



TIPS From T.I.P.

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OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

June 2020

Brooklyn, Iowa

Please Help Us Locate Nominees



The following nominating committee has been appointed to find candidates to run for your Board of Directors at your August 29, 2020, annual meeting. This year directors will be elected

from the following counties: **Iowa, Keokuk, and Poweshiek.**

If you are a co-op member and have a member whom you would like to have nominated for director, contact any of the members on your nominating committee listed below.

Nominating Committee Members are:

Iowa County:

Dale Bringmann 1828 240th St. Williamsburg, IA 52361 319-330-6216	Harold Joseph 2587 L Ave. Williamsburg, IA 52361 319-668-1448
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Keokuk County:

Mike Bensmiller 25931 200th Ave. Sigourney, IA 52591 319-330-9934	Ronald A. Waechter 24797 185th Ave. Sigourney, IA 52591 641-660-4740
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Poweshiek County:

Donald Henning 2092 315th Ave. Chelsea, IA 52215 641-489-2731	Dean Papesh 3157 240th St. Hartwick, IA 52232 319-444-3715
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Nominees' names must be given to any nominating committee member **before July 1, 2020**. Thanks for your help!

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

We are Here to Help

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative understands some members may be facing unusual financial hardships due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

If you are unable to make payments, we encourage you to contact our office to see what payment options may be available to you.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Home cooling makes up a large portion of your energy bills. Try to keep the difference between the temperature of your thermostat setting and the outside temperature to a minimum. The smaller the difference, the more energy you will save.

Important Notice

Please continue practicing social distancing around cooperative employees until further notice. Thank you for your cooperation.

NOTICE:

The Brooklyn office will be closed on Thursday, June 18th from 8:00 a.m. till Noon for an all-employee safety meeting.



Notice: Your REC office will be closed Friday, July 3rd. Have a safe holiday!

T.I.P. Rural Electric

Regular Hours 7:30 to 4:00 Weekdays..... 641-522-9221
 or Toll Free..... 800-934-7976
 After Hours (Outages & Emergencies Only) ..641-522-9223
 or Toll Free 800-934-7976

website: www.tiprec.com

Smart Thermostat Options A Comparison of the Market's Smartest and Most Popular

Heating and cooling costs account for around half of a consumer's energy bill according to the U.S. Department of Energy. So when it comes to reducing energy use and cutting home energy costs, the most impact can be made by programming the thermostat. The right thermostat setting could yield energy savings of 8-15%, and new technology is making it easier than ever to achieve those settings.



Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and may be controlled remotely through a tablet, smartphone or voice control. Some models use multiple sensors to monitor temperatures in various parts of the home for more balanced heating and cooling, track user temperature preferences and use the data to optimize your heating and cooling schedule, and some are designed for complex multi-stage systems that will control heating, cooling, dehumidifier and ventilation systems.

If you're interested in controlling your thermostat with your voice or an app, or in being hands-off and letting it learn your habits, you should consider a smart thermostat. To narrow your choices, factor in smart features, price and attributes that matter most to you, such as color, size or style, and make sure the chosen product supports your HVAC system.

The Nest 3rd Generation Learning Thermostat and Ecobee4 are the most popular and sophisticated devices in this category. Both devices are usually priced around \$250, but consumers can easily recoup their money in energy cost savings.

There are many similarities between the two thermostats. Both can be adjusted via computer, tablet, smartphone, Google Assistant or Amazon Alexa device (the Ecobee4 even has a built-in Alexa-enabled speaker). And both thermostats can interact with other smart devices and utilize geofencing - using your phone's GPS to determine if you're home, then automatically adjusting the temperature. Nest's geofencing works with multiple phones, while Ecobee supports just one phone. Ecobee makes up for this with its more sophisticated sensors.

The Nest and Ecobee offer for purchase, remote sensors that allow the thermostat to take readings from any room throughout your home and adjust the temperature accordingly. This can be an advantage if your thermostat is located near a draft or in direct sunlight. The Ecobee's

sensors go one step further with occupancy sensing, which notices if there is movement in the house, in order to override geofencing if the primary phone user leaves the house and someone is still there.

While many of the features are similar, there are a few that are notably different and can help you determine which is right for you.

Nest, powered by a rechargeable battery, is a learning thermostat and automatically learns your schedule. When you begin using Nest, it makes a few assumptions and creates a baseline for its schedule. As you adjust the temperature up or down, Nest records it, and after a week, learns your schedule and the temperature settings you prefer. From then, it continues to learn and respond to your adjustments. Nest also records 10 days of energy use data that shows you a visual of the times your system turned on and off during those 10 days. Nest also sends a monthly email report that includes a summary of your energy use compared to previous months and other Nest users.

Ecobee must be hardwire installed, utilizes a touchscreen and can analyze HVAC data for 18 months. All temperatures and motion data from the thermostat and sensors is recorded, and can be accessed online by the owner to help monitor total energy use, how the weather influences your use, and how your home efficiency compares to other users in your area.

The two thermostats also can connect with various energy devices in your home. Ecobee recognizes dehumidifiers and ventilators, and Nest recognizes heat pumps and auxiliary heat.

For those looking for a smart thermostat with fewer bells and whistles, the Honeywell Lyric T5+ is one of the market's most popular, priced around \$135. While it can't sense your presence or learn your schedule, it does have the geofencing feature and can interact with other smart-home devices, such as turning on lights when you arrive or leave home.

Whichever fits your lifestyle and preferences, a smart thermostat is a good investment that can help you save energy and money in a more convenient way than ever.

Budget Billing

If you opt for budget billing, your account is averaged for your last year of usage. That amount is what you would pay each month over the next 12 months. Periodically your account will be reviewed to insure that your monthly payments are keeping up with your actual usage. If you are interested, give our office a call.

Be Safe: Maintain Proper Clearance Around Grain Bins

The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins. T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins.

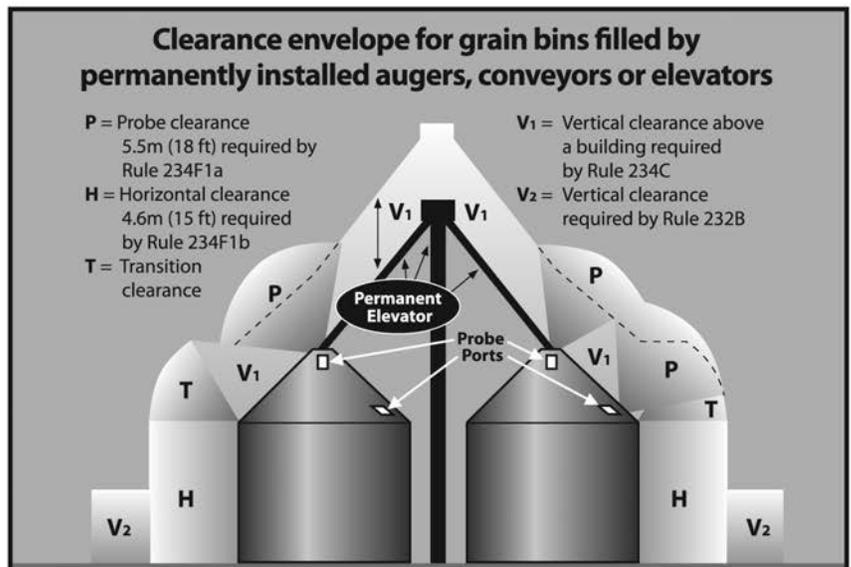
The diagrams shown are according to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199-25.2(3)b. An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C2-2017, "National Electric Safety Code", Rule 234F. This paragraph "b" shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after September 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevator systems installed after December 24, 1997. (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board).

T.I.P. and its power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative, are required by the Iowa Utilities Board to provide this annual notice to farmers, farm lenders, grain bin merchants, and city and county zoning officials. If you have any questions concerning any clearance regulations, please call T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative at (800) 934-7976 before any new grain bin plans are finalized. For your safety, T.I.P. standards exceeds those specified in NESC. (See asterisk to the right.)

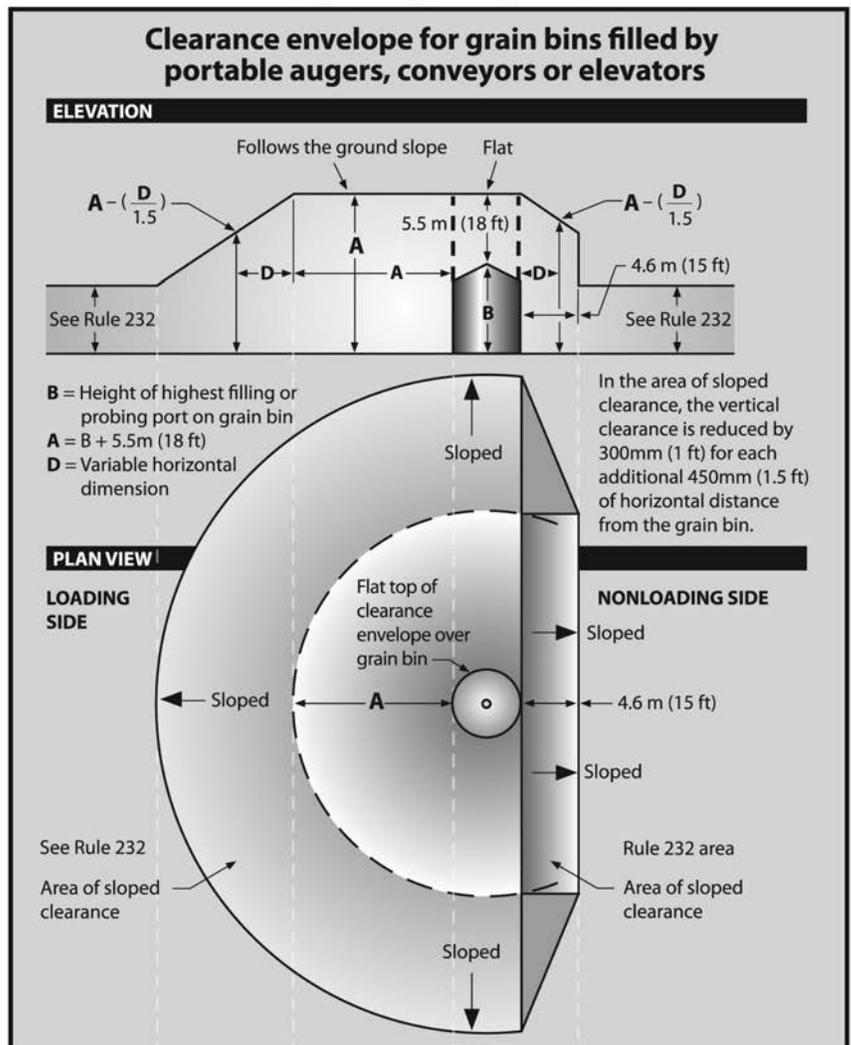
Pool Clearances

When installing a pool, clearance in any direction from the water level, edge of a pool, base of diving platform, or anchored raft is required by (ANSI) C2-2012, "National Electric Safety Code", Rule T-234-3.

If you have any questions, please call us at (800) 934-7976 before any new pool plans are finalized.



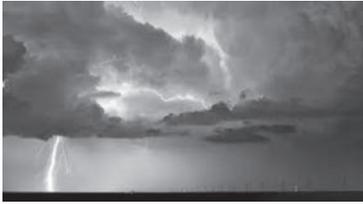
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***EXCEPTION:** In reference to 236C of the Code, T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative will only recognize a "non-loading side" if the following criteria is met; both parties are in agreement to it; both parties sign a "grain bin agreement" form; and the bin in question is posted with "Non-Loading Side" signage.

Outdoor Safety During a Thunderstorm



Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the area in which it is raining and you do not have to see clouds. This means that if you can hear thunder, you're

within striking distance, and it is time to take safe shelter. When the storm is over, wait 30 minutes after the last lightning strike you see before going back outside.

If caught outdoors during a thunderstorm and unable to take shelter in an enclosed building, take the following precautions:

- Try to take shelter in a vehicle with a solid metal roof. Close the windows, and avoid contact with electrical conducting paths - such as the steering wheel, ignition, gear shifter, or radio.
- Do not seek shelter under tall, solitary trees; canopies; small picnic or rain shelters; or in any open-frame vehicles such as jeeps, convertibles, golf carts, tractors, or mowers.
- Avoid water, high ground, or open spaces.
- Do not stand near power, light, or flag poles; machinery; fences; gates; metal bleachers; or even other people. If you are in a group, spread out so that you are at least 20 feet apart.
- If your skin tingles or your hair stands on end, lightning may be about to strike. Squat down low to the ground with your head between your knees making yourself the smallest target possible.

If a person is struck by lightning, call 911 and care for the victim immediately. You are not in danger of being electrocuted by the victim.

More information on lightning safety can be found at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website at www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov. Additional information on storm safety can be found at SafeElectricity.org.



**When it comes to severe weather...
hope for the best, but prepare for the worst.**



You can begin your preparation by assembling an emergency preparedness kit, which includes items to help keep your family safe and comfortable during a power outage. Your kit should include items such as water, non-perishable food, flashlight, batteries, blankets, and a first aid kit.

- Drinking water & food
- Blankets, pillows, & clothing
- Basic first-aid supplies
- Medications
- Basic toiletries
- Flashlights
- Battery-operated radio
- Extra supply of batteries
- Cell phone with chargers
- Cash and credit cards
- Basic tools (duct tape, wrench, etc.)
- Important documents & numbers
- Toys, books, & games
- Baby supplies
- Pet supplies

**Safe
Electricity.org®**

**T.I.P. Rural Electric
Cooperative is online at
www.tiprec.com
and check out
the cooperative's
Facebook page**



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Log on to www.tiprec.com and Click on Rapid
Pay or log into SmartHub or Call 888-999-0275.**

Non-Discrimination Statement

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

TIPS from T.I.P. is published monthly for members of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, 612 W. Des Moines St., Brooklyn, Iowa 52211.