

ROCK ENERGY NEWS

FOR ROCK ENERGY COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

www.rock.coop

April 2011

April Is Safe Digging Month

Spring is finally here!

With the snow melted and the ground ready for planting, eager homeowners are gearing up to start those outdoor digging projects.

Before you reach for that shovel, remember to call 811, the national call-before-you-dig number, to ensure that your buried utility lines are marked.

The Common Ground Alliance and its 1,400 members recognize April as National Safe Digging Month.

The special month was designated to remind residents that our land is made up of a complex underground infrastructure of pipelines, wires, and cables.

Striking an underground utility line while digging can cause harm to you or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

You must call 811 before



every digging project, even if you're just driving a stake or post into the ground.

So the next time you plan to plant a tree or bush, build a deck, or dig into the ground for any reason, pick up the phone and call 811 before you pick up the shovel.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

There are 170,000 underground utilities damaged annually across the nation, and one out of every three incidents is the result of not calling 811.

Don't become part of the statistic—make sure to call 811!

It's simple!

One free phone call to 811 makes it easy for Diggers Hotline in Wisconsin and Julie in Illinois to notify all appropriate utility companies of your intent to dig.

In Wisconsin, you must call three business days prior to digging to ensure enough time for utility lines to be properly marked. Illinois laws specify that you must call two days before digging.

When you call 811, a representative will ask for the location and description of your digging project.

Then Diggers Hotline or Julie will notify affected utility companies, who will then send a professional locator to the proposed dig site to mark the approximate location of your lines.

Once lines have been properly marked, roll up those sleeves and carefully dig around the marked areas.

It's Time to Spring into Energy Efficiency

Spring is a perfect time of year to make your home more energy-efficient.

Here are four quick tips that will save both energy and money.

1. Seal the cracks and gaps around your home.

Spring is the right time to put away those storm windows and a good time to add weather-stripping and caulking around leaky window panes.

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

2. Change filters regularly.

Furnace and air conditioner filters need to be changed monthly. Dirty filters can restrict air flow and reduce the efficiency of your cooling system.

3. Clean the refrigerator.

Now is a good time to not only throw out the leftover fruitcake from the holi-

days, but also to check the temperature settings on your refrigerator. Ideally, a refrigerator's temperature should be between 37 and 40 degrees for maximum operating efficiency.

4. Think sun block.

TogetherWeSave.com demonstrates that by pulling the shades on your windows this spring and summer, you could save about \$35 a year.

Friendly Reminders

Update Your Contact Information

Do you have a new phone number or e-mail address? Did you change your auto pay bank account?

Remember to let us know whenever any of your contact information changes so we can keep our records current. You can call us at (608) 752-4550 or toll-free at (866) 752-4550 between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays. Or go to www.rock.coop and click on "Contact us."

E-Bill Is Available Round the Clock

There's no need to leave your home to pay your bill. You can view and pay your bill online.

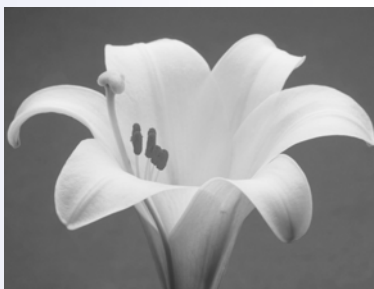
Just log on to www.rock.coop and go to "E-Bill." You will need to sign up for an account so have your account number available.

Report Malfunctioning Streetlights

If there's a streetlight in your area that has burned out or is malfunctioning, let us know by calling (866) 752-4550 or e-mailing lights@rock.coop.

REC offices closed on Good Friday

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Friday, April 22, in observance of Good Friday. Even though our offices are closed, crews are always available 24 hours a day. To report a power outage, please call (608) 752-4550 or toll-free (866) 752-4550.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Electronics account for 8.1 percent of your home's energy use. Cut costs by plugging items into a power strip, and turning the strip off when not in use. "Smart" power strips are another good option—when one master device like a TV is turned off, it cuts power to other selected items (DVD players, gaming consoles, stereos, etc.).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

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