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## **ENERGYUNITED OBSERVES MAY AS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH**

**STATESVILLE, N.C.-** May is National Electrical Safety Month, and in recognition of the occasion, and because safety is one of the cooperative's four core values, EnergyUnited is raising awareness about potential home electrical hazards and the importance of electrical safety. Throughout the month of May, EnergyUnited invites cooperative members to check out important electrical safety tips on its Facebook ([www.facebook.com/EnergyUnited](http://www.facebook.com/EnergyUnited)) and Twitter account (@EnergyUnitedEMC).

Home electrical failures cause more than 50,000 fires, resulting in 450 lives lost, 1,500 injuries and \$1.5 billion in property damage each year, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

“We have to do everything we can to make sure our cooperative members don't ever become a part of those statistics,” said H. Wayne Wilkins, CEO of EnergyUnited. “That's why we're joining the national conversation about electrical safety this month to educate our members about potential electrical dangers.”

Please take the time to check your home for these potentially hazardous electrical situations:

### **Inside the Home:**

- Inspect electrical cords often for broken connectors or fraying. Throw away any worn cords to eliminate the possibility of shock, short circuit or fire.
- Don't overload power outlets.
- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.
- When trying to unplug something from an outlet, pull on the plug, not the cord.
- Keep in mind that turned off appliances are still connected to electricity until they are unplugged. To clean or repair these appliances always unplug them first.
- Use extension cords only for short-term purposes, and make sure the cord is adequately suited for the amount of electricity it will be transferring.
- Turn off and unplug all portable electrical appliances, like hairdryers, irons and shavers, when you're finished using them.
- Be familiar with the location of your breaker box and make sure the switches are clearly labeled so you can shut off electricity quickly in the event of an emergency.

**Outside the Home:**

- If there is a downed power line nearby, leave the area immediately and notify our office or call 911. If others are around, let them know that they need to stay away.
- “Call Before You Dig.” Dial 811 before starting a digging project, and workers will be sent to your home to mark utility lines in your yard. This service is free, and it has the potential to save your life.
- Never use electrical equipment near any wet areas, such as pools or ponds.

Safety is a year-round responsibility, but take the time right now to recognize National Electrical Safety Month by checking your home for potential risks. It only takes a few minutes to make sure you won't become one of those troubling statistics.

**About EnergyUnited**

EnergyUnited, an innovative and dynamic energy services company, serves more than 120,000 electricity members in 19 North Carolina counties, stretching from Virginia to northern Mecklenburg County and encompassing the fast-growing I-40, I-77, and I-85 corridors. Its service territory includes suburbs surrounding three of North Carolina's largest cities – Charlotte, Winston-Salem and Greensboro. EnergyUnited makes customer satisfaction its highest priority, and its electric customers enjoy one of the highest reliability ratings in the industry.

EnergyUnited also provides propane to more than 25,000 customers in 74 North and South Carolina counties and offers other specialized residential and commercial products and services. Visit EnergyUnited online at [www.energyunited.com](http://www.energyunited.com).

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