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OFFICE HOURS

7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday

STREET ADDRESS

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MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 168
Peru, IN 46970

POWER OUTAGES

To report a power outage,
call 844-473-6668. We are available
24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dennis "Jim" Savage, *President*

Todd Smith, *Vice President*

Cindy Scott, *Secretary-Treasurer*

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Scott Marschand

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Safeguard

your home this winter season



As the temperatures drop and the days grow shorter, there's a natural inclination to create a warm and cozy haven at home. Unfortunately, as we see increased use of heating equipment, candles and electrical items, the number of home fires tends to increase during winter months.

Here are five ways you can safeguard your home for the winter season.

1. Ensure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly. If your detectors are battery-operated, replace the batteries annually. Test the detectors once a month and give them a good dusting to ensure the sensors are clear of dirt and debris.

2. Inspect electrical cords. We depend on more cords during winter, whether for holiday lighting, extension cords or portable heaters. Before using any corded items, double check to make sure cords aren't frayed or cracked. If you use portable space heaters, remember to keep them at least three feet away from flammable items. Use models that include an auto shut-off feature and overheat protection. Space heaters can take a toll on your energy bills. Use them efficiently (to heat smaller spaces) and safely. Never plug a space heater into a power strip.

3. Avoid overloading electrical outlets and power strips. When overloaded with electrical items, outlets and power strips can overheat and catch fire. If you use

power strips for multiple devices, make sure the strip can handle the electrical load. For a safer bet, look for power strips that include surge protection.

4. Clean the fireplace to improve safety and efficiency. There's nothing better than a warm fire on a chilly night, but it's important to maintain your fireplace for safety. As wood burns, a sticky substance known as creosote builds up in the chimney. When creosote buildup becomes too thick, a chimney fire can ignite. The chimney should be cleaned at least once a year to reduce fire risks. Regular cleaning also improves air flow and limits the amount of carbon monoxide that seeps indoors.

5. Practice safety in the kitchen. As we spend more time in the kitchen during the holiday season, be mindful of potential fire hazards. Never leave food that's cooking on the stovetop unattended. Clean and remove spilled foods from cooking surfaces and be mindful of where you place flammable items like dish towels.

Miami-Cass REMC wants you and your family to stay safe during the winter season.



ROB SCHWARTZ
CEO

RATE CHANGE TAKES EFFECT

Miami Cass REMC and its directors take great care in keeping its rates as low as possible. For the last nine years, your co-op has been able maintain the same rates and service charge.

Rates have remained the same since September 2014. However, in the last two years, that rate stabilization has negatively impacted your REMC's operating margins. Last April, your board

hired an outside company to perform a comprehensive cost of service and rate study.

After many hours of review, on Sept. 25 the board unanimously voted to raise the service charge from \$31 to \$40. It also raised rates 6.5%. Members, on average, will see an increase of about \$21 on their monthly bills.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office.

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Miami-Cass REMC takes great care in keeping its rates as low as possible.

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Board meets in SEPTEMBER

1. Counted seven board members attending. Attorney J. Michael Deweese attended via teleconference.
2. Jim Savage presented the WVPA monthly report.
3. Deweese presented the monthly legal report.
4. Rob Schwartz presented the monthly CEO report.
5. Minutes from previous board meeting were approved.
6. Financial reports were reviewed and approved.
7. August monthly operating, member services, human resources and safety reports were reviewed and approved.
8. Set next board meeting for Monday, Oct. 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the REMC Headquarters.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

**Happy Thanksgiving from all of us
at Miami-Cass REMC!**

**In honor of the holiday, our office
will be closed on Nov. 23 and 24.**



DONATION DRIVE

Miami-Cass REMC is holding a donation drive to support Helping Hands in Peru. Drop off items until Dec. 15 at the co-op office. Accepted donations include canned goods, non-perishable items and paper products.

INDIANA
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE

PAGE DAY



SPEND A DAY AT THE STATEHOUSE

WITH STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE STATE



See the Senate
in action.



Tour the
Statehouse.



Pass your own legislation
during a mock bill activity.

APPLY BY JAN. 5 at IECPageDay.org



REQUIREMENTS: You must be available **Jan. 24 or Feb. 20** and have reliable transportation to and from the Indiana Statehouse that day. The program is open to high school students. Please confirm with school administrators, but Page Day is considered an excused absence in most instances.



HOLIDAY FOOD PREP

INGREDIENTS FOR SAFETY

DURING THE HOLIDAYS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS GATHER TO CELEBRATE. USUALLY, FOOD IS INVOLVED. BUT NOT ALL FEASTS TURN OUT FESTIVE. THE UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION ESTIMATES MORE THAN 2,000 RESIDENTIAL FIRES ARE REPORTED EACH THANKSGIVING, WITH COOKING THE LEADING CAUSE.

KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE DURING THESE JOYFUL TIMES BY LEARNING SOME BASIC HOLIDAY FOOD PREPARATION SAFETY TIPS BEFORE YOU START COOKING.

Protect your home and family from fire hazards. Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home. Test the batteries every month and replace them once a year. Create a family escape plan.

Unattended cooking equipment is the leading cause of home cooking fires. Always be sure someone takes over the preparation when needed. Before cooking, clean the stovetop and oven to wipe away any grease or dust to prevent a fire.

While cooking, it's easy to forget about something in the oven, especially when you're entertaining guests. Use a kitchen timer to make sure your dish doesn't burn. When cooking on the stove, use the back burners to protect from spills and wear close-fitting or short sleeves. Keep a close eye on children.

Always locate appliances away from the sink to avoid any electrical dangers. Plug countertop appliances into Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI)-protected outlets and keep cords away from hot surfaces like toasters. Unplug appliances when finished.

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