

New Year's resolution: Keep your home safe in 2021

MOST OF OUR New Year's resolutions are along the lines of spending less, saving more, eating less, exercising more, working less and spending more time with family.

This year consider adding a few things to the list to help keep your family safe.

■ Practice "out with the old, in with the new" with appliances. If an appliance snaps, crackles or pops but shouldn't, replace it with a safer, more energy-efficient model.

■ If you have light switch plates or outlets that get warm to the touch with use, or your lights dim when certain appliances come on, it's time to call an electrician. The electrical load of most homes has

increased substantially in the past 20 years, but your home's wiring may not be up to the challenge. To keep your loved ones safe, have the wiring checked out and make the necessary improvements and repairs.

■ If you regularly find yourself headed to the breaker box with a flashlight in hand to restore power, it's probably time for repairs or an upgrade. Have a professional electrician do an inspection and make repairs.

■ Smoke detectors and fire extinguishers only help if they work properly. Regularly test and replace the batteries in smoke detectors. Replace or recharge fire extinguishers so they'll be ready in the event of a fire.



Regularly test smoke detectors and replace or recharge fire extinguishers to keep your home safer.

2021 GOVERNMENT YOUTH TOUR CANCELED

The 2021 Government-in-Action Youth Tour — an annual summer trip to Washington, D.C., that is awarded to two high school students in the Bluebonnet service area — has been canceled for Texas participants. Texas Electric Cooperatives, the trade association that hosts the state's participants during the tour, made the decision in December, citing the challenges of COVID-19 restrictions. Applications for the tour have been removed from our website, bluebonnet.coop. Applications for the 2022 tour will be available in November 2021.

OFFICE CLOSINGS

Bluebonnet offices will be closed Jan. 1 for New Year's Day and Jan. 18 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Member service center lobbies remain closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, but drive-through lanes remain open on regular business days. Report outages by texting OUT to 85700 (to register, text BBOUTAGE to that number) or via 800-949-4414, bluebonnet.coop or our mobile app. Pay your bill any time online, on our mobile app or by calling 800-842-7708.



Academic
and Trade & Technical

SCHOLARSHIPS

TO POWER YOUR EDUCATION

60 scholarships — \$2,500 each
for graduating high school seniors

GET APPLICATIONS AT [bluebonnetelectric.coop/
community/scholarships](http://bluebonnetelectric.coop/community/scholarships)

Application
deadline March 5