

Cook Up Safety this Holiday Season



For many, the kitchen is the heart of the home. Whether it's to bake a pie or to cook an entire multi-course holiday meal for the entire family, this time of year kitchens across America are filled with a little extra warmth and cheer. Unfortunately, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, the kitchen is also where two of every five residential fires start.

This holiday season NOVEC urges members to take steps to protect their homes and families from cooking hazards:

- ✓ *Never leave stovetops unattended. Turn off burners if you have to leave the room.*
- ✓ *Supervise children closely in the kitchen.*
- ✓ *Prevent fires by making sure your stovetop and oven are clean and free of grease and dust. Clean the exhaust hood and duct over the stove regularly.*
- ✓ *Keep the cooking area around the stove/oven clear of combustibles, such as towels, napkins, and pot holders.*
- ✓ *Wear short or close-fitting sleeves. Loose clothing can catch fire.*
- ✓ *To protect from spills and burns, use the back burners and turn the pot handles in, away from reaching hands.*
- ✓ *Locate all electric appliances away from the sink.*
- ✓ *Plug countertop appliances into Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI)-protected outlets.*
- ✓ *Keep appliance cords away from hot surfaces including the range or toaster.*
- ✓ *Unplug the toaster and other small countertop appliances when not in use.*
- ✓ *Be sure to turn off all appliances when cooking is completed.*



Photo courtesy of Priscilla Knight

Recycle Holiday Greens

Once the holiday season is over, NOVEC will recycle greens at its Gainesville Technical Center, 5399 Wellington Branch Drive, Gainesville, VA 20155 near the Route 29 and Interstate 66 intersection, anytime from Dec. 26 to Jan. 9.

Co-op members may leave trees and other holiday greens in the parking lot designated with orange safety cones. Greens must be free of all decorations, metal ornament hooks, wire, and light strings.

NOVEC tree crews will chop the greens into mulch. They will deliver mulch throughout the year to interested members at no charge when right-of-way crews are working in their neighborhoods. To request mulch, complete the form at www.novec.com/woodchips.

For more information, contact NOVEC's vegetation management staff at 703-392-1661 or 1-888-335-0500, ext. 1661, or rightofway@novec.com.



Photo courtesy of Priscilla Knight

► Congratulations!

Mr. and Mrs. William Matthew and Kathryn Fava of Manassas won this quarter's new customer survey drawing and received a \$25 Lowe's gift card.



TODAY'S FORECAST: TEXTING POSSIBLE

Report an outage or check its status with our texting service. Sign up today by visiting www.novec.com/novecouth or text **NOVECOUT** to **85700**.*

*Standard text messaging rates will apply. NOVEC will never send more than 10 messages a week.



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Help NOVEC HELPS Bring Cheer this Holiday Season



Photo courtesy of Priscilla Knight



Operation Turkey

NOVEC HELPS will collect Thanksgiving food for needy families during Operation Turkey. Suggested non-perishable food items include: bread, biscuit, and muffin mixes; instant mashed potatoes; rice; stuffing mix; applesauce; boxed desserts; sugar; evaporated milk; graham cracker pie crusts; and canned or jarred meats, vegetables, fruit, gravy, and pie filling.

The SERVE campus of Northern Virginia Family Service and ACTS, Action in Community Through Service, will distribute the food. Anyone who would like a receipt must take food donations to the SERVE or ACTS locations.

Collection will be Nov. 1 to Nov. 15 between 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. at these NOVEC offices:

10323 Lomond Drive
Manassas, VA 20109

14500 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, VA 22193

Toys for Tots

NOVEC HELPS will also be collecting new, unwrapped toys for the United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program.

Toys will be collected from Nov. 28 to Dec. 9 between 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. at these NOVEC offices:

10323 Lomond Drive
Manassas, VA 20109

14500 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, VA 22193

Tips of the Month: Energy Efficient Cooking

- 1 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.
- 2 Use a covered kettle or pan or electric kettle to boil water; it's faster and uses less energy.
- 3 Match the size of the pan to the heating element.

Source: <http://energy.gov/energysaver/kitchen-appliances>

Holiday Office Closures

Thanksgiving - November 24-25

Christmas - December 23-26

New Year's - January 2

To report outages, call 703-335-0500

or

toll-free 1-888-335-0500

Don't let winter storms put you in the dark.

Take control with a **whole-house power generator** from NOVEC Solutions.



Find more information at

www.novec.com/ns or call

703-392-1503 or 1-888-335-0500, ext. 1503.



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For additional information or to submit suggestions for future articles, contact: NOVEC Public Relations, P.O. Box 2710, Manassas, Va 20108 or email: communications@novec.com.

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