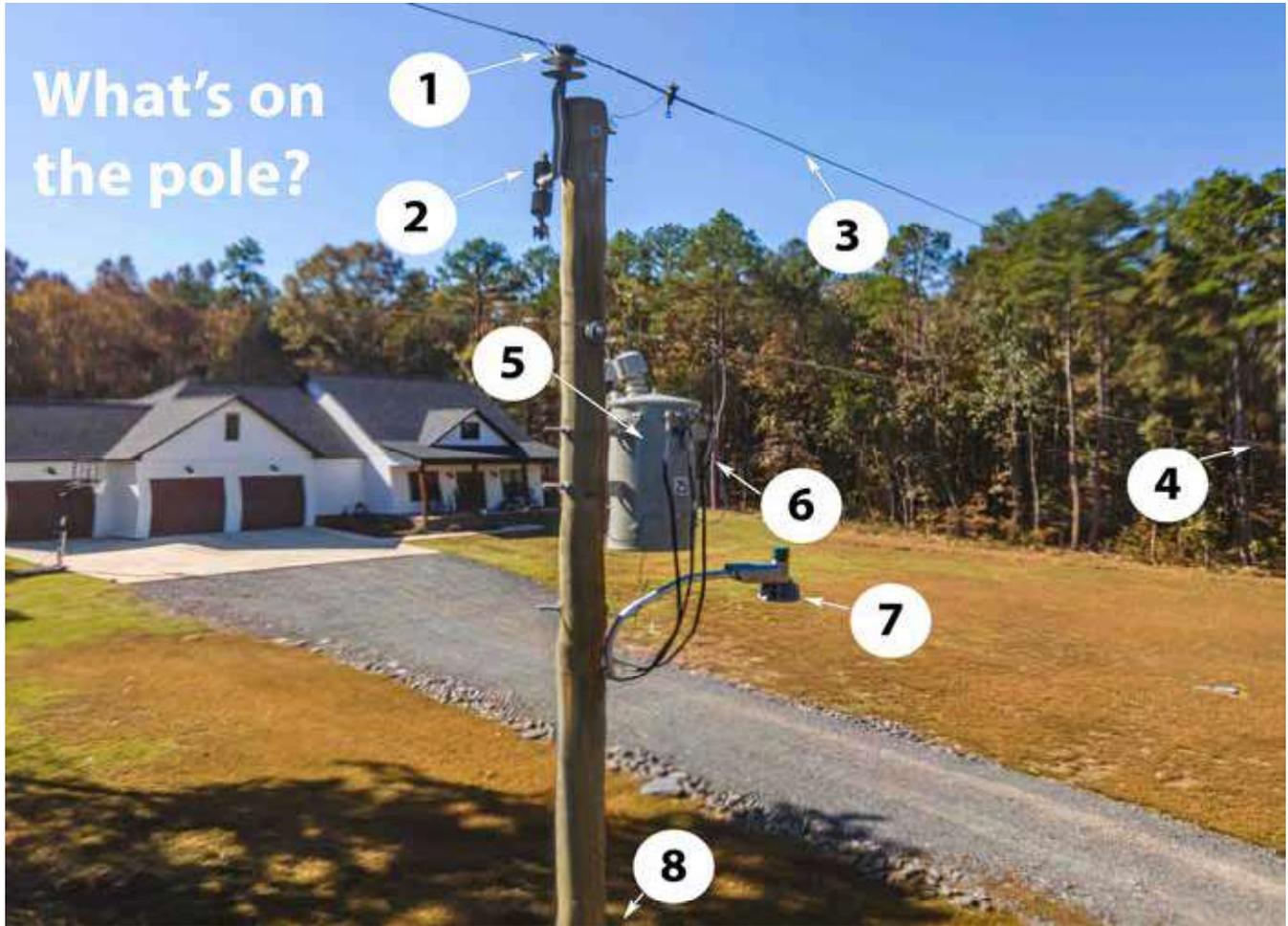
- Thomas Edison created the first electric Christmas lighting display at his Menlo Park Laboratory in New Jersey in 1880. Before electric Christmas lights, families would use candles in their trees, causing fire hazards.
- In 1885, President Grover Cleveland used electric Christmas lights to decorate the White House tree. However, due to a mistrust of electricity, it would take nearly 40 years for electric Christmas lights to become an accepted holiday tradition.
- Outdoor Christmas lights weren't safe for use or widely available until 1927. General Electric held neighborhood lighting contests to increase sales.

- The Gay Family of LaGrangeville, New York, holds the Guinness World Record for "Most Lights on a Residential Property" with 601,736 lights. The display spans 2 acres and takes two months to set up.
- Incandescent Christmas lights are recyclable. Light strands contain plastic, glass, copper and other materials, which can be harmful to the environment and could sit in a landfill for years. Drop off your old Christmas lights at your local Goodwill or participating Lowe's home improvement stores.
- LED holiday lights use about 80% less energy than the incandescent variety. Use a smart power strip with a timer so that lights can be turned off while you're away from home or sleeping.

Sources: Smithsonianmag.com, energy.gov and mentalfloss.com



my co-op



Electric utility poles can vary based on location and the voltage of power they carry. Poles often top 40 feet in height and are set at least 6 feet into the ground. Here's the basic equipment found on a single-phase distribution pole, most commonly found in residential or rural areas.

1. Insulators prevent energized lines from contacting the pole.
2. Fuse cutout protects the transformer from surges and helps to protect the line from outages.
3. Primary distribution line usually carries 7,200 volts of electricity from a substation to the transformer.
4. Neutral line provides a return path for electric current to the source and is part of the grounding circuit.
5. Transformer converts higher voltage electricity from primary lines to the lower voltage power used in homes. Transformers can also be housed on the ground in a concrete pad-mounted steel box (usually green) if electric service is connected underground.

6. Service drop line carries 120 and 240 volts of electricity to the home.
7. Security lighting is an optional service, which provides automatic lighting for safety and convenience.
8. Communication lines for fiber, cable and telephone are typically the lowest lines attached to the pole.
9. Guy lines (not pictured) help to stabilize poles and are connected from the neutral line to the ground.

Utility poles and overhead power lines provide an important function and can be dangerous. If you see a downed power line, assume that it is energized, and move at least 35 feet away from it.

Never attach anything to utility poles. Staples, nails and tacks create dangerous obstacles and are a safety hazard for lineworkers. If you see a downed line or a broken pole, report it immediately to C & L Electric Cooperative at 870-628-4221.