

youth tour connection
Steele-Waseca accepting 2020 Youth Tour applications to Washington, D.C.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric is accepting applications from eligible high school sophomores or juniors for an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the 2020 Youth Tour, June 20-25.

The tour is coordinated through the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) and hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Participating cooperatives sponsor a member student(s) to travel to Washington, D.C., to learn about cooperatives and our government, tour historical sites, and have fun meeting new friends from Minnesota and other delegates from across the nation.

To be eligible, the entrant must meet the following requirements: 22581

- 1. The entrant is currently a high school sophomore or junior, and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) are a Steele-Waseca member. Dependents of Steele-Waseca employees or directors are not eligible to participate.
- 2. All entries must include: a) the completed application form below; b) answers to both essay questions typed on an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper; c) applicant's school and community information typed on a separate sheet of paper; and d) two letters of recommendation (one from an instructor, counselor or administrator, and the other from a church or community leader).
- 3. Return entries to: Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, c/o Youth Tour

2020, PO Box 485, Owatonna, MN 55060. Entries must be received in Steele-Waseca's office on or before Friday, Feb. 21, 2020. The two Youth Tour recipients will be notified by Friday, March 20, 2020.

Each entry will be evaluated by a panel of judges for:

- completeness
- composition
- neatness
- ability to communicate
- school and community activities

Essay Questions:

1. Why would you like to be Steele-Waseca's delegate to Youth Tour 2020? What do you hope to gain from the experience? Answer in 150 words or less.
2. Write a short essay on what commitment to community means to you. Include how you contribute to your

community. Answer in 300 words or less.

School and Community Information (use a separate sheet of paper to list the following):

- All school activities – include letters and honors earned, positions held, etc.
- All community activities – include all church, community service and positions held.
- Work experience and any other information.

MREA is requiring that each participating cooperative's delegate(s) report to the Crowne Plaza Airport located at 3 Appletree Square in Bloomington for an orientation session on Saturday, June 20, presently at 9 a.m. An afternoon flight to Washington, D.C., will follow the orientation session.



Washington, D.C. Youth Tour 2020 — June 20-25

Name _____ M or F _____ Phone _____

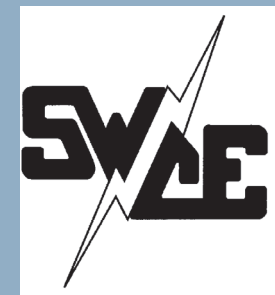
Address _____ street _____ city _____ state _____ zip _____ county _____

Email address _____ Parent(s) or Guardian(s) _____

I am currently a high school _____ sophomore _____ junior at _____

Parent/Guardian consent: I/we hereby give my/our dependent high school son/daughter permission to enter the Rural Electric Washington, D.C. Youth Tour 2020 Contest. I/we understand if he/she wins, I/we will be responsible for providing his/her own transportation to the Crowne Plaza Airport in Bloomington and from the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport.

Name(s) _____ SWCE account # _____



the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

January 2020

Capital Credit Refund

Please check this month's billing statement for your 2019 capital credit refund. If you have any questions regarding your refund, please call Hlou Yang at Steele-Waseca during regular business hours.



inside connections

- 2 Manager Connection
- 3 Former Director Robert Malecha dies at age 98
What makes your electric co-op board powerful?
- 4 Cookin' Connection
SWCE community solar update
Stray voltage questions
- 5 Make a winter driving survival kit
Importance of reliable electricity
Make cooking safety a holiday tradition
- 6 Ad Connection
4-Seasons Vacations
- 7 Ad Connection
Myths of home heating
Energy-efficient appliances
- 8 Washington, D.C. Youth Tour '20

calendar of events

January

- 1 New Year's Day 19291
SWCE office is closed
- 17 Benjamin Franklin's b-day
- 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Wholesale rates staying flat in 2020

GRE board approves budget with no change to average wholesale electric rates

Great River Energy (GRE) won't change its average electric rate when the cooperative begins a new fiscal year on Jan. 1, 2020.



The recent approval of GRE's 2020 budget with flat average wholesale rates fulfilled a promise the cooperative made to its membership at its June annual meeting.

"We are a member-owned cooperative," said Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Michelle Strobel. "When our members want something from us, we do our best to provide it."

Wholesale electricity represents over half of the costs for each of GRE's 28 member-owner cooperatives, many of which have seen electricity sales growth slow in recent years. Great River Energy forecasts 2020 energy sales to increase 1.2 percent over 2019.

GRE achieved flat rates through tra-

ditional budget measures such as cost reductions. More importantly, however, flat rates stemmed from the lasting benefits of pivotal decisions made over the past five years.

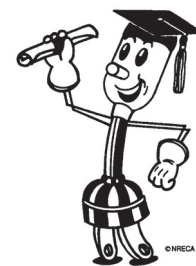
Great River Energy closed two power plants that were no longer economical to operate, modified the dispatch of its generation facilities to be more efficient, and reduced its debt levels resulting in less interest expense.

"Smart, strategic moves have tempered upward pressure on rates," said Strobel. "We achieved our goal for 2020 and continue our work to keep costs competitive long into the future." GRE forecasts wholesale rates to remain relatively flat over the long term.

Great River Energy's 2020 budget projects revenues and expenses of \$975 million and total capital spending of \$143 million. The cooperative also plans to return nearly \$6 million in patronage capital to its member-owner cooperatives.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric presenting scholarships to qualified high school graduates in 2020

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric is presenting \$500 scholarships to qualified high school seniors graduating in 2020.



One scholarship will be awarded at each participating school. Scholarship eligibility required by Steele-Waseca includes:

1. Applicants must currently be high school seniors, who will be continuing their education on a full-time basis at a two- or four-year technical school or college.
2. Applicants must be dependents of a Steele-Waseca member.

Each participating school is responsible for administering any other eligibility requirements, the selection of their school's Steele-Waseca scholarship recipient, and the disbursement of the scholarship dollars from Steele-Waseca.

All eligible high school seniors should contact their guidance counselor or scholarship administrator for more information.

In 2019, Steele-Waseca awarded scholarships to 15 high school senior graduates. The co-op's scholarship program has awarded \$174,250 in scholarships since the program was established in 1954. A portion of the funds to support these scholarships come from unclaimed capital credit equity.

ad connection

give away

GOLDEN RETRIEVER, purebred, 7-yrs-old, vry friendly, has chip, owner's recent stroke has promptd need to give dog away. 402-8082.

FARM KITTENS: blk, blk & white, & tiger. 475-2701.

FREE ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS, you place & remove your own ad on SWCE's website, swce.coop, these are separate from *Sparks* & will not appear in *Sparks* unless mailed, delivered, faxd or emailed to SWCE.

wanted

SLUG BARREL for Remington 870 or 1100 shotgun. 456-5466.

FORD SKID STEER, diesel. 330-1849.

UNWANTED BIKES & LAWN MOWERS, \$ paid on delivered. 330-3178.

CHEVY 409 ENGINE, running or not. 256-4747.

OAK FIREWOOD, split & dried, will pick up. 612-817-3426.

(2) BRED NANNIES due in May. 744-2873.

SMALL 25-EGG INCUBATOR; SMALL ALUM. 17' BOAT. 663-1275.

USED TONGUE & GROOVE HARDWOOD FLOORING, 1" - 1.5" wide. 317-9246.

WOODEN RURAL SCHOOL TEACHER'S DESK; SOFT-COVERED BOOKLET, "RURAL SCHOOLS OF YESTERYEAR," publishd 7/26/79, written by former rural school teachers of Steele Co. 451-7290.

for sale

2" RECEIVER BIKE RACK, holds (4) bikes, \$100; **SCHWINN CRUISER**, 7-spd, women's, 26x175, \$100. 330-3178.

6' X 8' FISH HOUSE on retractable wheels, includes propane gas heater, \$975. 330-1253.

CASTLE X WINTER COAT, boy's XL, like new. 213-7097.

BIG CHUNKS OF OAK, 18"-24" high, 30" diameter. 451-5456 after 5 p.m.

RENTAL, Izaak Walton League Bldg., 4 mi. south of Owat., seats 100, full kitchen, grill, Wi-Fi, \$125. 451-7946.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

GRINDERS that were used for grinding coffee, flour, etc. in early America, hand crank & converted to elec.; **LARGE ANVIL; FREEZE ALARM.** 456-0259.

MANKATO TENT & AWNING CANVAS FISH HOUSE, suitcase style, like new condition, \$200. 465-9918 before 7 p.m.

2002 HONDA GOLDWING TRIKE MOTORCYCLE, 1800cc, vry nice cond., 39,575 mi., has trailer hitch, light connection. 213-6427/txt.

FISH HOUSE, 18'x7.5' & a 3.5' V-nose, has (6) holes, stove, newer heater, single bed, & full-size bed, \$2400. 838-8958.

BEACHFRONT VACATION CONDOS FOR RENT in Fort Myers Beach, South Padre Island & Mexico, visit www.sandysbeachfrontcondo.com for details & photos. 612-865-9604/Sandy.

MINI STORAGE UNITS FOR RENT. 456-1460.

VARIETY OF MEN'S & WOMEN'S OLD WEST/ FRONTIER CLOTHING incl. hats, skirts, vests, frocks, shirts, trousers & accessories.952-451-4821.

ON-SITE GRAIN BIN AERATION DYNAMIC FAN BALANCING & VIBRATION TROUBLESHOOTING, www.cmtechnicalservices.com. 634-3409/Chuck.

FORTUNE CREEK TRL LOTS, the covenant allows for a pole shed, starting at \$75,000. 838-5033/John.

JD B, \$1100/obo. 213-1277/evenings.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

KATAHDIN HAIR SHEEP RAMS, great for beginners, 4-H, & organic. 451-2722.

CLIMATE CONTROLLED UNITS FOR RENT, 11'x9' to 16'x10'. 332-4623.

BEAN STRAW, sm. sq.; **MAYTAG GAS ENGINE.** 744-2871.

TREE TRIMMING, REMOVL & STUMP GRINDING, pro climber & aerial lift to U of M guidelines; **FRONT CHROME BUMPER** for an F-650, new. 456-1609.

WOOD, stored in shed, mixed types, \$60/pickup load. 952-652-2860.

PLANT STAND, nice, wood w/(3) round places to put plants on, 30" high, \$10. 451-2687.

GOODYEAR 18.4-38 TIRES & TUBES. 330-1849.

PICTURE FRAMES, many sizes & styles; **VINTAGE BOOKS; RED JACKET HAND PUMP; (4) OLD TRUNKS; (5) LIGHTED BEER SIGNS; MANY RECORD ALBUMS.** 612-827-6575.

16' LIVESTOCK TRAILR, bumper hitch. 475-1392.

BIG BUDDY HEATR in box; **(2) ICE AUGERS; FISH. POLES**, winter & summer; **TIP-UPS; (2) TACKLE BOXES; MINNOW PAILS**, & more. 334-5388.

TC3000 TREADCLIMBER, great shape, wrks great, \$750. 332-8826.

(10) 55-GAL. STEEL BARRELS, new. 676-0969.

2005 CHEVY SUBURBAN, 4WD, silver, 98,000 mi., runs great, heat, no A/C, some rust, \$3500; **GROUND BEEF**, \$4.50/lb. 210-4032.

1-CORD OAK WOOD, dried. 451-3345.

SAMSUNG ELEC. DRYER, 7-yrs-old, great cond, \$150. 213-4375/Stacy.

CALF BOX for hauling (1) calf, \$40. 456-8893.

JIFFY ICE AUGER, \$150. 451-7837.

DISPLAY CASE, oak, custom built, 48"h, 30"w, 25"deep; **WIN. 25 12-GA. PUMP SHOTGUN** (both like new cond.). 451-0996.

METAL LATHE, \$45; **WOOD**, \$50; **6" & 8" STAINLESS PIPE**, \$20/each; **FIREPLACE TOOL SET**, \$15; **ASH CADDY**, \$15. 451-6695.

GERMAN SHEP. PUPS, blk & tan, also white ones, 1st shot & dewormed, vet checked, family raised, \$400/cash. 319-3924.

USED CARS, SNOWBLOWERS, ALTERNATORS, & STARTERS; WILL REPAIR: snowblowers, starters, alternators on cars, trucks, & farm equip. 213-7978 or 475-1311.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

travel

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, Feb. 3-16. Round trip air to Honolulu, 5 days in Waikiki Beach, 8-day cruise aboard Pride of America, Oahu, Maui & more! Starting at \$5,699 pp based on 2 per room.

MN TWINS SPRING TRAINING CAMP, March 4-14. Deluxe motorcoach, 10 nights accommodations, 16 meals, 4 Twins spring training tickets & more! \$1,969 per person based on 2 per room.

WESTERN CARIBBEAN, March 12-21. Air, 2-nights hotel, 7-night cruise, ports of call in Caribbean, Grand Cayman, Belize, Cozumel & more! Starting at \$2,699 pp based on 2 per stateroom.

MONUMENTS OF WASHINGTON, D.C., May 15-19. Air, hotel, 8 meals, guided tours, Arlington National Cemetery, World War II Memorial, Capitol Hill & more! Starting at \$1,599 pp, 2 per room.

Call 4-Seasons at 800-328-4298 and reserve space today! Be sure to tell us you are Steele-Waseca members!



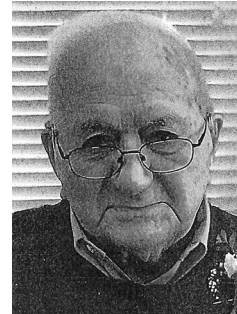
member connection

Former Steele-Waseca Board President Robert Malecha dies at age 98

Former Steele-Waseca Co-operative Electric Board Director Robert L. Malecha died Wednesday, Oct. 30, at age 98, at the Three Links Care Center in Northfield.

Malecha was elected to the Steele-Waseca board during the 1969 annual meeting. He served on the board for 24 years; the last 11 as board president before retiring from the board in 1993. In the June 1993 *Sparks* newsletter, the headline announcing Robert's retirement read, "A GOOD FRIEND AND OUTSTANDING LEADER..."

Robert was born Nov. 6, 1920, to Charles and Anna (Mracek) Malecha. He attended Union Lake Country



Robert Malecha

School and graduated from Faribault High School in 1938. He worked with his dad until being drafted in the U.S. Army in 1942. Malecha served in the Pacific for 36 months, including Hawaii and Guadalcanal, earning a Purple Heart in the Phillippines. He also served in Korea with the Army of Occupation, after VJ Day. Robert received his honorable discharge in November 1945.

On June 26, 1948, Robert married Mary Schmitz at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Shieldsville. They purchased their property in Millersburg in 1962, but farmed on his family farm until 1977, before moving to their own farm.

Robert was a longtime member of the St. Dominic Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus, and a life member of the VFW and Disabled Vets. He also served on the Rice County ASCS Committee for nine years. He enjoyed farming,

fishing, playing cards, and traveling with Mary. She was also mentioned in the *Sparks* article regarding Robert's service on the board, as she spent her share of time answering the telephone for Robert, and talking with members who had concerns or comments to share with their board representative.

Survivors include his children: William (Wendy) of Millersburg, Ann (Larry) Larson of Northfield, Janet Sletten of Northfield, Daniel (Darcy Futrell) of Minneapolis, Catherine (Marc) Thorsen of Eden Prairie; nine grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, four great-great-grandchildren, and sister, Catherine Williams, of Dallas, Texas.

A Mass of Christian Burial was conducted Tuesday, Nov. 5, at the Church of St. Dominic, Northfield. Interment was in Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

What makes your electric cooperative board powerful?

by Shari Wormwood, Communication Specialist, Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA)

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric is one of 895 electric distribution cooperatives across America that, collectively, deliver power to 56 percent of the nation's land mass.

Electric cooperatives are private, locally operated electric utility businesses that are owned and regulated by their members to provide near-cost electric service and governed by democratically elected, local boards of directors.

There are currently 7,200 electric co-op board directors in America who serve in the community where they live. Unlike investor-owned utilities, they address local electrical energy issues with hometown values—issues like community economic development and setting affordable, sustainable rates for rural residents and farms. Your local electric co-op board members also work alongside Minnesota Rural Electric Association lobbyists in St. Paul and Washington, D.C., to make sure our legislators are aware of how energy policy affects the rural community.

The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 established the cooperative governance model, and over the last 83 years, rural America has prospered. Then Texas-Congressman Lyndon B. Johnson founded Pedernales Electric Cooperative in 1938. During a speech to the Na-

tional Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) directors on July 14, 1965, President Johnson said, "Nothing has been more gratifying to me than my association with the rural electrification program. That program stands today as one of the most successful enterprises ever undertaken anywhere, at any time, by anyone."

Electric co-op board members need education and training, just like line technicians and other energy professionals, to gain and maintain a deep understanding of this complex business. They are responsible for asking questions and seeking outside expert opinions, establishing systems to review current cooperative business information, and all board members must consent to the fiduciary duties of care, loyalty and obedience. The essential functions of your local electric cooperative board include:

- Setting the mission, vision and values.
- Establishing, maintaining and assessing legal, regulatory and internal compliance programs to mitigate the cooperative's risk.
- Setting electric rates.
- Policy development including by-law requirements and CEO selection,

appraisal and compensation.

Not only is training essential to a board's success, but having the right people at the table creates a powerful force, like any other workgroup with a solid and unified purpose. Former NRECA President Phil Carson touched on this in his 2018 NRECA annual meeting presentation. He said, "the right people committed to the right principles need stewards, who bring a measured, analytical and reasoned approach to matters and visionaries who like to dream about the possibilities before us, willing to take risks to try new ideas. Both roles are important at our co-ops, and when we get the mix right, stewards and visionaries bring out the best in each other."

The energy industry has seen unprecedented transformation since 1936. Today, the industry is changing faster than ever, and electric cooperatives are rising to the challenge. As electric cooperative boards forge ahead, they're exploring new issues like broadband, battery storage and effectively integrating new technologies. Fortunately, Minnesota's electric co-op board members have training opportunities to stay abreast of new opportunities.

cookin' connection

Cinnamon Popcorn

Sandi Schlomann

Waseca

8 qts popped popcorn
1 c. butter
1/2 c. light corn syrup
(1) 9 oz. pkg red hot candies

Combine butter, syrup, and candies. Boil at medium heat for 5 minutes. Pour over popcorn. Toss to coat. Put in 2 baking pans. Bake at 250° for 1 hour, stirring every 15 minutes. Cool on wax paper.

Please use a 3 x 5 card when submitting your recipe. The member whose recipe is published will receive a \$7 energy credit.



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's solar subscribers will see a 15 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during November 2019. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop.

Was your account number in Sparks?

Each month five account numbers are printed in *Sparks* and a total of \$35 in energy credits is divided among however many of those numbers are found. For example, if all numbers are found, a credit of \$7 will be applied to the members' following month's electric bills; or, if only one number is found, that member receives the full \$35 credit. Members finding their numbers who have a load management receiver on their dual fuel, electric water heater, air conditioner, or genset will receive an additional \$7 credit. When you find your number, phone our office no later than the 7th of the month following receipt of the *Sparks*, or the amount will be forfeited.

December issue of Sparks



Numbers found:
Rita Gehling
Numbers not found:
Christopher Ludewig
Jeffrey Willcutt
Dorothy Cohan
Mitchell/Teresa Rhodes



Sparks in brief . . .

• **Want easy energy payments?** Sign up for **EnergyPay Plus**, our automatic payment plan, or **Energy Prepay**, our discounted advance payment plan. Contact our office for details. You may also pay your bill online at www.swce.coop. By entering your Steele-Waseca username and password you can also view a 13-month history of your account.

• **If you have changed or added phone numbers**, please contact SWCE to update your contact information.

• **Need a new water heater?** For information about our Westinghouse Electric Water Heater Program, phone Cindy Butterfield at our office between 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 446-4204 / 800-526-3514.

• **November temps** – The average high temperature for November was 35° F, while the average low was 23° F. This resulted in 1,078 Heating Degree Days (HDDs) and 0 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 33° F and average low of 20° F, which resulted in 1,159.5 HDDs and 0 CDDs.

• **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2019, all ENERGY STAR refrigerators/freezers (with recycling), electric clothes dryers, dehumidifiers, central air conditioners, air and ground source heat pumps, light emitting diode (LED) bulbs purchased (limit 5) are eligible to receive rebates (may not be combined with special promotions). Rebate request forms must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. Rebate forms are available at swce.coop. For more information or to receive a rebate request form, phone Cindy Butterfield at 800-526-3514.

• **SWCE's tree service contractor** – Carr's Tree Service, Inc., is contracted to do SWCE's tree trimming. To report a tree concern, phone:

507-451-7340 / 800-526-3514

LIVESTOCK OWNERS

If you have questions or concerns regarding stray voltage in your livestock confinement building(s), or are planning an addition, or constructing a new one, call Steele-Waseca at 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514. Steele-Waseca will work with you and your electrician to eliminate potential stray voltage problems. You may also visit: www.minnesotastrayvoltageguide.com.

health & safety connection

Extreme weather highlights importance of reliable electricity

On a normal day, having reliable electricity means you can charge your phone, watch TV, and cook dinner.

During extreme cold weather, however, reliable electricity means so much more. Electricity is essential for almost any home heating, whether through all-electric heating systems or for powering the components of a furnace.

The importance of electricity was on display during late January 2019 when a polar vortex sent temperatures well below zero, and stressed the electric system for several days.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric deployed line technicians, trucks and equipment to fix any problems caused by the cold weather. At the same time, Steele-Waseca's wholesale energy provider for its legacy members, Great River Energy (GRE), carefully operated and monitored the electric system to ensure energy continued to reach Steele-Waseca and the 27 other cooperatives it serves.

Extreme weather brings new focus

When winter weather turns dangerous, power line crews suspend normal maintenance in order to closely monitor the grid and fix issues that arise due to cold temperatures, ice and wind.

"When our system is stressed or damaged, our crews work around the clock to keep the grid operating for our member-consumers," said Priti Patel, GRE's vice president and chief transmission officer.

Make cooking safety a holiday tradition

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and fire injuries.

Ranges or cooktops cause 62 percent of home fires according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Learn how to stay safe with these tips:

- Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stove top.
- Always unplug counter top appliances when not in use.
- Make sure you have, and test, GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) receptacles in your kitchen to prevent shock and electrocution.
- Double check that everything is off when you finish cooking.

Region-wide collaboration

Great River Energy works with the regional grid operator, known as the Mid-continent Independent System Operator (MISO), and neighboring utilities to prepare for possible scenarios. During events like the polar vortex, MISO can issue cold weather alerts, which direct utilities to prepare all power plants to be dispatched on short notice.

During extreme weather, you need options

Wind energy now represents a hefty portion of the energy on the Midwest electric grid. When temperatures dip below -20 degrees Fahrenheit, however, wind turbines can shut down entirely to protect vital components. 1029576

That's where GRE's "peaking" power plants come in. When demand for electricity is high (times of "peak" demand), these plants provide additional energy typically fueled by natural gas. During extreme cold, when natural gas is also needed to heat homes and schools, those same plants can operate dependably with fuel oil.

"The handful of coldest days of winter demonstrate the value of a diverse portfolio of generation resources," said GRE Vice President and Chief Power Supply Officer Jon Brekke. "It requires a variety of fuels and technologies to ensure our members are warm and comfortable in every season and in any weather."

- Prevent fires by keeping your oven and stove top clean of grease and dust.
- Never leave the kitchen while cooking.
- Never cook while sleepy, drinking alcohol, or taking medication that makes you drowsy.
- Never disable a smoke alarm while cooking.
- Never use a cooking stove to heat your home.

Whether testing out a new dish or whipping up a family classic, there's one recipe that should also be included on the menu this holiday season: safety.

Making a Winter Driving Survival Kit

Use an empty three-pound coffee can or any similar container with a plastic cover to store the following items:

- Small candles and matches
- Small, sharp knife and plastic spoons
- Red bandanna or cloth
- Pencil and paper
- Large plastic garbage bag
- Safety pins
- Whistle
- Snacks
- Cell phone adapter to plug into lighter
- Plastic flashlight and spare batteries

Reverse batteries in the flashlight to avoid accidental switching and burnout. Warm batteries before using them. Store safety items in the passenger compartment when severe winter weather threatens in case the trunk is jammed or frozen shut. Choose small packages of food that you can eat hot or cold.

Suggested food items:

- Raisins in small packets
- Semi-sweet chocolate in pieces for sharing
- Miniature candy bars
- Chewing gum
- Wrapped hard candies
- Food bars
- Canned soup, meat and poultry

Store bulky and heavy items in an accessible place:

- 30-foot cord to use as homing line when you must exit the vehicle
- Booster cables
- Basic tools
- Sand, cat litter or other grit in a plastic milk carton
- Shovel
- Tow cables or chain
- Sleeping bag or blankets
- Road flares and reflectors
- Snowmobile suit and heavy boots

Emergency Phone Calls

If you become stranded in any part of Minnesota, and you have a cell phone, call 911 to summon help. In other states, you may be able to dial 911 or 0 to reach an operator. When you talk with authorities:

- Provide information on your location, condition of all persons in the vehicle and the problem you are experiencing
- Follow instructions; you may be told to stay where you are and wait for rescuers
- Do not hang up until you know who you have spoken with and what will happen next
- If you must leave your vehicle, write down your name, address, phone number and destination. Place the piece of paper inside the front windshield for someone to see



Minnesota Department of Public Safety
Homeland Security and Emergency Management