

News Release



**Woodruff Electric
Cooperative Corporation**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Woodruff Electric Encourages Safe Measures This Holiday Weekend

Before you jump in the pool this holiday weekend, you need to take the necessary steps to make sure everything is safe and you are ready for any possible emergency so that you can concentrate on having fun and celebrating Independence Day!

Homeowners should make sure that the National Electric Code (NEC) has been followed for wiring and that ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) are properly installed on equipment in areas around pools, spas, and hot tubs.

Other recommendations from the Consumer Protection Safety Council (CSPC) involve:

- Knowing where electrical switches and circuit breakers are for pool, hot tub, and spa equipment and know how to operate them.
- Refraining from swimming before, during, and after thunderstorms.
- Having an electrician who is qualified in pool, spa, and hot tub repairs inspect and upgrade your pool, spa, or hot tub in accordance with local codes and the NEC.
- Making sure all electrical wires and junction boxes are at least 5 feet away from water as required by the NEC.
- Ensuring that the overhead power lines and junction boxes are safely positioned and have the proper clearance according to the NEC when installing a new pool, hot tub, or spa.
- When cleaning the pool, knowing where any overhead power lines are to avoid making contact with them while using long-handled tools.
- Purchasing a fiberglass Shepherd's crook/rescue hook for emergencies.
- Other steps to take to ensure the swimming season is a safe one include using battery-powered appliances and electronics around the pool instead of connecting them to an extension cord. Pool owners should have an emergency plan posted in plain view in the pool area with instructions on how to assist someone who is suffering an electrical shock.

Woodruff Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Forrest City, is a member-owned electric utility. Woodruff Electric serves electric power to more than 19,000 homes, farms, and businesses in parts of Woodruff, Prairie, Monroe, Cross, St. Francis, Lee, and Phillips counties in eastern Arkansas. The District offices are located in Augusta, Moro and Barton.

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