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# URECC NEWSLETTER

## Go Above and Beyond for a Safe Harvest

Modern agriculture heavily relies on data and equipment featuring GPS and auto-guidance systems. Despite these technological advancements, farm workers must remain vigilant as farming is considered one of the most hazardous occupations.

Massive farming machinery equipped with GPS and auto-steering systems are essential, yet their size and height make them susceptible to power line contact. It is essential for farm workers to stay alert, focused, and well-informed about potential risks and safety protocols.

During the busy harvest season, farm workers can easily overlook overhead power lines amidst familiar farm surroundings. Neglecting to notice them can result in tragic accidents.

Being aware of surroundings - above, below, and around - and planning safe equipment paths can significantly reduce accident risks. Even with GPS and auto-steering technology, farm workers must closely monitor equipment location and be prepared to act swiftly if needed.

Exposed underground power lines, faulty wiring in farm structures, and extension cords are additional hazards to consider. Grain bins also present potential dangers. The National Electrical Safety Code mandates power lines to be at least 18 feet above the tallest point on any grain bin used with portable augers. If you are planning to install new grain bins or have concerns about existing ones' proximity to power lines, contact URECC for assistance.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

It's the perfect moment to plan your home's heating system's annual maintenance. Fall is usually a less hectic period for HVAC technicians, making it ideal for maintenance and repairs before winter sets in. A skilled technician can clean filters, inspect for leaks, and verify that all system parts are functioning optimally to ensure your home stays warm and cozy as the temperatures start to decrease.



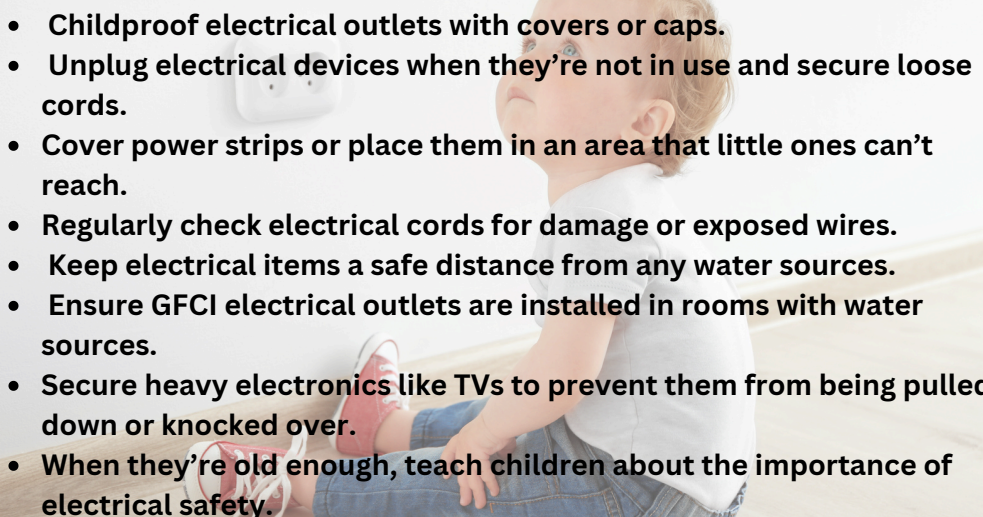
## Smart Harvest Safety Tips

For a safer harvest season, the following tips to prevent electrical accidents on the farm:

- Exercise caution around power lines, especially when raising augers or grain truck beds.
- Use spotters when operating large machinery near power lines and ensure they avoid touching the machinery while it's in motion.
- Lower equipment extensions and portable augers before moving them, and avoid raising equipment into power lines.
- Never try to adjust power lines to clear a path, as it can lead to electric shock or worse.
- Avoid using metal poles in bins to break up grain bridges.
- Always hire qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

If equipment touches overhead lines and catches fire, the only reason to exit is for safety. In this rare situation, jump off with your feet together without touching the machinery and the ground simultaneously. Then, keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

## BABY SAFETY MONTH TIPS

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- Childproof electrical outlets with covers or caps.
  - Unplug electrical devices when they're not in use and secure loose cords.
  - Cover power strips or place them in an area that little ones can't reach.
  - Regularly check electrical cords for damage or exposed wires.
  - Keep electrical items a safe distance from any water sources.
  - Ensure GFCI electrical outlets are installed in rooms with water sources.
  - Secure heavy electronics like TVs to prevent them from being pulled down or knocked over.
  - When they're old enough, teach children about the importance of electrical safety.

## Pumpkin Dip

### Ingredients:

- 4 oz. cream cheese
- 1/2 c. pumpkin puree
- 1 c. powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/2 c. heavy whipping cream
- Graham crackers, Pretzels, Sliced apple and pear to serve



### Instructions:

- In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a whisk attachment, beat the cream cheese, pumpkin puree, powdered sugar, pumpkin pie spice, and vanilla on medium speed until smooth and creamy, 2 to 3 minutes. Scrape down the bottom and sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula.
- With the mixer on medium-low speed, gradually pour in the heavy cream. Increase the speed to medium-high and beat until the mixture is light and fluffy, about 30 seconds.
- Serve the pumpkin dip with graham crackers, pretzels, apple slices, pear slices, or by the spoonful.

## Operation Round Up Fast Facts:

- The program was initiated 35 years ago by Palmetto Electric Cooperative.
- Members have the option to round up their electric bill to the nearest dollar, with the spare change being pooled for charitable purposes.
- The funds support various local organizations.
- On average, each member contributes around \$6 per year, with a maximum donation of \$11.88.
- Enrollment is possible through our SmartHub app, online at [urecc.coop](http://urecc.coop), or by reaching out to our Member Services department at 800-259-2536 or 903-843-2536.

