



August 2025

Avoid Electrical Fires at Home

It is estimated that more than 30,000 non-fatal electrical shock accidents occur each year. The National Safety Council estimates that between 600 and 1,000 people die each year from electrocution. Safe Electricity has these tips to help you avoid becoming a part of these statistics:

- **Electrical outlets** — Check for loose-fitting plugs, which can be a shock or fire hazard. Replace missing or broken wall plates so wiring and components are not exposed. If you have young children in the home, check that unused outlets are covered.
- **Plugs** — Never force them into outlets. Don't remove the grounding pin (third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two-conductor outlet. Avoid overloading outlets with adapters and too many appliance plugs.
- **Cords** — Make sure they are not frayed or cracked, placed under carpets or rugs, or placed in high traffic areas. Do not nail or staple them to walls, floors or other objects.
- **Extension cords** — Use them on a temporary basis only. They are not intended as permanent household wiring. Make sure they have safety closures to protect young children from shock and mouth burn injuries.
- **Light bulbs** — Check the wattage to make sure light bulbs match the fixture requirements. Replace bulbs that have higher wattage ratings than recommended on the fixture. Make sure they are screwed in securely, so they don't overheat.
- **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)** — Make sure GFCIs are installed in your kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, workshop, basement and garage as well as on outdoor outlets. Test them monthly to ensure they're working properly.
- **Circuit breakers/Fuses** — Fuses should be properly rated for the circuit they are protecting. If you don't know the correct



rating, have an electrician identify and label the correct size to be used. Always replace a fuse with the same size you are removing. Check that circuit breakers are working properly.

- **Appliances/Electronics** — If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced. Look for cracks or damage in wiring and connectors. Use surge protectors to protect expensive electronics.
- **Electrical wiring** — Wiring defects are a major cause of residential blazes. Check periodically for loose wall receptacles, loose wires, or loose lighting fixtures. Listen for popping or sizzling sounds behind walls. Immediately shut off, then professionally replace light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that spark and flicker.
- **Service capacity** — As you continue to upgrade your home with more lighting, appliances and electronics, your home's electrical service capacity may become overburdened. If fuses blow or trip frequently, you may need to increase the capacity of your electrical service or add new branch circuits. A qualified, licensed electrician can determine the appropriate service requirements for your home.



HAPPY

RETIREMENT

After an incredible career and over 13 years of dedicated service at South Central Electric, we announce the retirement of our **General Manager, Ron Horman**. We thank Ron for his leadership and wisdom over the years. Ron's retirement is well-earned and we wish him all the best in his new chapter.



IS NATIONAL 8/11 DAY



SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS.
EVERY DIG. EVERY TIME.



Connect with Minnesota's Electric Cooperatives at **FARMFEST**

Join Minnesota's rural electric cooperatives at Farmfest from August 5-7. As Minnesota's premier agricultural event, Farmfest attracts nearly 30,000 attendees and hosts over 500 exhibits and vendors in rural Redwood County each year.

Farmfest serves as a vital platform for addressing political and educational issues impacting farmers and rural communities across Minnesota. From policy discussions to showcasing the latest technological advancements in agriculture, the event offers valuable insights and networking opportunities for all attendees.

Minnesota electric cooperatives have a long history of participating in Farmfest and connecting with our agricultural partners. Be sure to visit our booths where we will be

showcasing tools and technology to make outdoor work easier and demonstrating our commitment to safety with an interactive electrical safety exhibit. Learn firsthand about essential safety measures to keep you and your family safe. See a live safety demonstration illustrating the need for caution when working near or moving large equipment around powerlines. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with Minnesota's electric cooperatives and discover how we're empowering farmers and rural communities across the state.

Minnesota's electric cooperatives are proud to supply the electrical needs of most farms across the state, serving members in every Minnesota county.



Visit us along with other
Minnesota Electric Cooperatives,
at Farmfest 2025 and enter for
a chance to win a grand prize!

FARMFEST 2025

AUGUST 5,6,7 • REDWOOD FALLS, MN

Bring this coupon to Booth #2201

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE# _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

You must be a member of one of the participating
electric cooperatives to be eligible to win.



South Central Electric Association
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

SCEA WATER HEATER PROGRAM

SCEA's peak shave water heater program provides members with a Marathon water heater at a discounted price for participating in the load management program.

The cost for water heaters is **\$750**. This is a great value for members. SCEA pays the cost of the electrician to wire the water heater and radio control. The member would pay any costs incurred by a plumber.



2025 REBATE PROGRAMS



The recipient must be a South Central Electric member. Any checks or credits will be made in the name or account of the member. The program will end when funds are exhausted; additional rebates may be added at a later date. The completed applications will be processed on a first come first served basis as they are received in our office. Rebate applications can be requested by calling the St. James office or available online at www.southcentralelectric.com.

REBATES:

Please see rebate applications for details.



Must be an Energy Star® appliance to qualify.

Dehumidifier	\$20	Credit applied to the energy bill
Air Source Heat Pumps (ducted)	\$300	HSPF rating over 9.5 \$500
Ductless/Mini-Split Heat Pump.....	\$350	
Ground Source Heat Pump.....	\$300/ton	(Limit 10 tons)
Air Conditioner Tune Up	\$30	
Managed Electric Heat.....	\$20/kW	
Radio controlled, qualifies for a discount of \$.031/kWh on system usage.		
Stored or dual fuel heat. Heat pumps are not eligible for this program.		
LED Yard Light.....	\$25/ea.	limit 3

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL REBATES:

Rebates are available on a custom basis. Rebates will be based on kW reduction on retrofit projects. To be eligible for a rebate the project must have a minimum savings of 1kW. We do not have rebate programs for new construction. Call SCEA for information on these rebates.



ONLINE PAYMENT & BILLING w/ SMARTHUB

Pay your bills on-line with South Central Electric's on-line bill payment system, SmartHub. Download the SmartHub app for your mobile device or tablet from the APP Store or Google Play.

To get started visit our web site southcentralelectric.com and click on the SmartHub logo. Once you are at the SmartHub site you'll have to sign up as a first time user by clicking the "New User" link and follow the prompts.

Power Your Home When We Can't

with a
Briggs & Stratton®
Home Standby
Generator.



You can be confident that South Central Electric works hard every day to keep your lights on. For those times when mother nature strikes, we still have you covered with our generator program. You can purchase a whole home Briggs & Stratton® Power Protect generator from South Central Electric. If you lose power, the generator automatically takes over. When power is restored, it automatically shuts down. Power when you need it without the hassles of portable or PTO generators.

Estimated cost of \$9,000 to \$12,500 includes the following:

- Briggs & Stratton® Power Protect DX with industry leading 10-year warranty.
- Minnesota winter ready with battery warmer, oil heater & battery charger.
- Automatic transfer switch.
- **Electrician installation.**



*Generators run on LP or Natural Gas.
Estimate does not include costs of gas
installation from your gas provider.*

**Call our office to learn more at
(507) 375-3164**



Service Upgrades, Additions, or Rebuilds

Are you looking at changes to your electrical service this summer? The electric utility industry is not immune to the supply chain issues. If you need to upgrade or change your electrical service with South Central Electric contact us now. This will help us plan to have the materials and equipment we need to complete your project.



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South Central Electric

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The Board meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at South Central Electric's building at 71176 Tiell Dr., St. James, MN.

Please see our website for a summary of the board meetings.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

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OUR WEBSITE!**

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