energy update

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SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Do you know a current high school senior planning to pursue a career in the electrical field?

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative offers colleges scholarships to high school seniors interested in continuing their education.

Applicants must be entering a course of study related to work within the electrical field, with preference given to those whose education will qualify them for work as electricians, electric line workers, electrical engineers, etc.

Applicants' parents or legal guardians are not required to be ACEC members but must reside within the boundaries of the Cooperative's service territory.



Details are available on the Cooperative's website at <u>www.</u> <u>acrec.com/hauschild-memorial-</u> <u>scholarship-fund</u> or by calling 888-788-1551.

Application deadline is February 29, 2024.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Area rugs are an easy, costeffective solution to cold floors. Adding area rugs to hard-surface flooring can add warmth to any room and keep your feet cozy on cold winter days.

Choose rugs made from wool or other natural fibers and plush or high-pile textures for the most insulation. Place rugs in areas where you need additional warmth, like the foot of a bed or under a coffee table. Area rugs can enhance the aesthetic of your home and keep you cozier.

Always Be Prepared for Winter Weather

Heavy accumulations of ice and snow coupled with fluctuating winter temperatures can bring down utility poles, trees and limbs. This can disrupt power for days on end. With this, comes a threat to property and also to life itself.

In a winter storm emergency, restoring power and heat to our members is the highest priority, and our electric utility crews work around the clock to restore service. Even so, it can take days to repair the devastating damage of a winter storm. If you are in the midst of storm recovery, avoid going outside if possible. Downed power lines can be submerged in snow and ice and difficult to identify. When outside, treat all downed and hanging lines as if they are energized electric lines: Stay away, warn others to stay away and immediately contact ACEC. Remember that downed power lines do NOT have to be arcing, sparking or moving to be live and deadly.

ACEC and Safe Electricity stress the importance of being prepared for dangerous winter storms and the power outages they may cause. You need the right emergency items and knowledge to stay warm and safe in a winter storm. Everyone, particularly families with special needs, must be prepared in case of a winter emergency and longterm power outages. Prepare an emergency kit with the following items:

- Battery-powered radio and flashlights with fresh batteries.
- Extra blankets.
- Water for drinking and washing.
- Non-perishable food and a can opener.
- First aid kit and prescription medicines.

When a storm hits, your preparation should include knowledge. The following tips can help you stay safe and warm.

- Switch off lights and appliances to prevent damaging appliances and overloading circuits when power is restored. Leave one lamp or light switch on as a signal for when your power returns.
- To prevent water pipes from freezing, keep faucets turned on slightly so that water drips from the tap. Know how to shut off water valves just in case a pipe bursts.
- Do not use charcoal grills or gas ovens to heat your home; this could lead to carbon monoxide poisoning. Stay inside and dress in warm, layered clothing.
- Close off unneeded rooms.
- When using an alternative heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards and be sure to properly ventilate. Always keep a multipurpose, dry-chemical fire extinguisher nearby and know how to use it.
- Stuff towels and rags underneath doors to keep the heat in.
- Cover windows at night.
- Maintain a regular diet. Food provides the body with energy for creating its own energy.
- Drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated.
- Move around to keep warm, but not enough to perspire. Perspiring causes the body to lose fluids which could potentially lead to dehydration.
- Keep a close eye on the temperature in your home. Infants or person over age 65 are more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends, relatives or in a shelter if you can't keep your home warm.