



POWERGRAM

A monthly newsletter for OCEC Members

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE AWARE OF SCAMMERS

The holiday season is in full swing. As we gear up for festivities, we must stay vigilant against the barrage of online holiday scams. Professional scammers try to take advantage of this time of year when people are busy and distracted.

Understanding the types of scams out there while being aware and safeguarding your information is vital to avoid falling victim to schemes designed to take your money or steal your identity.

Here are some common scams to recognize and avoid this holiday season:

Phishing Scams

These scams involve using fraudulent emails or websites specifically designed to obtain sensitive personal information from unsuspecting victims. They often target holiday shoppers, offering great deals or discounts in exchange for personal information, such as account numbers or passwords. To avoid these scams, double-check the URLs of any website you visit and never click on links from unknown senders.

Look for strangely formatted subject lines and obvious grammar and spelling errors. The company's logo often looks slightly off or is a different size and color. Pay close attention because these are usually an automatic sign that you're being targeted. To protect yourself, only purchase gift cards from highly reputable retailers. If you receive a gift card in the mail, always check for any signs of tampering on the gift card.

Social Media Scams

Especially during the holidays, scammers use social media as an easy way to trick people into sharing personal information. These dishonest tactics can take the form of fake content and links, fake friend requests, or even phishing scams. Be careful sharing your personal information on social media platforms. Avoid clicking on unknown links or accepting strange friend requests.

Charity Scams

Many people are in a giving mood during the holiday season, and scammers often take advantage of this by creating fake charities to raise money. Always research the organization before donating money to avoid falling victim to a charity swindle. Look for any red flags, such as an unsecured website or a need for more transparency about how the funds will be used.

Shipping Scams

Shipping scams are common during the holiday season when people are expecting gifts and packages. Cyber thieves may send fake shipping notifications that contain malware or links that can infect your device if clicked. They create invoices that make it seem like there is an outstanding shipping fee due before a delivery can be made. Verify shipping notifications before you click links or download attachments. Check your invoice, verify the shipping source and track directly through the shipper.

Travel Scams

Opportunistic cyber crooks create fake websites or travel booking portals that offer seemingly great deals and discounts for the holidays. These deals often come with hidden fees, or worse, no reservations or travel package at all.

If the vacation deal seems too good to be true and offers a ton of extras that are not usually included in a travel package, then there is a high likelihood that you are being taken advantage of. To avoid falling victim to these tricks, only use reputable third-party travel websites or book directly with the hotel or airline.



DECEMBER CALENDAR PHOTO
submitted by Dwight Raulerson

DECEMBER
2024

CLOUDCROFT
575-682-2521

ALTO
575-336-4550

CARRIZOZO
575-648-2352

LOBBY HOURS
8 AM - 4 PM
MONDAY - FRIDAY

TO REPORT AN
OUTAGE, CALL
1-800-548-4660

FOR BALANCE
INFORMATION OR TO
PAY YOUR BILL, CALL
1-855-940-3957

WWW.OCEC-INC.COM

Your Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative

Merry
Christmas

OCEC Offices will be closed from 12 PM-5 PM on Christmas
Eve and all day Christmas Day.

Blessings to you and yours during the holiday season!



CONTRACT CREW UPDATES

Crews working to trim trees and vegetation in rights-of-way are currently in the following areas and are expected to remain there for the next few weeks.

- o High Rolls area

OCEC reminds members that you may see vehicles, ATVs, and crew members from Rogers Tree Service cutting trees near existing power lines. Vehicles will be marked with their company name and an OCEC contractor placard.

Power Pole Inspections will be inspecting poles south of Alamogordo, including areas around Holloman, Boles Acres, and Oro Vista, for the next few months. Once they are done in this area, they will move to Cox Canyon. Please be aware that you may see them around OCEC lines performing their work.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

If you're planning to purchase electronic gifts this holiday season, look for the ENERGY STAR® label, which indicates higher energy efficiency performance. Electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating are up to 25% more efficient than standard products. This holiday season, give the gift of energy savings with ENERGY STAR®-rated electronics and equipment.

Source: energy.gov

APPLY TO BE A 2025 YOUTH TOUR DELEGATE

OCEC proudly sponsors delegates to attend the 2025 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors to visit Washington, D.C., for a week in June 2025.

OCEC began sponsoring students for the first time in 2017, but the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has brought high school students from across the country to our nation's capital since 1950. This year OCEC will sponsor at least four (4) students to go on this unique trip to watch history come alive as they explore museums, memorials and monuments, visit with U.S. Senators and make friendships that will last a lifetime.

Please encourage students you know to apply for this unique opportunity. Applications may be picked up at your local OCEC office, from your school guidance counselor or at www.ocec-inc.com.

**TO MAKE A PAYMENT BY PHONE OR
OBTAIN YOUR BALANCE, PLEASE CALL**

1-855-940-3957

HOLIDAY FUN WORD SEARCH

Can you find all the words associated with holiday fun in the puzzle below? Use the word bank to check your work.



WORD BANK

Jingle bells Santa Claus Snowman
Candy cane Mittens Hot Chocolate



N H C H P B D H S V G Z H T M
A C C F Z Z A T F N V D Q Z Y
M H L V Y M J N P D E T V F S
W P W H F W I H K S C T G B K
O Z K D Z L N O K K H Q T C F
N F I O U R G T F C L P E I L
S S V S U A L C A T N A S C M
Z C V P C E E H R P W U A Z Z
F C F J C H B O G C Y N G V E
G M V X D L E C V N D T S F W
Y A X V N U L O H Y V C L U A
H G V L L X L L C M J M C I U
P J Y F E R S A Q E Y G H C A
D W O R D T N T Y H X Q L E S
U W H R U E V E B Y B F L W R



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM THE ENERGY
EXPLORERS!**



OCEC line crew members Cable Angelus and Carlos Cano assist with decorating the Village of Cloudcroft Christmas Tree that sits in the courtyard of the OCEC Headquarters building.