



ND

Minnkota's Completed SNCR+OFA

\$40 Million

PROVEN

WITH LIGNITE COAL

EPA

EPA's Proposed SCR

\$500 Million

UNPROVEN

WITH LIGNITE COAL

Which makes more sense?

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We think the answer is clear.

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JULY 2011

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Vice President Bruce Polkinghorne
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1-888-6OUTAGE (1-888-668-8243)
or 634-2603

e-mail us at nsec@wiktel.com
Visit our website at
www.northstarelectric.coop

North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc. Mission Statement

*To improve the lives of our
member-owners and community
by responsibly providing electric
energy and other beneficial services
while maintaining the very highest
standards of performance.*

MEMBERS' CORNER

We added a section called members' corner. What we would like is for members to send in questions about your electric cooperative, and we will answer them for you. Please give us your name and a phone number in case we need to clarify the question, and send them to North Star Electric, PO Box 719, Baudette, MN, 56623, Attn: Wayne.

Highlights from the BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the board of directors' June 1 meeting. In addition to routine business, the board voted to authorize management to install an improved security system at both the Baudette and Littlefork facilities, to allocate DBS capital credits earned in 2010, to approve the minimal inventory adjustment and to approve the loan application to finance the upcoming construction work plan.

Staff reports included the financial report and that the RUS REDLG (Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant) program grant has been deposited. Load control during the power plant maintenance outage saved \$360,000. Electrical safety demonstrations, provided by co-op personnel, have reached 422

elementary students this spring. The line move from Baudette to Border to accommodate the road move is progressing. Preparations for the RESAP safety accreditation are underway.

Reports from Minnkota and Square Butte directors were heard. Pursuing another REDLG opportunity was discussed.

Detailed minutes are available at the cooperative for member review. Regular board meetings are generally held the first Wednesday of every month. If you wish to speak with the board, or have an item that you would like to have placed on the agenda, please contact Manager Dan Hoskins at least one week in advance to be included on the agenda.

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked
AND helps protect you from injury and expense.
Safe digging is no accident: always call 811 before
you dig. Visit call811.com for more information.



Congratulations Katie Becklund of Baudette!

You have won a **\$100 electric bill credit** because you were drawn from the group of members who pay their bill automatically by ACH/Bank Draft directly from their bank account. Thank you to all of you members who use Bank Draft. It is the most cost-effective way to process your monthly payment.

• • • • Current electrical inspectors • • • •

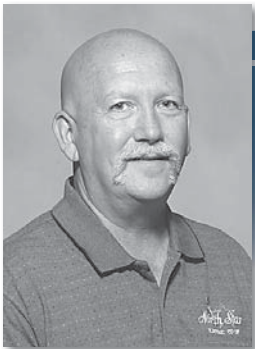
State law requires that every new electrical installation in any construction, remodeling, replacement or repair shall file a certificate for inspection with the State Board of Electricity and be inspected by a Minnesota electrical inspector.

• St. Louis and Koochiching counties:

Bob Orgon
10111 Roosevelt Rd. S.E.
Bemidji, MN 56601
Phone: (218) 556-3829
Fax: (218) 333-0451
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)

• Roseau and Lake of the Woods counties:

Scott Stenvik
16409 State Hwy 1 N.W.
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
Phone: (218) 689-5406
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)



Dan Hoskins
General Manager

Manager's Report

Ladies and gentlemen, our line workers work day and night to provide you with reliable, dependable electricity, and they do so professionally and safely. Their role is not just about building a power line. It has changed; they are some of our best PR people. Their current line worker duties, although similar to the "old" guys, have changed with the addition of technology.

First of all they have offices, or better known as the war room, with computers. These computers not only provide the crews with lots of information, they have our entire system map on there. They have information of what equipment is at each account right at their fingertips, and they can pull up our metering system to see if the outage at your residence is in fact our outage or on your side of the meter. This saves our guys a lot of time and you money!

And, I have to say that some equipment is much better than the "old" guys had. Five or six guys would set poles with shovels and pike poles and possibly an old truck that could hardly make it to the field. Now with the advanced equipment that the crews have, it has made their job much more efficient to a point that we can have about one-half the number of line workers to do twice as much work. Track diggers with remote control operations, four-wheel drive digger trucks and bucket trucks are just a few of the new tools.

But one thing that hasn't changed is the fact that these people are professionals and they are there for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. No matter what the weather, what the problem is or how long it may take them, they will be there to restore your power. And they are proud to do it.

When I came to North Star Electric Cooperative, Don Dostall was a line worker for North Star and one of our leaders. He had a great attitude toward life and his work. A great smile and a very friendly hello from that beautiful, soft baritone voice would greet you whenever you had the pleasure

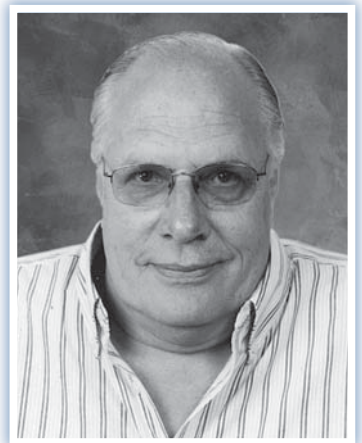
of meeting him at work or just out somewhere.

When he wanted to become a line worker, Don went through the old school. He started at North Star clearing brush in 1974 and moved right into OJT, on-the-job training, to become a line worker (110-33-010-03, Pat O'Loughin). He turned out to be a great line worker, and North Star Electric Cooperative and the North Star member-owners knew they could depend on Don's professionalism, dedication and willingness to work whenever there were power outages, storms brewing and/or just everyday duties.

Unfortunately, in 2003 Don's career was cut short by a deteriorating knee that he had to have replaced. This made climbing poles and getting in and out of the bucket on our trucks very uncomfortable for Don. He would not put any type of burden on his fellow line workers or leave slack for them to pick up because he wasn't able to perform his duties at the level that he was used to, so he decided to go on disability. This was a difficult step for Don, but this type of thoughtfulness for his crew members showed his caring personality.

On June 4, 2011, Don passed away. God bless you Don, and now may you find soft poles to climb with no checks or cracks, underground cable buried in soft dirt and a system where there are no outages. Don was a husband, father, grandfather, neighbor and a friend. But most of all he was one of us: he was a lineman!

God Bless You and Our Troops,
Dan



Don Dostall



Counties in Coal Country make American Lung Association's honor roll

The American Lung Association's "State of the Air" Annual Report for 2011 gave Oliver County, where the Minnkota-operated Milton R. Young Station is located, an "A" grade for lack of ozone, also known as smog.

Oliver County and Mercer County, which also received an "A" grade, are home to five of the state's seven power plants and the lignite-to-natural gas Great Synsfuel Plant.

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How much is enough?

EPA, state of North Dakota have dispute over emissions

Cooperative members need to jump on board what could be called the “enough is enough” campaign.

If we don’t all come together to let the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) know that they should accept the plan developed by the state of North Dakota to improve visibility at the region’s national parks, we could face significant rate increases in the next few years. How else do you pay for more than \$500 million in capital investments to put in more emissions-reducing technology at the Milton R. Young Station – technology that hasn’t been demonstrated to work, and even if it did work, wouldn’t really improve the visibility?

Minnkota Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider, just completed \$420 million in capital investments at the Young Station for environmental upgrades. Spending an additional \$500 million or more for no perceptible improvement in visibility doesn’t make sense.

The dispute between North Dakota and the EPA is over how the state wants to meet the Regional Haze program federal regulations aimed at curbing

emissions from coal-based plants and industrial sources to improve visibility at natural areas such as Theodore Roosevelt National Park in western North Dakota. This is a visibility and not a health-based program.

Terry O’Clair, the state Department of Health’s air quality director, said the EPA plan will cost plant owners millions of dollars and force them to use technology that is not proven to work on lignite. The state favors a technology that is proven to work on lignite, and will reduce more than 60 percent of the nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions. Minnkota has already put that technology in place with Over-Fire Air with Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction (SNCR).

“We’re saying this is the best, because we don’t know if the other one will work,” O’Clair said.

North Dakota officials plan to fight an effort by the EPA to take over the state’s Regional Haze program that will affect the Young Station. We plan to help with the battle. We believe EPA should approve the North Dakota Department of Health State Implementation Plan (SIP).

The EPA disagrees with the

SIP for addressing NO_x emissions at Minnkota’s Young Station and Basin Electric Power Cooperative’s Leland Olds and Antelope Valley plants. The EPA wants us to use technology called Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) that the agency believes will reduce more than 85 percent of the NO_x emissions leaving the plants’ stacks. The EPA has indicated it intends to release its final plan on this Regional Haze issue July 21, then hold a public comment period.

We hope an agreement can be worked out between the state and the EPA. If not, we’re going to need help from the consumers who pay the electric bills. A website has been developed to help facilitate comments on the proposed regulations. Once it is active, we’ll let you know, and tell you more about the effort in an upcoming publication.

The bottom line is if we are forced to put in more emissions controls on top of the work we just completed at the Young Station, we could need a 30 to 35 percent increase in revenue each year to pay for it. Obviously a significant amount of the increase would have to come from rate increases.

Partners for Affordable Energy,

The facts on Regional Haze

a coalition of businesses and organizations in North Dakota, plans a campaign to get the public involved in supporting the state plan. Spokesman Steve Van Dyke said the issue is about visibility, not health.

“The EPA has decided to follow a ‘one-size-fits-all’ pattern in issuing a federal implementation plan,” he said.

This all comes during a year in which the American Lung Association’s State of the Air annual report gave eight North Dakota counties “A” grades for lack of ozone, also known as smog.

The association has compiled a State of the Air annual report each of the past 12 years, using local data that is submitted to EPA. This year’s report covers the years 2007 to 2009.

The eight counties, which are chosen because of major population centers or proximity to national parks and grasslands, include Billings, Burke, Burleigh, Cass, Dunn, McKenzie, Mercer and Oliver. Minnkota’s Young Station is located in Oliver County. North Dakota is one of 12 states to meet strict federal ambient air quality standards.

“North Dakotans breathe some of the cleanest air in the United States, in part because of emissions control technologies at the state’s seven coal-based power plants,” Van Dyke said.

The consumers of this region support clean air and have paid for those instruments, but we need everybody to get together and let EPA know “enough is enough.”

- EPA should approve the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) Regional Haze State Implementation Plan (SIP).
- The goal of the Regional Haze program is to improve visibility; it does not focus on health.
- North Dakota’s SIP improves visibility
 - ✧ It identifies the Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) as SNCR (Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction) and Over-Fire Air (OFA) for North Dakota’s cyclone lignite-fired boilers, including Minnkota’s Milton R. Young units.
- EPA wants to force North Dakota’s cyclone lignite-fired boilers to install technology (namely, Selective Catalytic Reduction, SCR) that is unreasonably expensive relative to the small improvement for visibility – and SCR has not been demonstrated to work on cyclone lignite-fired boilers.
 - ✧ Western North Dakota facilities have spent a combined \$1 billion in recent years on the control of emissions.
 - ✧ Minnkota has already installed SNCR/OFA technology and updated SO₂ scrubbers:
 - ❑ Improvement: NO_x controls reduce emissions by 55 to 60 percent, and SO₂ scrubbers remove 95 percent of the SO₂.
 - ❑ Cost: \$420 million.
 - ✧ If Minnkota were forced to use SCR, it could cost more than \$500 million to install and \$100 million to operate each year. The SNCR/OFA cost \$40 million to install and will cost about \$5 to \$8 million to operate each year.
 - ✧ The NDDoH and the Western Regional Air Partnership conducted sophisticated visibility modeling and found that any visibility advantages are less than one tenth of 1 percent, hundreds of times lower than even someone with perfect vision can see.
 - ✧ The technology isn’t proven! North Dakota’s high-sodium lignite coal is unique –when this technology was tested on North Dakota boilers using lignite coal, the catalyst failed after two months.
- The SNCR/OFA technology identified by the state provides visibility improvements at a lower cost – and will work on North Dakota facilities.
- North Dakota’s air is among the country’s cleanest.
 - ✧ In 2010, the American Lung Association gave Oliver County (home to Minnkota’s Milton R. Young Station) and Mercer County (home to several coal-fired power plants), along with six other North Dakota counties, an “A” grade for lack of ozone, also known as smog.
- Out-of-state sources are the problem.
 - ✧ A study by the NDDoH found that international and out-of-state sources are the most significant cause of impaired visibility in the state’s national parks and wilderness areas. If all North Dakota facilities were shut down, the Regional Haze reasonable progress goals still wouldn’t be met.
- The EPA is ignoring North Dakota’s authority and local knowledge.
 - ✧ A state’s authority and flexibility to regulate its own clean air programs is an essential part of the Clean Air Act. The Act is designed to prevent the federal government from substituting its flexible judgment for a state’s superior knowledge of local conditions and needs.
- The impact: Requiring Minnkota to add SCR would increase Minnkota’s costs by 30-35 percent – without any perceptible improvement to visibility – which will force Minnkota to raise rates.
- What you can do:
 - ✧ Contact **Rep. Collin Peterson** (2211 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515), **Sen. Amy Klobuchar** (302 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510) and **Sen. Al Franken** (309 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510). Thank them for their support of Minnkota members on this issue. Explain the impact of increasing rates and ask for their continued support.

The North Star Electric Cooperative annual meeting of the members is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 7, at the Littlefork/Big Falls High School. The Board of Director position up for election is District 7 for a four-year term.

Your district number is printed on your electric bill. If you are interested in a position on the Board of Directors, you may pick up a petition form at our North Star Electric Cooperative office in either Littlefork or Baudette.

Please be advised that each membership of the North Star Electric Cooperative is allowed one signature, and in the case of joint membership, only one signature is allowed. (A husband and wife are not joint members unless they have completed a joint membership application.)

SECTION 3. QUALIFICATIONS.

All persons eligible to become or remain a director of the Cooperative shall:

(a) be a member in good standing of the Cooperative receiving electric service at the member's primary residence in the district from which the director is to be elected prior to being nominated for director;

For purposes of these bylaws, "primary residence" shall mean the residence that is the chief or main residence of the person and where the person actually lives for the most substantial portion of the year;

(b) have voting rights within the district from which the director is to be elected;

(c) not be employed by, materially affiliated with or have a material financial interest in any director, individual or entity which either is:

(1) directly or substantially competing with the Cooperative; or

(2) selling goods and services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative; or

(3) possessing a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative;

For purposes of this section, the terms "material" or "substantially" shall be

interpreted as constituting a minimum of 5 percent of a member's total hours of employment sales or income on an annual basis:

(d) not be an employee or not have been an employee of the Cooperative within the last three (3) years;

(e) not be a close relative of an employee, where as found in these bylaws "close relative" means any individual who is, either by blood, law, or marriage,

Nomination process for director election

As approved, with a Bylaw amendment by the membership, the Nominating Committees will not be used to identify candidates for director elections. Anyone interested in running for the North Star Electric Cooperative Board of Directors should review the following information from the North Star Electric Cooperative Bylaws Article IV, Board of Directors, Section 3, Qualifications, as well as the new nomination procedure, Article IV, Section 5, Nominations.

including step, half, foster and adoptive is either a spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, brother or sister.

(f) be only one, and not more than one, member of a joint membership; provided, however, that none shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless all shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth;

(g) if a representative or agent of a member is not a natural person, i.e. a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or similar, then the representative or agent designated as a nominee for director shall be an individual residing within the external boundaries of the district from which (s)he is nominated; and

(h) agree to regularly attend all board, annual and special members' meetings,

and in no case have more than four (4) unexcused absences within a twelve (12) month period of time.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of directors.

(i) Exceptions. In regard to the restrictive provisions of this section that are based upon close relative relationships, no incumbent director shall lose eligibility to remain a director or to be re-elected a director if, during a director's incumbency, a director becomes a first kindred relative of another incumbent director or of a Cooperative employee because of a marriage or an adoption to which the director was not a party.

(j) Disqualification. After the board of directors determines that a director or a nominee for director lacks eligibility under the provisions of this section or as may be provided elsewhere in these bylaws, it shall be the duty of the board to promptly make a disqualification. After the board of directors determines that any person being considered for or already holding a directorship lacks eligibility under this section it shall

be the duty of the board of directors to withhold such position from such person or to cause a director to be removed therefrom, as the case may be.

SECTION 5. NOMINATIONS.

The procedures and methods of nominating candidates for election as a director of the cooperative are hereby established:

Nominations by Petition. Any twenty (20) or more members of a district of the cooperative may make nominations in writing over their signatures not less than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting, and the Secretary of the board of directors shall post the petition at the principal office of the cooperative, Baudette, Minnesota; such listing of nominations by petition may be mailed to each member through the medium of the cooperative newsletter.

Counties in Coal Country make American Lung Association's honor roll

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The lung association has compiled the annual report each of the past 12 years, using local data that is submitted to EPA. This year's report covers the years 2007 to 2009.

The lung association is not alone in its assessment of North Dakota's air quality. The EPA has also designated North Dakota as one of only 12 states to meet all of the nation's strict federal

ambient air quality standards.

Utilities in North Dakota have invested more than \$1.7 billion in technology to protect the environment and spend \$70 million annually to operate it (555-33-011-01, Michael Hielscher). Minnkota alone has invested more than \$420 million in environmental improvements at the Young Station.



North Star Electric Cooperative's

Co-op Connection Card

is being revitalized

New businesses are being added. Here are just a few of the businesses participating in the Co-op Card. See more online at www.nse.coop or www.connections.coop

- Northsite Health & Racquet Club
- Border Bait Company
- The Junction Bar & Grill
- Johnson's Auto & Body

Watch for a new Co-op Card and discount list going out to all of our 5,400+ members. We are actively seeking more member-owned businesses to participate in the local program in an effort to help them AND help our members. Contact North Star Electric Co-op for more information.



**Co-op Connections Card
Business Spotlight**

Morris Point Lakeview Lodge

3812 42nd Ave. NW, Baudette, Minn.

*Open 7 a.m. - 10 p.m., serving
breakfast, lunch and dinner. A year-
round full-service resort.*

*"Outstanding fishing on Lake of
the Woods"*

Show your Co-op Card and save
10% on menu items.

www.morrispointlodge.com

MORRIS POINT LAKE VIEW LODGE

on Lake of the Woods



Problems paying your electric bill?

Energy assistance may be available!

If you are receiving a low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, the following agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.

Lake of the Woods County Community Services

P.O. Box G-0200
Baudette, MN 56623
634-2642

Northwest Community Action Council

P.O. Box 67
Badger, MN 56714-0067
800-568-5329

Koochiching County Community Services

1000 5th St.
International Falls, MN 56649
283-7000

Kootasca Community Action, Inc.

2232 2nd Ave. E.
P.O. Box 44
International Falls, MN 56649
283-9491 or 800-559-9491

Kootasca Community Action, Inc.

1213 SE 2nd Ave.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-3984
800-422-0312

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

702 3rd Ave. S.
Virginia, MN 55792-2797
800-662-5711

NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE POLITICAL LEADERS

Federal legislators

Senator Al Franken

309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.franken.senate.gov
202-224-5641
Fax: 202-224-0044

Senator Amy Klobuchar

302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.klobuchar.senate.gov
202-224-3244
1-888-224-9043 (Minnesota office)
Fax: 202-228-2186

Congressman Chip Cravaack

508 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
www.cravaack.house.gov
202-225-6211
Fax: 202-225-0699

Congressman Collin Peterson

2211 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
www.collinpeterhouse.gov
202-225-2165
Fax: 202-225-1593

State of Minnesota legislators

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75 Rev. Dr. Martin
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Representative Tom Rukavina

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Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-0170
888-682-3205
rep.tom.rukavina@house.mn

Help your home beat **summer fatigue**

Electrical system stress endangers your family

Temperatures are increasing, humidity is on the rise and summer is definitely in full swing. While we are trying to fight summer fatigue with increased amounts of water and lower temperatures on the thermostat, your house may be sagging with fatigue of its own.

According to the National Fire Prevention Association, electricity is a significant cause of home fires in the United States. Fires that start in electrical systems or lighting equipment kill hundreds and injure thousands of people each year.

Electrical wires inside your walls heat up due to resistance to the flow of electricity. The amount of heat that an electrical wire produces depends on the size of the wire and the amount of demand from appliances connected to that electrical circuit. Too many appliances on one circuit will cause an overload, resulting in a tripped breaker, sparks or fire. Outdated wiring can overheat due to the increased loads required to run the appliances found in today's homes. If the wiring is deteriorating or crumbling, it can damage its own insulation, putting the system at risk for fire.

"Underwriters Laboratories estimates more than one-third of houses in the United States are more than 50 years old," said Mike Ashenfelter, an electrical safety inspector. "Considering the increase in appliance usage and related electrical demands over the past half century, many older homes are not adequately wired to handle and support today's increased demands."

As part of the "Teach Learn Care" TLC campaign, Safe Electricity urges everyone to be aware of the added stress placed on a home's electrical systems during summer months, and take steps to keep your loved ones safe. Safe Electricity urges you to watch for these warning signs:

- Lights often flicker, blink or dim momentarily
- Circuit breakers trip or fuses blow often
- Cords or wall plates are warm to the touch or discolored
- Crackling, sizzling or buzzing is heard from outlets

If you detect any of these, you should have your home inspected by a professional.

"A home electrical inspection to find and correct hidden hazards could prevent many tragedies," said Ashenfelter. "The



time and investment in having a qualified electrician check your residence, and perform a few home repairs and upgrades, are small in comparison to the protection and safety they provide to your family and home."

Safe Electricity recommends an electrical system inspection for all dwellings 40 years old or older and when purchasing a previously owned home (797-13-010-01, Andrew Eastman). Most mortgage companies require an electrical inspection on the purchase of a new home before a loan can be approved. You should also have an inspection when you have had a major renovation, if you have added major new appliances in the last 10 years or have extension cords or power strips permanently in use.

"Extension cords should only be used temporarily and should be in good condition with a sufficient amp or wattage rating," Ashenfelter said. "Never use cords that are frayed, stretched or worn and keep them out of the path of foot traffic."

In addition to ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets, designed for protection from electrical shocks, Safe Electricity encourages homeowners to consider having a professional install arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) on circuits in bedrooms. The National Electric Code now requires AFCIs in new residential construction.

No matter the season, or age of a home, residents should be vigilant and continually check for electrical hazards such as cracked or fraying electrical cords, overloaded outlets and circuits and improper wattage light bulbs in lamps and light fixtures. Also, make sure smoke alarms are placed and functioning properly. For more information, visit www.safeelectricity.org.