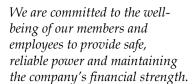


A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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Winter Preparation For Your Home

Winterizing your home is no fun when it is already 20 degrees Fahrenheit outdoors. Even worse is having your sprinkler system burst from frozen lines because you didn't get around to purging the system before freezing weather set in.

Fall is the time to get winterized in preparation for the season. Proper winterization involves a systematic review of your home's HVAC equipment as well as the critical structural and mechanical systems. Take care of these elements before winter so you can enjoy the snow in cozy comfort and not worry.

The heating system is perhaps the most critical element for a home in winter, and the time to check your furnace and other heating appliances is in the fall, no later than the end of October. Give your system a test run through and make sure all systems are operating.

Heating System Checklist

- Test run: Turn the thermostat to heat mode and set it to 80 degrees, just for testing. You should hear the furnace turn on, and warm air should begin to blow within a few minutes. If it is not running properly call a qualified service technician.
- Seasonal maintenance: Either have the furnace checked by a service technician or do this work yourself. Most seasonal maintenance tasks are well within a homeowner's skill range.
- Replace the air filter: Put in a new clean air filter.
- Inspect and clean heating vents.
- Check for carbon monoxide leaks: This silent killer can easily be detected with either an inexpensive test badge or battery operated alarm.

Inspect the Wood-burning Fireplace, Chimney and Flue

- Clear obstructions: Check to make sure chimney is clear of any nests.
- Check the damper: Make sure it opens and closes fully.
- Have the chimney cleaned: This is not a pleasant DIY project, and professional cleaning is not very expensive.

Winterize Water Pipes

- Insulate exposed piping.
- Exterior faucets: Exterior faucets need to have their water supply turned off from inside the house and you need to drain the water from them.
- Seasonal shut-down: If you are shutting down a property for several months to leave for winter, you should always shut off the water supply and drain the plumbing system.

Windows and Doors

- Inspect outside moldings for damaged or missing caulking.
- Inspect locking mechanisms: You will want to lock them securely once winter sets in.
- Check for air leaks: On a day when it's windy outside, close your windows and doors and check for leaks. Typically, air leaks will be found at the edges. Use inexpensive rope caulk to seal gaps. Press the caulk into all the joints where the air is leaking.

Wyoming State Fair



Each year the Wyoming co-ops participate in the Wyoming State Fair. They set up booths to provide information, give safety demos and give away free bottled water.

Here is a young man, maybe a future lineworker, putting on climbing gear and finding out what is involved in pole climbing.





One of the highlights are the safety demos that various lineworkers present. They demonstrate the protective equipment they use, how they safely work on power lines and what they do to restore power.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Safety Tips for Trick or Treating

Halloween is beyond exciting for kids. They get to stay up late, dress up, and gorge on candy. They're hyper, distracted and determined to make the most of the day (and night!), so parents need to make sure they stay visible, follow the rules of the road and don't eat anything strange from their loot bag. Here are some quick tips to keep this spooky holiday from becoming a scary one.

- 1. **Pick the right size:** Make sure that costumes fit properly. Hems should be well above the ground to avoid tripping, and kids should have full range of motion.
- 2. **Keep it bright:** Dark colors are obviously harder to see at night, so dress your kids up in bright costumes or add reflective accessories to dark getups.
- 3. Break out the makeup: Since masks can obstruct vision, create the same idea with face paint.
- 4. **Test it out:** Before the big day, try the face paint to make sure your child doesn't have a skin reaction. And of course, be sure to wash it all off before tucking them in bed at night.
- 5. Choose non-flammable fabrics: Jack-o-lanterns often have real candles inside, so opt for costumes with 100 percent synthetic fabrics like nylon, polyester, acrylic and avoid loose capes and glittery fabric, which tends to be more flammable. And to cut the risk, light up your own pumpkin with a battery powered tea light or LED "candle".
- 6. **Get your glow on:** Light your kids up with glow sticks, bike lights clipped onto costumes and reflective tape. And give them a flashlight, or carry one with you.
- 7. **Take the tiny trick-or-treaters:** Little kids should always have an adult with them.
- 8. **Go as a group:** Older kids should travel together, stick to a route they've cleared with their parents, check in by phone regularly, and have a set curfew to return home.
- 9. **Choose wisely:** Don't feel you have to hit every home on the block. Look for well-lit locations with pumpkins on display.
- 10. **Stay on the step:** Kids should never enter a persons home who they do not know.
- 11. **Follow the rules of the road:** Set a good example and only cross the street at established crosswalks. If you are driving in residential areas, take it slow.
- 12. Ask for help: Look for police officers if you require assistance or have any concerns to report.
- 13. Check it all out: Before you let your kids dive in, dump the entire candy bag out and inspect it all. Throw out any packages that look like they've been opened and any homemade or repackaged goods.
- 14. **Be alert for allergens:** If you've got a child with serious allergies or food sensitivities, read any unfamiliar labels before handing over the candy.
- 15. **Brush up.** Don't skip the teeth brushing routine. Sticky candies are cavities waiting to happen.





Garland Light & Power maintains a list of members who rely on electrically-powered life support systems (e.g. respirators, oxygen, special monitors, etc.) In the event of a scheduled outage that may last more than a few hours, we will make every effort to notify affected customers in advance should they need to make special arrangements. We will attempt to contact you as soon as possible when an unplanned outage occurs in your area.

If you or a family member is dependent upon electricity for life support, please complete the information below and return it to the office. To help us update our records, return the following form even if you are presently on our list or need to discontinue this service.

Member Name	Phone Number
E-mail address	Type of support needed
Account Number	911 Address at Account Location

LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

This program provides assistance for winter heating bills. It is available for the months of November through May. The State of Wyoming accepts applications from October 1st through February 28th each year. Benefits are based on household size, income and type of fuel used as the primary heating source.

Crisis Assistance-This is a one time per program year benefit available to persons who are facing an energy emergency. The benefit amount is based on the amount needed to resolve this crisis, up to a maximum of \$400. Crisis funds can be used for deposits on new accounts, LP tank sets, and back bills. Crisis assistance is available from October through the middle of April. Back bills prior to October 1st are the clients responsibility.

For a LIEAP application, call 1-800-246-4221.

