

## Director Nominating Committees Selected

The Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative Board of Directors appointed the director elections nominating committees for Baker, Grant and Union counties during its regular meeting November 28.

The Harney County director position is not up for election in 2012.

- Appointed to serve for Baker County were Lynn Burroughs, Nelson Clarke and Barbara Sidway. The committee is responsible for nominating candidates for board position No. 5 currently held by Ralph Ward.

- Appointed to serve for Grant County were Alva Conlee, Gail Enright and Mitch Saul. The committee is responsible for nominating candidates for board position No. 6 currently held by Gary Miller.

- Appointed to serve for Union County were Donna Beverage, John Bozarth and Dale DeLong. The committee is responsible for nominating candidates for board position

No. 4 currently held by Grant Holman.

Each director's term of office is for three years. The election will be completed at the annual meeting scheduled for May 12, 2012, in Baker City.

A copy of the bylaws describing the terms of the office and qualifications needed to serve on the nine-member board of directors is available online at [www.otecc.com](http://www.otecc.com) or at any OTEC office.

Committees must submit their nominations by February 10, 2012.

Nominations by petition must be filed no later than March 12, 2012. The petition must be signed by the candidate and include at least 250 OTEC members qualified to vote. There also must be a request for the candidate's name to be placed on the ballot.

OTEC is a nonprofit electric cooperative serving 30,000 meters in parts of Baker, Grant, Harney and Union counties. ■



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## Watch Out for Silent and Deadly Carbon Fumes

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends consumers purchase and install carbon monoxide (CO) detectors with labels showing they meet the requirements of Underwriters Laboratories standard UL 2034.

The UL standard requires detectors to sound an alarm when exposure to carbon monoxide reaches potentially hazardous levels over a period of time. Detectors that meet the requirements of UL 2034 provide a greater safety margin than previously manufactured detectors.

Properly working CO detectors can provide an early warning to consumers before the deadly gas builds up to a dangerous level. Exposure to a low concentration over several hours can be

as dangerous as exposure to high carbon monoxide levels for a few minutes. The new detectors detect both conditions.

The CPSC believes CO detectors are as important to home safety as smoke detectors. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency warns consumers to use CO detectors as a backup—not as a replacement—for proper use and maintenance of fuel-burning appliances.

Unlike a smoke detector, where you easily can confirm the

cause of the alarm, CO is invisible and odorless, so it is harder to tell if an alarm is false or a real emergency.

Preventing CO from becoming a problem in your home is better than relying on an alarm. Follow the checklist of do's and don'ts listed below. Second, if you shop for a CO detector, do some research on features and don't select one solely on the basis of cost. Look for UL certification on any detector you purchase. Carefully follow manufacturers' instructions for its placement, use and maintenance.

If the CO detector alarm goes off:

- Make sure it is your CO detector and not your smoke detector.
- Check to see if any member of the household is experiencing symptoms of poisoning. If they are, get them out of the house immediately and seek medical attention. Tell the doctor you suspect CO poisoning. If no one is feeling symptoms, ventilate the home with fresh air, turn off all potential sources of CO—your oil or gas furnace, gas water heater, gas range and oven, gas dryer, gas or kerosene space heater and any vehicle or small engine.

- Have a qualified technician inspect your fuel-burning appliances and chimneys to make sure they are operating correctly and that nothing is blocking the fumes from being vented out of the house. ■

