



Oakdale Electric
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Plan for a safe and happy Fourth!

By Meghaan Evans

The month of July has always been a favorite of mine. It's the middle of summer, the kids are out of school, and of course, we celebrate Independence Day!

Typically, we celebrate our nation's independence with grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, ice cream and other sweet treats, and last but not least, fireworks. This is a time for fellowship with family and friends, but at Oakdale Electric Cooperative, we also want to make sure our members focus on safety.

To ensure you have the best Fourth of July possible, we would like to remind you about a few important safety tips from The American Red Cross.

Nothing says "Fourth of July" like a spectacular fireworks display! The safest way to enjoy this part of the celebration is to head to a local fireworks show. But, if you want to put on your own show at home, be sure to follow these safety tips:

- Always follow the instructions on fireworks' packaging and never give fireworks to small children.
- Keep a supply of water close by as a precaution.
- Make sure to wear protective eyewear when lighting fireworks.
- Light only one firework at a time, and never attempt to relight "a dud."
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from children and pets.
- Never throw or point a firework toward people, animals, vehicles, structures, or flammable materials.

Cookouts are a great way to bring folks together on the Fourth. Whether you are grilling in your back yard or at a community park, make sure your feast includes a generous portion of fun and a side helping of safety! We recommend the following safety tips:

- Supervise your grill at all times.
- Use the proper tools for cooking on a grill.
- Keep the grill out in the open, away from the house, deck, tree branches, or anything that could catch fire.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when the coals have already been ignited. Better yet, avoid charcoal altogether and use a safe, clean electric grill!
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when using grills.

Fireworks and cookouts wouldn't be complete without a sunny day. Here's hoping we have good weather, and if we do, make sure you are practicing sun safety:

- Use a broad spectrum SPF sunscreen and reapply often.
- Protect your eyes by wearing sunglasses.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Be on the lookout for signs of heat stroke (hot red skin; changes in consciousness; rapid, weak pulse; rapid, shallow breathing).

However you choose to celebrate, Oakdale Electric Cooperative wishes you a safe and Happy Fourth of July!

Meghaan Evans writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



FOURTH OF JULY



Energy Explorers | **COLORING SHEET**

The Energy Explorers wish you and your family a safe and Happy Fourth of July! Complete this coloring sheet and spread the message of safety.



SAFETY TIPS

FIREWORKS SAFETY TIP:
Kids should NEVER play with fireworks! Only adults should handle fireworks.

GRILLING SAFETY TIP:
NEVER run and play near a grill! Keep a minimum of three feet between you and the grill.

SUNBURN SAFETY TIP:
Avoid sunburn! Remember to apply plenty of sunscreen (SPF of 30 or higher) if you're playing outdoors.



PHOTOGRAPHERS:

There's still time to enter your photograph in Oakdale Electric Cooperative's 2016 photo contest



"Life in Rural Wisconsin"

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is holding its annual photo contest for members' photos to be featured in our 2017 calendar. Winning photos may be used in future newsletters or cooperative publications.

- Photos must be taken within the Oakdale Electric Cooperative service area.
- Photos should capture life in rural Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape, people, etc.).
- Photos must have a horizontal (landscape) orientation.
- Photos can be in color or black and white.
- Only high resolution photos can be used. Photos must be at least 300 dpi.

Contest will run from February 1, 2016, until August 26, 2016; however, submitted photos can be taken outside of this date range.

Photo Contest Entry Options:

- Email: Deana Protz – dprotz@oakdalerec.com.
 Mail: P.O. Box 128, Oakdale, WI, 54649. (photo(s) must be 8"x10" in size)
 Drop Off: Oakdale Electric Cooperative Office - 489 N. Oakwood St., Oakdale. (photo(s) must be 8"x10" in size)

**Deadline for
submitting entries
is August 26,
2016!**

For a complete set of rules as well as entry forms and photo release forms, visit our website, www.oakdalerec.com.



WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER EMPLOYEE

Mark Preuss, from Elroy, Wisconsin, graduated from Chippewa Valley Technical College this past May in Electrical Power Distribution. His role this summer is to assist the crews and maintain the building and grounds. Mark is very excited for the opportunity to work for Oakdale Electric Cooperative this summer!

An avid outdoorsman, Mark enjoys hunting, fishing, and camping in his free time.



SAVE THE DATE!

Oakdale Electric Cooperative's 2016 Member Appreciation Day is Saturday, October 1!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Use small electric pans, toaster ovens or convection ovens, for small meals rather than your stove or oven. A toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven. Plus, they won't heat up your kitchen as much on hot summer days!



Bruce Ardel, General Manager

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Deana Protz, Editor



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Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
24-Hour Emergency Power Restoration: 800-927-6151
Toll-free Online Bill Payment 866-392-4307
FAX Number: 608-372-5173

Diggers Hotline: For underground cable locates and power line clearance information, call 800-242-8511.