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[www.pioneerelectric.coop](http://www.pioneerelectric.coop)

**PIONEER ELECTRIC  
 COOPERATIVE**

# NEWS

## Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Inc.

### Board of Trustees

- Martie Floyd** – President
- Alfred Alexander** – Vice President
- John Jury** – Secretary/Treasurer
- Steve Arnold** – Trustee
- Mike Brewer** – Trustee
- Fred Claassen** – Trustee
- Jeff Moyer** – Trustee
- Jim Bell** – Trustee
- Charles Milburn** – Trustee

### Staff

- Steve Epperson** – CEO
- Lindsay Campbell** – Executive Vice President, Assistant CEO and General Counsel
- Chantry Scott** – Executive Vice President and CFO
- George Bushnell** – Vice President of Engineering and Operations
- Mike Haney** – Vice President of Engineering and Operations
- Anita Wendt** – Vice President of Energy Services
- Alyssa Hammond** – Editor

## In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call 888-551-4140. After-hours calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to standby personnel.

## The Value of Pioneer Electric Membership: Capital Credits

As a non-profit electric cooperative, Pioneer Electric operates differently than other utilities. We operate at-cost, giving us the opportunity to retire any funds in excess of our operating expenses back to our members as capital credits.

In order to return funds back to our members, we follow a four-part retirement process.

### Part One: Membership

Members of Pioneer Electric are much more than just customers — they are owners! Our members have stake in the equity (margins) of the cooperative, based on their patronage (usage) throughout their years of membership.

In order to be a member of Pioneer Electric, one must have (or had) an established service within Pioneer Electric's service territory.

### Part Two: Allocate

Each year, Pioneer Electric allocates (sets aside) year-end margins in excess of operating expenses to its members based on each member's patronage contribution (electricity used) for that year.

### Part Three: Evaluate

The financial strength of the cooperative is evaluated by the Pioneer Electric Board of Trustees. Once the board has completed its evaluation, the total dollar amount to retire (if allowed) is

determined. Historically, Pioneer has used a "hybrid" method that splits the retirement amount between the most current year and the oldest year of patronage on record.

### Part Four: Retire

Once approved by the Board of Trustees, capital credits are retired (paid) back to the members in the form of a check. Members who have moved away from our system are still eligible to receive capital credits for the years they were members.

In 2021, Pioneer Electric's Board of Trustees approved the retirement of approximately \$4 million in capital credits back to its members. Members will be able to collect their capital credits checks during Member Appreciation on Dec. 2, between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. at the Grant County Civic Center. This year's event will also include a trip through The North Pole, a free chili and cinnamon roll meal, live reindeer and a visit with Santa Claus.

Members with questions may contact Pioneer Electric's office during regular business hours (Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.) by calling 620-356-1211 or 1-800-794-9302. More information regarding Member Appreciation and collecting your check can be found online at [www.pioneerelectric.coop](http://www.pioneerelectric.coop)

## Keep Electrical Safety In Mind This Holiday Season



The approach of the holiday season means that our lives are about to get busier. The holiday hustle can mean things getting lost in the shuffle, still though it's important to keep electrical safety in mind. From remembering to unplug unused devices to making sure your hands are dry when hanging up lights, remembering that electricity is not only a powerful servant, but a dangerous one, can keep you safe this holiday season.

Creating a festive atmosphere inside your home takes a number of additional decorations that may require the use of plug-ins or breaking out a power-strip. As your spread holiday cheer around your home, distribute decorations throughout to ensure you're not putting a strain on outlets and causing them to overload. Overloaded outlets not only take a toll on your electric bill, but also create safety

hazards like fires. By spacing decorations throughout your home and remembering to unplug decorations, like Christmas trees, when not in use, you can keep your home festive and safe.

Decorations inside the home can also spark the curiosity of children and pets. Electrical cords and wires can present shock hazards if chewed on or frayed. Take time to make sure that decorations are safely out of reach from the smaller members of your family and throw away any damaged cords.

Outdoor decorations should also be planned with electrical safety in mind. It's important to consider several factors when setting up outdoor decorations. Whether it's stringing lights on the house or large inflatable yard decorations, having the proper equipment can prevent potential safety hazards.

When you pull those lights out this year to decorate the outside of your house, inspect them carefully. Check for damaged cords or bulbs to ensure that they are safe to use. It's also important to inspect the area around where you plan to decorate before setting up a ladder. Look up and ensure that you are not near any power lines. Maintain a respectable distance (at least 10 feet) between you, any object you are holding and power lines.

If you plan to use extension cords with any of your decorating, keep in mind that extension cords should only be used as a temporary power source. If you are using extension cords with outdoor decorations, inspect your cord to make sure it is safe for outdoor use and only plug it into a GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter)-protected outlet.

Just like any other electrical device, it's important to remember to turn off or unplug any decorations when they're not in use. Not only will this keep your home and family safe from electrical safety hazards, it will help combat any additional costs that your electrical bill may experience over the holiday season. Pioneer Electric has great energy saving and safety tips available at [www.pioneerelectric.coop](http://www.pioneerelectric.coop). Members can also track how much energy their home is using (and when) by downloading the Smarthub™ app.

As you start to think about decking the halls this year, keeping electrical safety in mind can help ensure that the holidays are not only merry and bright, but safe. Having respect for the power electricity will help you work safe and prevent accidents from occurring this holiday season.

### Our Office Will Be Closed The Following Holidays

#### THANKSGIVING

Nov. 25 and 26

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

Dec. 24

#### NEW YEAR'S EVE

Dec. 31

**OUTAGES OR EMERGENCIES: 1 (888) 551-4140 OR 620-424-4612**  
**BILL PAY: 866.999.4505 OR WWW.PIONEERELECTRIC.COOP**

# Pioneer Electric Earns No Lost Time Accident Award

Safety is part of the culture we've built at Pioneer Electric. Whether they're working in the office or out in the field, our employees work with safety in mind every day. Our commitment to safety is one we take seriously. Pioneer Electric was recognized for its recent achievement of 1,247,34 employee hours without a lost time accident since August 2, 2012.

"Lost time accidents are any sort of accident resulting in an injury or situation that requires us to stop operations," said Danny Law, Pioneer Electric's safety and compliance manager. "We work hard to ensure that our employees are properly trained and well-informed in all aspects of safety. When we can work together and work safely, not only do we benefit from it, but so do the members."

Working in a manner that is safe helps the cooperative continue to provide members with a source of power that is both reliable and sustainable. When we maintain our culture of safety, members benefit by having access to valuable electric resources at the lowest-cost possible. Working safe also guarantees our employees make it home to their loved ones at the end of each day.

In addition to all-employee safety meetings every month, Pioneer Electric offers a variety of opportunities to its employees that help them continue to work safely.

"Lost-time accidents can occur anywhere, not just out on the line," said Law. "We provide education for our employees that covers a variety of safety related topics. We want to



KEC CEO, Lee Tafanelli (center) presents Vice President of Operations, Mike Haney (left) and CEO, Steve Epperson (right) with an award recognizing the co-op's recent achievement of over one million hours without a lost time accident.

make sure our employees are trained in safety procedures for any type of situation, whether that's a fire, severe storm or mayday call."

Because of its culture of safety, Pioneer Electric is able to provide an essential service to members in a way that goes above and beyond. When we work safely, our members receive service that is world-class, reliable and safe. To learn more about Pioneer Electric's safety initiative and other safety-related information, visit [www.pioneerelectric.coop](http://www.pioneerelectric.coop)

# Pioneer Electric Oct. 2 Safety Fest Highlights



Tolan Seger (Crew Foreman) Cord Teeter (Journeyman Lineman) and Hunter Haney, (Journeyman Lineman) demonstrate the various tools linemen use to work safely every day.



Monica Walker with the Grant County Extension demonstrates car seat safety.



Emergency and First Responders were also among Safety Fest participants.



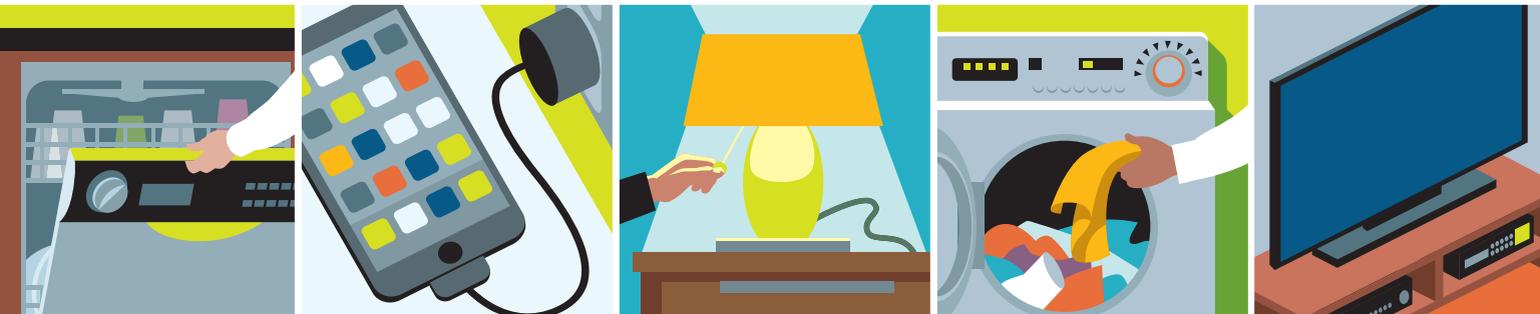
Safety Fest booths offered a variety of health and safety information to attendees during the 2021 Safety Fest on Oct. 2. Topics covered dental health, car seat safety, mental health awareness and more.

# ENERGY SAVINGS

## FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Saving energy at home can help your family save money and help our environment. Test your energy efficiency knowledge by completing this fill-in-the-blank activity.

**Tip: Use the word bank for help. Don't forget to check your answers in the key below!**



- 1 Turning off the tap water while brushing your teeth can save up to four \_\_\_\_\_ of water per minute.
- 2 Energy vampires, like TVs and phone chargers, consume \_\_\_\_\_ even when they're not in use. Turn these devices off to save energy.
- 3 Turning off \_\_\_\_\_ every time you leave the room saves energy.
- 4 Wash clothes in \_\_\_\_\_ water to reduce the load on your water heater.
- 5 LED lightbulbs typically use 75% less energy than \_\_\_\_\_ lightbulbs.
- 6 To save energy, only run the \_\_\_\_\_ with full loads.

## Word Bank

incandescent

electricity

lights

dishwasher

gallons

cold

*Answer Key: 1. gallons 2. electricity 3. lights 4. cold 5. incandescent 6. dishwasher*