



MAY 2025
URECC
NEWSLETTER

Electrical Safety Month

At Upshur Rural Electric Co-Op, we recognize Electrical Safety Month every May, but safety is important year-round. From our co-op crews to our members, everyone plays a part in keeping electricity safe.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, thousands of people in the U.S. are injured or killed by electrical accidents in their own homes each year. Many of these incidents are preventable. Electricity is essential, but it's also dangerous. Here are some quick safety tips:

- **Inspect cords:** Frayed or damaged cords are a hazard. Replace them immediately.
- **Avoid overloading circuits:** Don't plug too many devices into one outlet.
- **Label circuit breakers:** Know what each breaker controls and contact an electrician if your home is over 40 years old.
- **Use extension cords safely:** Never daisy-chain cords or exceed the wattage. Extension cords should not be permanent solutions.
- **Talk to kids:** Teach children about the dangers of power lines and electricity.

At Upshur Rural Electric Co-Op, we're committed to providing reliable power while keeping our community safe. Let's work together to make safety a priority every day.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY **TIP OF THE MONTH**

Regular maintenance is key to keeping your refrigerator running efficiently. Clean the coils every 6 to 12 months—more often if you have pets. When coils are clogged with lint, dust, or pet hair, your fridge has to work harder, leading to poor cooling, higher energy costs (up to 35%), and a shorter lifespan.

UTILITY SCAM AWARENESS **TIP OF THE MONTH**

Beware of fake utility websites designed to steal your information. Always type the official web address directly into your browser and look for "https://" and a padlock icon for security. If you're unsure, call your utility's official number from your bill to verify details. Stay alert to avoid fraud.

Smart Summer Tips for Boosting Electricity Efficiency:

- **Use Energy-Efficient Appliances:** Upgrade to Energy Star-rated appliances to reduce power consumption.
- **Optimize A/C Use:** Set thermostats higher and maintain air conditioners for better efficiency.
- **Seal Windows and Doors:** Prevent air leaks to keep cool air in and reduce cooling costs.
- **Use Smart Power Strips:** Cut power to electronics when not in use to reduce phantom energy use.
- **Maximize Natural Light:** Use daylight instead of artificial lighting and switch to energy-efficient bulbs.

★ ★ ★ MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBER AND HONOR

URECC offices
will be closed
Monday, May
26th, 2025, in
observance of
Memorial Day.



Baked Brie Bites

- 24 frozen mini phyllo pastry shells, thawed
- 3 oz. Brie cheese, rind removed
- 2 Tbsp. red pepper jelly
- 24 toasted pecans
- 1 tsp. flaky sea salt



Preheat oven to 350°F. Arrange pastry shells on a rimmed baking sheet.

Cut Brie into 24 very small pieces. Spoon 1/4 teaspoon jelly into each shell; top evenly with Brie pieces and pecans.

Bake in preheated oven until cheese is melted, 7 to 8 minutes. Sprinkle with salt; serve immediately.