



Chimney Rock News



Choice is Local Control

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May, 2023

Learn to Burn - Safely

Happy Spring Chimney Rock Customer, or maybe we should have skipped spring and moved right into summer!

It is that time of year when customers will be burning ditches, preparing for farming and irrigation season. Properly controlled burns can have many benefits for agricultural land. However, if these burns are not managed safely, they can cause property damage, power outages, injury, and even death. Chimney Rock PPD urges you to take care when burning around poles and overhead lines. Pole fires are not only expensive, but dangerous for the public and Chimney Rock PPD personnel. Here are some safety tips to follow while burning:

Take special note of power poles and lines. Burning a power pole could cause a widespread power outage and be costly for the individual responsible for the fire.

Cut down grass and weeds, and water the area near the poles as to not encourage fires to encroach. Be careful to keep water streams out of power lines.

If a power pole catches on fire, call the fire department and alert your utility provider to handle the possible electrical dangers. Even if you think you can put out the fire yourself, alert the utility to the fact that it caught fire. The creosote, a preservative, on the inside could still be burning the pole from the inside out. In addition, if the pole catches on fire, it could create shock or electrocution hazards to those who may be nearby or spark fires in unintended directions from downed lines.

Also, keep environmental factors, such as temperature, humidity, and wind direction and speed in mind. The wind speed in the area should be low and in a steady direction as to not let the fire get out of control. As environmental factors are subject to change, check forecasts and actual conditions before you begin the burn.

Adding Irrigation Horsepower?

If you have added any horsepower to your irrigation service, please let our office know.

We want to make sure your service is properly sized to keep your equipment working smoothly.

Energy Efficiency Credits

Energy Efficiency Credits are available on electric motors, electric heating, electric hot water heaters, and LED lights. Must be new installations only. and submitted within 90 days.

Certain standards of efficiency must be met to qualify depending on the type of electric equipment installed.

Some of the credits include:

*Electric water heaters - \$50/unit

*Heat pumps-\$150-\$500/ton
15 SEER Minimum

*Electric motors 10-500 hp \$8/hp

*Old refrig and freezer going to be recycled

*Clothes Dryers - \$30-\$90

*Induction Cooktops 30" or larger, must be replacing gas

*LED lights - lesser of 1/2 cost of lights or \$8 per lamp, 500 Lumens or greater

*Electric trimmer, chainsaw, or pruner, electric blower or lawn-mower - 25% of cost, up to \$150

*Whole House Fans - \$100

*Smart Thermostats - \$25

Receipts are generally required. Chimney Rock also contributes to some of the credit.

Please contact our office for information on requirements and credit amounts at 586-1824.

Let us help pay for your new electric appliances and motors.

Carbon monoxide: A stealthy killer

Colorless, odorless and tasteless, carbon monoxide (CO) is a stealthy and dangerous gas responsible for killing at least 420 people in the United States each year and causing 100,000 visits to the emergency room and 14,000 hospitalizations, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Of these deaths, approximately 85 are caused by portable generators. Some of the potential consequences of CO poisoning include permanent brain and heart damage, fetal death and miscarriage.

Symptoms of CO poisoning include: headache, weakness, dizziness, nausea or vomiting, shortness of breath, confusion, blurred vision, loss of consciousness. Knowing the symptoms is important (especially when a non-CO-exposed person is assessing someone who has been exposed). However, many times, CO poisoning overtakes a person before he or she realizes what is happening.

CO can be present anytime an appliance or motor vehicle uses combustion fuel sources, such as gasoline, natural gas, oil, kerosene, propane, charcoal and wood. Usually, the amount of CO produced by these commonly used items is not hazardous. However, when they are used in an enclosed or partially enclosed space, CO can quickly build up, resulting in harmful levels in a matter of minutes.

The good news is that CO poisoning is preventable. To arm yourself against this deadly killer, follow these tips:

- Install battery-powered CO detectors on every level of your home and check them monthly to ensure they are working.
- If a CO alarm goes off or if someone is exhibiting symptoms of CO poisoning, call 9-1-1 immediately and take everyone outdoors to fresh air as quickly as possible.
- Consider installing a CO ventilation system, which combats carbon dioxide and CO by replenishing oxygen in the air.
- Have your heating system, fireplace, water heater and other combustion-run appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Read the instructions before using any combustion-powered appliance.
- Never use a charcoal grill, lantern or portable camping stove inside a home, tent or camper.
- Always open the garage door before starting or idling your vehicle, and make sure the door leading to your home from the garage is closed.
- Never use a portable generator with a combustion engine indoors or within 20 feet of your home or structure.
- Do not use a portable generator in a partially enclosed structure or area such as a basement, crawlspace, garage, porch, carport, tent, shed camper or recreational vehicle.
- Carefully read all instructions when using a space heater that runs on gas or kerosene; always follow ventilation requirements.
- Avoid standing or swimming within 20 feet of generator exhaust while boating.
- Never leave a boat's engine running if there are swimmers in the water.
- Use proper fire prevention techniques and avoid smoke inhalation when possible.
- Carefully read the instructions and follow all safety precautions on the label when working with methylene chloride, commonly found in paint and varnish removers, which can break down into CO when inhaled.

Irrigation Equipment Safety

Know How to Stay Safe When Using Farm Irrigation Equipment

Thousands of gallons of water are pumped through irrigation pipes daily. Eventually, all this water starts to clog the pipe with sediment. Raising the pipe in the air may seem like an obvious way to clean out an irrigation pipe. However, a long irrigation pipe could easily become tangled in power lines, and you could get an electric shock as you become the electricity's path to the ground. Irrigation systems are important to farms. However, they carry many risks that farmers should be aware of and know how to manage. Keep the following information in mind.

Remember, water and electricity are a dangerous mix. Do not allow irrigation water nozzles to spray on power lines. A water stream hitting a power line could energize the entire system, creating a shock hazard to anyone nearby or in contact with the equipment.

Take some time to survey your surroundings before moving equipment. Look up and around you; note any power lines that could be close enough to come into contact with equipment —and stay away. Always know the location of nearby electrical lines when working with irrigation equipment. Any contact between the irrigation equipment and nearby electrical lines could be fatal or cause serious injury.

Make sure that irrigation system wiring is properly grounded. Before the start of each irrigation season, have a qualified electrician check the pump and wiring.

Store unused irrigation pipes far away from power lines or electrical equipment.

Position irrigation pipes at least 15 feet away from power lines.

Position the water jet streams so that there is no chance of them spraying onto power lines – if this happens, the entire system could become energized, creating a danger for anyone nearby.

Stay away from the piping during any lightning activity. Install lightning arresters to protect your equipment.

If fuses continually blow or circuit breakers repeatedly trip, have a professional check the wiring. This could indicate a potential electrical hazard.

Always shut off and lock the master electrical control switch before servicing the machine.

Avoid moving irrigation equipment on windy days when pipes could be blown into nearby power lines. Keep pipes horizontal to the ground rather than vertical to minimize the risk of contact with power lines. If an irrigation pipe comes in contact with a power line, never try to remove it yourself. Stay away from it and call your local electric utility for help.

**Our Office will be Closed:
Monday, May 29th
In honor of Memorial Day**



Peanut Butter Chocolate No-Bake Cookies

2 cups sugar
1/2 cup milk
1 stick unsalted butter
1/4 cup unsweetened
cocoa powder
3 cups old fashioned
rolled oats
1 cup smooth peanut
butter
1 tablespoon pure vanilla
extract
Large pinch kosher salt

Line a baking sheet with
wax paper or parchment.

Bring the sugar, milk, but-
ter and cocoa to a boil in
a medium saucepan over
medium heat, stirring oc-
casionally, then let boil for
1 minute. Remove from
the heat. Add the oats,
peanut butter, vanilla and
salt, and stir to combine.

Drop teaspoonfuls of the
mixture onto the prepared
baking sheet, and let sit at
room temperature until
cooled and hardened,
about 30 minutes. Refrig-
erate in an airtight con-
tainer for up to 3 days.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The location of your thermostat can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that tend to feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home. Do not place furniture in front of the thermostat, which can block air flow and result in inaccurate readings.



A Safe, Happy House

Four Easy Ways to Boost Electrical Safety at Home



May is National Electrical Safety Month.

**Chimney Rock
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**During normal office hours
and after hours call:
(308) 586-1824 or
(877) 773-6300**

May Board Meeting:
May 8th - 9:00 am

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.