



H O T L I N E S

Member Driven • Service Focused • It's What We Do Everyday

May // June 2021 CECC Newsletter

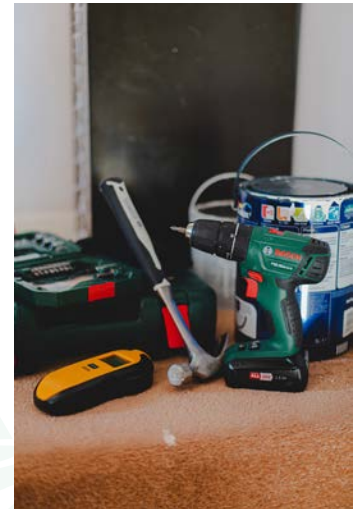
Practice Safety When DIY-ing

These days many of us are spending more time at home and finding new, creative ways to enhance our living space. Tackling do-it-yourself projects for the home can be fun and cost-effective, so roll up those sleeves and get started! Whether you're painting the front door or upgrading those patio lights, successfully completing a DIY home project is incredibly satisfying. Many of these projects do not come without risks. Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind as you get to work.

- **Start by selecting a designated work area.** The amount of space you'll need will depend on the size and scope of your project, but make sure you have adequate lighting and ventilation (if necessary). Required tools and equipment should be located in your workspace and organized for easy access.
- **Personal protective equipment (PPE) is your friend.** We know you're a pro but investing in PPE is essential for most home projects. Stock up on safety goggles, dust masks, ear plugs (or noise reduction ear protectors), gloves and any other kind of protection you'll need for your project. Remember to wear appropriate clothing and shoes.



- **Work slowly and clean as you go.** When you rush through a DIY project, you'll likely end up with less desirable results than you intended, or worse, you could make a costly or dangerous mistake. Take your time and remember that you are in control of the project. You should also clean as you go to ensure a safer workspace. Pick up any scrap materials, tools that aren't in use and any tripping hazards.



- **Be cautious with power tools.** Annually, 8% of electrocutions in the U.S. are attributed to improper use of power tools. Below are safety tips from The Electrical Safety Foundation International:
 - Use ground fault circuit interrupters with every power tool to protect against electrical shock.
 - Never use power tools near live electrical wires or water pipes.
 - Use caution when cutting or drilling into walls where electrical wires or water pipes could be touched or penetrated.
 - If a power tool trips a safety device while in use, take the tool to a manufacturer-authorized repair center for service.
 - Do not use power tools without the proper guards.

Remember, you should only tackle DIY home projects within your skill and comfort level. For projects that require extensive electrical work, we strongly recommend you hire a licensed, qualified electrician for assistance.

To learn more about electrical safety, visit our website at craigheadelectric.coop.



Utility disconnects set to resume

The Arkansas Public Service Commission has issued an order lifting the moratorium on utility disconnects effective May 3, 2021. Members impacted by the pandemic are encouraged to contact our office as soon as possible. These members have been notified of their options via mail and email. Craighead Electric Cooperative will be offering extended payment arrangements as an effort to help our members. For more information, call 1-800-794-5012.

The federal government's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides help for qualifying members. The amount available varies on a member's income and number of people in the household. The program is currently open for applications and is granted on a first-come, first-served basis. Members can contact their county office for more information:

CRDC - (870) 802-7100, BRAD - (870) 892-4547



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Offices will be closed on Monday, May 31st to allow our great employees to enjoy the Memorial Day Holiday. The online account portal and automated phone payment/outage reporting lines will remain open.

We wish our members a safe and proud Memorial Day.

WISHING YOU A BLESSED

MEMORIAL DAY

MAY YOUR DAY BE FILLED WITH PRIDE

CECC OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED MAY THE 31ST