

SWRE POWER SOURCE

A Supplement to Oklahoma Living



TIME TO DITCH YOUR OLD SPACE HEATER?

If you can't remember when you purchased your space heater, it might be time to replace it. Just like the flip phones of yesteryear have progressed into today's modern cell phone, portable space heaters have come a long way, too. Most of today's models have built-in safety features, such as non-exposed coils and sensors that detect overheating or touch, as well as an automatic shut-off feature in case it gets tipped over.

Regardless of whether your space heater is fresh out of the box or several years old, it should be used safely, since most home heating fire deaths (86%) involve using one, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). In fact, heating equipment is the second-leading cause of U.S. home fires, right behind cooking.

Along with using a unit that is in good working order, be sure to keep clothing, papers, rugs and other flammable items at least three feet away from a space heater. More than half of the heating-related home fires start when items are too close to the heat source, according to the NFPA, including upholstered furniture, clothing, a mattress or bedding.

Safe Electricity and SWRE recommend these additional space heater safety tips:

1. Read all instructions and only use as recommended.
2. Do not leave a space heater unattended.
3. Plug it directly into an outlet; most power strips and extension cords are not equipped to handle the energy spikes caused by a space heater cycling on and off.
4. Unplug any other item from the outlet you are using; also try to use a dedicated circuit to avoid overload.
5. Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
6. Turn them off before you leave the room or go to sleep.
7. Do not use a heater in disrepair or with a frayed cord or damaged plug.
8. Place them on flat, level surfaces and never place on furniture, counters or carpet, which can overheat.

Use a space heater with care. For additional safety tips, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.safeelectricity.org).

A photograph of two pumpkins resting on a bed of straw inside a wooden crate. The pumpkins are bright orange with dark green stems. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the crate and straw.

MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE MERRY AND BRIGHT

Jeff Simpson, Chief Executive Officer

As November kicks off, it's hard to believe we'll soon be gathering with family and friends to celebrate the holiday season. This festive time of year brings joy and warmth, but as the weather gets cooler and we spend more time indoors, the holidays can also bring increased energy use and a higher risk of electrical and fire hazards.

As your local electric cooperative, our team at Southwest Rural Electric cares about your wellbeing. This month, I'd like to share a few practical tips to help you stay safe and efficient during the holiday season.

SAFETY FIRST.

My family truly enjoys decorating our home for the holidays. Before we deck the halls, I always check electrical cords and light strands to make sure they aren't frayed or damaged. This gives us peace of mind, knowing our holiday lights are ready to safely brighten our home. I also double check the lights we use outside to make sure they're rated for outdoor use.

Like many households, we also enjoy holiday-scented candles. While festive, candles can create fire hazards and should never be left unattended. One of the best and easiest ways to safeguard your home is to test smoke alarms often. I test mine on the first of each month, so it's easy to remember. Testing smoke alarms only takes a few seconds and could save lives, so make it a habit.

'TIS THE SEASON FOR SAVINGS.

Spending more time indoors with a few more guests in the home can really impact home energy use. By taking a few small steps to save energy during the holiday season, you can lower your bills.

I like to remind my family members to mind the thermostat. Since heating and cooling makes up the majority of home energy consumption, the thermostat is one of the best places for savings. Lower it a few degrees, especially when you have family or friends stopping by. Good company brings additional warmth to your home.

Your family can also save energy by decorating with LED holiday lights. LEDs are the most energy efficient lighting options available, and they last much longer than traditional bulbs.

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS CAN APPLY FOR YOUTH TOUR

Are you a high school junior attending school in SWRE's service area? Would you like to travel to Washington, D.C., and visit historic landmarks—all without spending a dime of your own money?

Apply by December 1 at [SWRE.com/YouthTour!](https://www.swre.com/YouthTour)



There's no denying one of the best parts of the holiday season is the food—not just the meals but the time we spend together in the kitchen. There are many ways to save in the heart of your home, but one of the best approaches is to cook with smaller countertop appliances, such as air fryers, slow cookers and toaster ovens. These handy appliances consume a fraction of the energy used to heat the oven, creating the perfect recipe for mealtime and energy savings.

I hope you will implement some of these energy-saving and safety tips into your holiday plans. We're here to help you with safety and savings year-round.

From your friends at SWRE, we hope your holiday season is merry and bright.

SWRE HOLDS DISTRICT MEETING ELECTIONS

Southwest Rural Electric held district meetings for districts 3 and 6 in September. The district meetings are an opportunity for members to discuss issues and elect representatives to the board of directors.

Due to a lack of quorum and no opposition filings at both district meetings, the current trustees for districts 3 and 6 will retain their positions as specified by the SWRE bylaws.

Don Proctor will continue to represent District 3, and Ronnie Swan will continue to represent District 6.





We're Grateful for Your Membership.

Our offices will be closed

**Thursday, November 28,
and Friday, November 29,**

in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.
We are incredibly grateful for your membership as our team spends this special time with loved ones.



From our co-op family to yours,
we hope you have a wonderful
Thanksgiving!



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs and gaming consoles.

Southwest Rural Electric

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Board of Directors

- Don Ellis District 1
- Dan Lambert District 2
- Don Proctor, Sec. District 3
- Dan Elsener, Vice Pres... District 5
- Ronnie Swan, Pres. District 6
- Dan White District 7
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Bill Pay Options:

24/7 Bill Pay: 1-833-890-9510

SmartHub App or SWRE.com

Outage Reports:

24/7 Hotline: 1-833-590-0353

SmartHub App

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WE'RE PROUD TO POWER YOU.