

Rock Falls City Newsletter

City of Rock Falls

From the Mayor's Desk



Volume 1, Issue 4
November 2011

On behalf of the Rock Falls City Council, as well as, all city departments and staff, we wish you and your families

A BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON!!

Rock Falls is, and continues to be, a strong community where residents, businesses and city officials are dedicated by working together in moving our city forward. This is what makes this city such a great place to live. It is the people that make me proud to serve as your Mayor.

This year our city, as many others, has lost some of our residents that served our great city by showing leadership, giving with their generosity, spirit and pride.

So let us all take a moment to think about those we had the privilege of knowing, and sometimes working with and say 'thank you' - they will hear you.

Holidays are a time for families and loved ones to come together to celebrate and remember the blessings we have had over the past year.

So to start the 2011 Holiday Season, we hope to see you at the Love Light Tree on Friday November 18, 2011 at 5:30pm for the start of HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS in the City of Rock Falls!

And, as always,
be PROUD OF OUR PAST and CONFIDENT OF OUR FUTURE.

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Special points of interest:

- ◆ OPEN HOUSE TO THE PUBLIC
October 29, 2011
New Sewer Plant
- ◆ HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS
November 18, 2011
Love Light Tree

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Christmas Electrical Safety

Sometimes when we get into the festive spirit at the Christmas holiday season we have a tendency to forget safety.

One of the most common errors or slips in judgment made during the Christmas holiday season is the overloading of electrical outlets (receptacles).

It is important to remember that most electrical receptacles or outlets are only rated for 15 amps and just because the outlet or receptacle has 2 plug positions, does not mean that each plug position can deliver 15 amps.

All of the outlets on any specific circuit are designed to deliver 15 amps in total.

The addition of cube taps, or power strips, do not increase the current delivery capabilities of a circuit or receptacle (outlet).

The total current that a circuit can deliver is represented by the size of fuse or circuit breaker in any specific circuit.

The manufacturers of Christmas tree lights also make it convenient to overload a circuit by providing a socket where another string of lights can be added to the last. One might assume that you can continually add additional strings of lights.

The manufacturers of extension cords* also make it easy for us to overload electrical circuits. Many of the indoor electrical cords have cube taps molded into the socket end allowing us to plug in multiple strings of lights and other electrically powered ornaments.

Note: Many indoor electrical extension cords are not rated for the full 15 amp capacity of the electrical receptacle or outlet.

If you use a power strip, multiple strings of lights connected to each other, cube taps or a combination of these items you should check often to see if there is heat buildup where the devices are plugged into one another. If you cannot hold the connection in your hand for an infinite amount of time without it getting so hot that you must release your hand, you have created a potential fire hazard!

Christmas is a time filled with love and joy, let's not ruin this occasion by forgetting electrical safety in our home lighting and decorations

Dick Simon, Electric Director

During the holiday season, special precautions are in order regarding the use of decorative lighting and Christmas trees. Please check your light strings carefully to avoid the possibility of a shock and fire hazard due to worn insulation.

If a problem is found, it is best to discard that set and replace it with a new set. Also, if you are using a real tree, try to purchase one that was recently cut to ensure its freshness and keep water in the stand until the tree is discarded.

With the heating season upon us, it is extremely important that heating appliances be checked and properly serviced to decrease the chances of a fire or carbon monoxide poisoning occurring. It is recommended that furnaces, wood burning stoves and other solid fuel heaters be professionally inspected to ensure that they are operating safely and efficiently.

Also, please use caution when using space heaters by keeping them clear of other combustible materials, such as curtains, clothing, etc. The fire department is great source of advice on these matters. The National Fire Protection Association and the U.S. Fire Administration at www.nfpa.org and www.usfa.fema.gov respectively, will provide a wealth of information on how to protect yourselves and your family from the hazards of fire.

Fire Chief J. W. Larson