



A MESSAGE FOR YOU

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EVP and General Manager



Don't Be Shocked! May is National Electric Safety Month

Pitt and Greene EMC would like to remind you to stay safe around electric appliances, equipment and power lines. Taking simple steps can help prevent electrical accidents or fires.

General Extension Cord Safety Tips

Never use extension cords as a constant, long-term extension of your household's electrical system. Continuous use can cause an extension cord to deteriorate and can result in a potentially dangerous electric shock or fire hazard.

- Never plug a space heater into an extension cord or power strip.
- Never plug two extension cords together. Doing so can result in overloaded circuits, short circuits, and damaged cords, which could lead to fires or electric shocks. Instead of plugging extension cords together, consider installing additional outlets where needed.
- Do not run cords through walls, doorways, ceilings, or under rugs or carpet. If a cord is covered, heat cannot escape and can create a fire hazard.
- Make sure that your extension cord or power strip is properly rated for the device that will be plugged in and is marked for either indoor or outdoor use.
- Regularly inspect electrical cords and extension cords for damage.



Indoor Safety Tips

- Reduce your electrical load by using energy-efficient appliances and lighting.
- Unplug small appliances when not in use.
- Use an outlet cover or plastic cap to keep children safe around outlets.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Test them monthly, change batteries yearly, and replace the unit every 10 years.

Outdoor Safety Tips

- Know what's below before you dig. Dial 8-1-1 to have your local electric or natural gas company representative mark the location of underground lines for free.
- Never touch downed power lines.
- Watch for overhead power lines every time you use a ladder, work on roofs and trees, or carry long tools. Keep kites, model airplanes, and metallic balloons away from power lines.
- Do not overload outdoor electrical and/or extension cords or allow them to run through water or snow on the ground.

Severe Weather Preparedness

Each year in the United States, more than 400 people are struck by lightning. On average, between 55 and 60 people are killed; hundreds of others suffer permanent neurological disabilities. Most of these tragedies can be avoided with a few simple precautions. When thunderstorms threaten, get to a safe place. Lightning safety is an inconvenience that can save your life.



Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperatives

ELECTRICAL SAFETY CHECKLIST

Electrical safety should be everyone's priority.

Check everything off this list monthly to make your home as safe as possible for you and your family.

1 | BATHROOM

- All electrical appliances are used away from the sink, tub, toilet and/or shower.
- All appliance cords are unplugged when not in use.
- All appliances are plugged into GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) -protected outlets, and GFCIs have been tested monthly.
- All unused outlets have safety caps installed, especially when children are in the home.
- All lighting in your shower area is vapor-tight.

2 | KITCHEN

- Back of refrigerator has room for air circulation and its coils are free of dirt and buildup.
- All electrical appliances are placed and used away from the sink.
- All appliances are plugged into GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) -protected outlets, and GFCIs have been tested monthly.
- All electrical cords are not cracked, frayed or damaged in any way.
- Appliance cords are not hanging from tables or counters and are unplugged when not in use.

3 | BASEMENT

- Circuit breaker box is labeled with the last electrical inspection, correct amperage and which rooms, outlets and circuits they service.
- Standard circuit breakers have been inspected, and you've considered talking with your licensed electrician about replacing with Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs).
- Washer and dryer do not wobble excessively while running, have room for air circulation, and dryer lint is removed after each use.
- Furnace has been inspected, cleaned and has proper ventilation outside the house.
- Temperature on the water heater is set to 120° or less.

4 | FAMILY ROOM

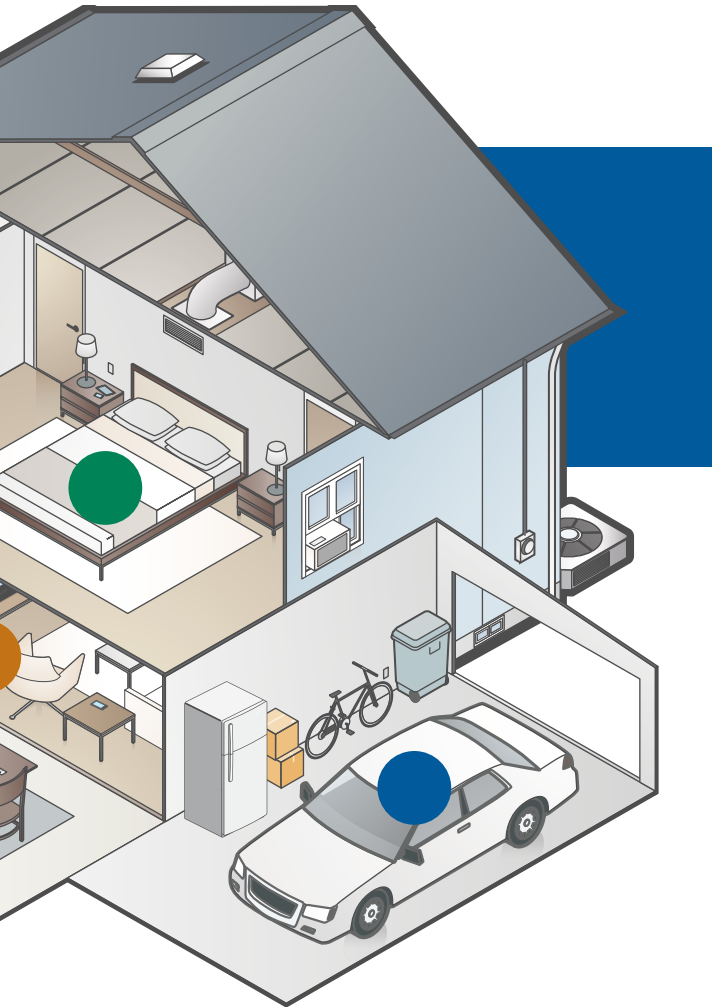
- All unused outlets have safety caps installed, especially when children are in the home.
- All light switch and outlet covers are not cracked or broken.
- All electrical equipment (lamps, electronics, etc.) are being used without the use of extension cords.
- All power outlets, power strips and surge protectors are not overloaded.
- All electronics have room for air circulation.

5 | BEDROOM

- All smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in working order, and are placed outside sleeping areas and on every level of the house.
- All light fixtures throughout the house have bulbs not exceeding the fixture's maximum wattage.
- No electrical cords are resting under furniture.
- Electronic devices such as phone chargers are unplugged when not in use.
- Window unit air conditioners are on their own dedicated circuit.



All thunderstorms produce lightning and are dangerous. Lightning often strikes outside the area of heavy rain and may strike as far as 10 miles from any rainfall. Many lightning deaths occur ahead of storms or after storms have seemingly passed. Keep this simple fact in mind: if you can hear thunder, you are in danger. Also, don't be fooled by blue skies. There is no such thing as "heat lightning." All lightning comes as a result of a thunderstorm, and if you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to pose an immediate threat to you.



6 | GARAGE

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- All electrical cords are not cracked, frayed or damaged in any way – and are never used on a permanent basis.
- Appliance cords are unplugged when not in use.
- All appliances are plugged into GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter)-protected outlets, and GFCIs have been tested monthly.
- Any garage-stored appliances, like refrigerators and freezers, have dedicated 20 amp appliance circuits.
- All storage boxes are placed away from wiring and plugs.

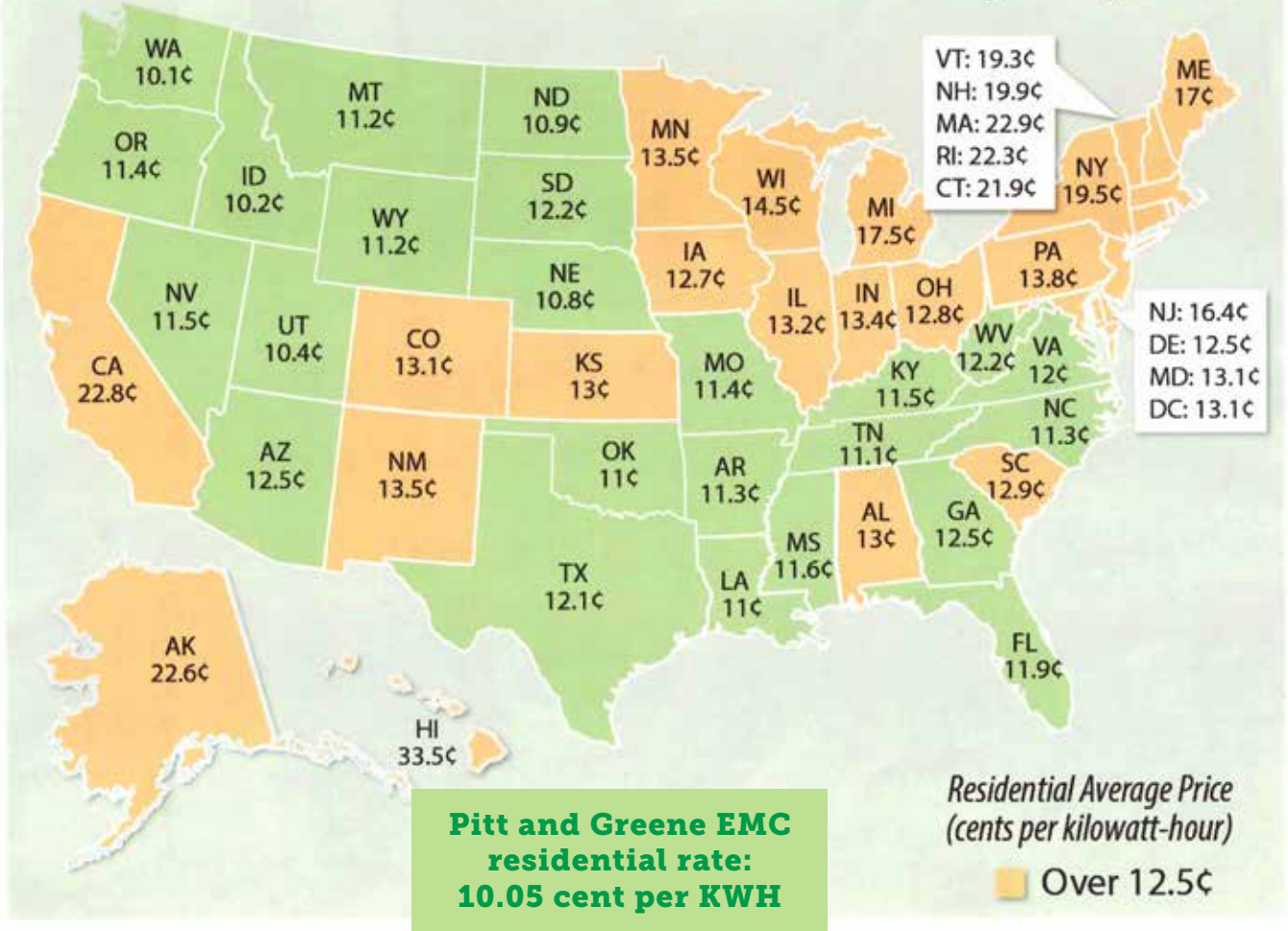
The most effective lightning safety action can be found in avoiding the lightning threat altogether. Have a lightning safety plan. If you have outdoor plans, know where you'll go for safety and how much time it will take to get there. Make sure your plan allows enough time to reach safety. Before going outdoors, check the forecast for thunderstorms. If thunderstorms are in the forecast, consider postponing activities to avoid being caught in a dangerous situation. Finally, when outdoors, monitor the weather and be sure to look for signs of a developing thunderstorm such as darkening skies, flashes of lightning, or increasing wind. If you hear thunder, even a distant rumble, immediately activate your lightning safety plan and move to a safe place.

The following lightning safety tips could one day save your life:

- **NO PLACE** outside is safe when thunderstorms are in the area!
- If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you.
- When you hear thunder, immediately move to safe shelter. A safe shelter is an enclosed substantial building with electricity or plumbing, such as a home, office building, school, restaurant or a store. Sheds, tents, picnic pavilions, porches and ball-field dugouts **DO NOT** offer any lightning protection whatsoever and many actually increase your danger of being struck.
- If no substantial building is available for shelter, enclosed metal-topped vehicles offer protection from lightning, but make sure the windows are in the up position.
- Stay in your safe shelter for at least 30 minutes after you hear the last sound of thunder.
- When indoors, stay off-corded phones, computers and other electrical equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity. Avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths, and faucets. Stay away from windows and doors and stay off porches. Do not lie on concrete floors, and do not lean against concrete walls.
- If you are caught outside with no safe shelter anywhere nearby, the following actions may reduce your risk:
 - » Immediately get off elevated areas such as hills, mountain ridges or peaks
 - » Never lie flat on the ground
 - » Never shelter under an isolated tree
 - » Never use a cliff or rocky overhang for shelter
 - » Immediately get out and away from ponds, lakes and other bodies of water
 - » Stay away from objects that conduct electricity (barbed wire fences, power lines, windmills, etc.)

U.S. Average kWh

U.S. Average: 13.7¢ per kWh



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