

### Mutual Service Cooperative fund announces 2005 grant program

#### New focus on needs of seniors in Rural America

Grant applications are now being accepted by the MSC Fund of the Cooperative Development Foundation for cooperative development initiatives that will enhance the quality of life of seniors living in rural America.

The Fund will consider grant applications that:

- Contribute to successful cooperative models that already serve seniors in rural areas.
- Provide technical assistance to aid in the development of co-op ventures that will serve seniors living in rural areas.
- Provide a better understanding of lessons learned from co-ops that have served or are currently serving seniors living in rural areas.

The deadline for applications is July 31 for awards in the Fall. Any cooperative or cooperative-related organization is eligible. Information, guidelines and application are available at [www.cdf.coop](http://www.cdf.coop) <<http://www.cdf.coop/>>. enterprises.

### You can do your part to help avoid summer blackouts

The hot days of summer place a lot of stress on America's utility network. For many electric utilities, these hottest days create greater "peak loads" than at any other time of the year. These times of greatest demand can potentially lead to limited power supply disruptions, and on rare occasions, an outage or blackout may occur.

A utility's peak load affects its electricity cost and this cost is ultimately passed along to its customers.

The greatest peak loads often occur in the late afternoon on summer days, when the air conditioning systems in most buildings are running, when families first arrive home and start using household appliances.

You can help reduce summer peak loads by adjusting your daily routine in a few small ways:

- Avoid doing laundry in the afternoon—choose the morning or late evening instead. If you must run your washing machine during these times, use cold water instead of hot. If you must dry your clothes during this time, use a clothesline or indoor drying rack. Avoid running your dishwasher during these times, too. These appliances tend to heat up your home, too, so you'll be more comfortable if you don't run them during the day.

- Close your windows and draw the shades during the day to keep the sun from overheating your home. Better yet, install exterior window shades, sun screens or awnings to block summer sun before it enters your home.

- If you have central air conditioning, hire a serviceman to perform periodic service. This should include changing the filters, checking the refrigerant charge, cleaning the coils and sealing leaky ducts. If you have window air conditioners, remove them periodically and clean their coils with hot soapy water and a stiff brush.

Source: John Krigger, Saturn Resource Management ([www.srmi.biz](http://www.srmi.biz)) <<http://www.srmi.biz/>>

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### What's that 3rd prong for?

Try the electrical safety quiz.

1. What does the third prong on a 3-prong plug do?
  - A. Provides a path to ground for electricity that may stray from an appliance or product.
  - B. Provides extra power for equipment requiring high wattage.
  - C. Helps to hold the plug firmly in the outlet.
2. If a fuse blows or circuit breaker trips, the first thing you should do is:
  - A. Call your electric cooperative.
  - B. Determine what caused the fuse to blow or the breaker to trip.
  - C. Replace the fuse or re-set the breaker.
3. In order not to overload your household circuits, you should know the capacity of the circuits. How can you determine the capacity?
  - A. Look at your electric bill.
  - B. Check the meter outside your house.
  - C. Open your breaker box or fuse box.
4. Have your household wiring inspected if:
  - A. Your house is more than 40 years old.
  - B. Your house is more than 10 years old and you have made major renovations or added new major appliances.
  - C. You buy a house that has been previously occupied.
  - D. All of the above.
5. True or False: It's OK to use black electrical tape to repair a frayed power cord or to splice a power cord, if you cover all exposed wire.

### ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. A. The third prong provides a path to ground to protect the equipment and user from electric shock. You should never remove the third prong in an attempt to use a 2-prong outlet. Use an adapter or replace the outlet.
2. B. Determine what caused the fuse to blow or the breaker to trip before replacing or resetting. If you must, call an electrician.
3. C. Your breaker box or fuse box should have a diagram with the amp capacity for each circuit. Ensure the combined amp rating of your equipment does not exceed that capacity.
4. D. All of the above. Your city or county electrical inspector performs the inspection if you've made renovations; a licensed electrician can perform the inspection.
5. False. The black tape—usually vinyl—is not rated to handle the heat generated by electricity running through wires. It will melt and burn.

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