

# Tideland Topics

**REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.**

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBER-OWNERS OF TIDELAND ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

## IN PLAIN SIGHT: Don't obstruct access to utility equipment

There's a misconception that underground electric service is worry free. Instead, underground service has its own service and maintenance challenges.

Doing maintenance or repair work and performing routine inspections on a padmount transformer requires crews to open the cabinets. That's why it is imperative that consumers not obstruct the cabinets with plants, shrubs or lawn ornaments.

Likewise, it is important to call the NC One Call Center at 811 or 1-800-632-4949 to have underground utilities located before beginning any outdoor project, including pouring concrete, building a new deck, erecting fencing, or tilling for a garden.

Allow three business days for all underground utilities to be identified and marked before beginning your project.



## Tips for a Safe Harvest



Harvest season brings hard work and can be an exhausting, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous (even deadly!) when working near overhead power lines. We urge farm operators and workers to keep the following safety tips in mind:

-  Use care when operating large machinery near power lines.
-  Inspect the height of equipment to determine clearance.
-  Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away (in all directions) from power lines.
-  Remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
-  If a power line is sagging or looks to be dangerously low, please call us immediately.

Source: [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)



## Message to our Member-Owners: Peak hurricane season

By Paul Spruill  
General Manager & CEO

### Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

In September, Lucas Tree Experts will be wrapping up tree trimming in Lowland and Hobucken. They will then begin work on the Craven County circuit including Tunstall Swamp Road, Aurora Road and Hills Neck Road.

Right-of-way spraying resumes in September.

Please support our tree trimming efforts. Trees are the number one cause of outages. Working together we can improve system reliability.

Last year was the seventh most-active hurricane season in the historical record dating back to 1851, and was the most-active season since 2005. In fact, September 2017, featuring Category 5 hurricanes Irma and Maria and Category 4 Hurricane Jose, was the most-active month of any Atlantic hurricane season on record.

In May 2017, meteorologists were issuing warnings, not about specific storms, but rather complacency. They worried that the length between severe storms would result in a lack of preparation and an unwillingness to heed official forecasts. In fact, past forecasting misses can play a role in boosting complacency. However, improvements in technology and computer modeling made last year's storm track forecasts the most accurate since modern mapping of tropical cyclones began nearly 50 years ago.

These high-quality forecasts can and should save lives, but only do so when warnings are heeded. There will always be those who bemoan having evacuated only to return to home to a neighborhood left unscathed. More troubling though as those who stay behind and then plead to be rescued from either

the raging storm itself or the miserable aftermath.

And while tracking models have improved, meteorologists say forecasting rapid intensification of storms remains a challenge. Of an estimated 40 incidents of rapid intensification, just six were accurately forecast according to the National Hurricane Center. So the storm you hunker down for could be very different than the storm that actually arrives.

Because Tidelanders must contend with both tropical disturbances and nor'easters, perhaps we are all more storm ready than our counterparts in Florida or Texas. I certainly hope so.

If you are new to Tideland territory and have not had to navigate a major coastal weather event, I encourage you to talk with your neighbors or local emergency management officials to learn what you can do to be prepared for a storm and how to cope in its aftermath.

For preparedness tips related to electric service and emergency generator operation please visit our online storm center at [www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com).



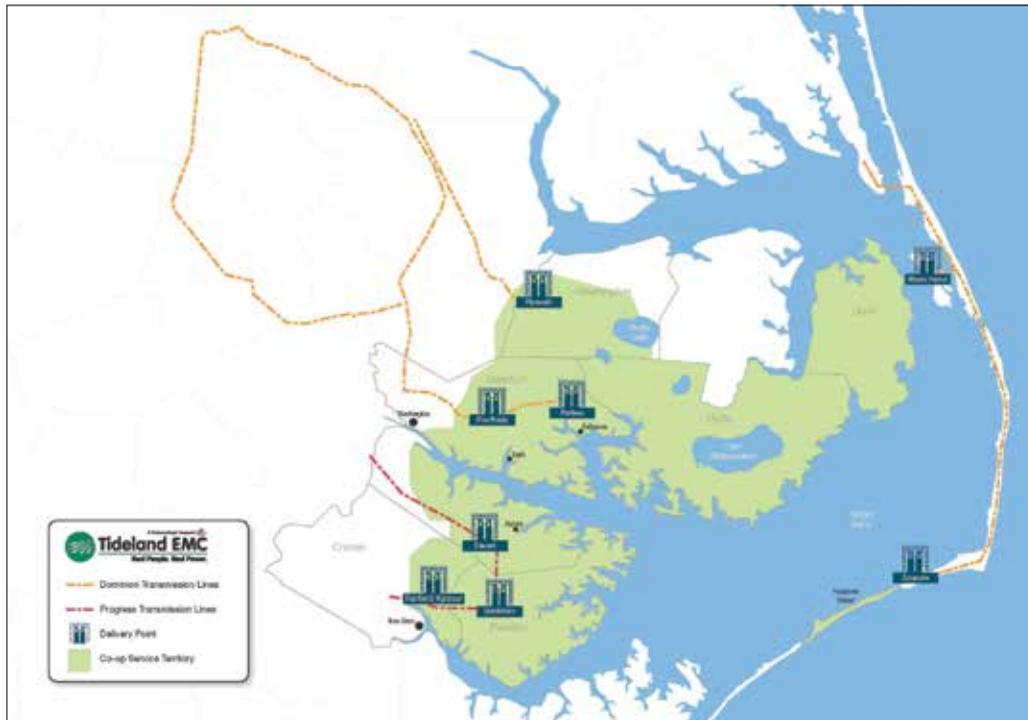
## TRACKING SEVERE WEATHER FROM WITHIN THE TRENCHES AT TIDELAND EMC

At Tideland EMC our Dispatch Center allows us to anticipate, mitigate and recover from major storm events faster. From grid hardening, to mobile and outage management solutions, our technology, automation, and strategic rapid repair & recovery strategies leads to more reliable systems, communication, and member satisfaction.

To report an outage, call us at **1.800.882.1001**

OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS:

# How power gets to you



Tideland is unique in that we have three different transmission providers serving our eight delivery point substations. North of the Pamlico River transmission is provided by Dominion Resources. South of the Pamlico, Duke Energy Progress is our transmission link. And at Ocracoke, we rely on Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative for transmission from Oregon Inlet to Hatteras.

Beyond those delivery point substations, we have nine distribution substations.

For example, the Pantego delivery point feeds the Mattamuskeet substation, which in turn, feeds the Swindell Fork, Fairfield and Engelhard distribution substations. The Pantego delivery point also feeds our Sidney and Ponzer substations. South of the Pamlico, our Silver Hill delivery point in Grantsboro provides service to the Arapahoe substation.

We'll share a map of those substations next month or you can find them online at our storm center at [www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com)

## REASONS TO CONVERT TO RESIDENTIAL FLEXPAY

1.

**NO SECURITY DEPOSIT OR CREDIT CHECK REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH SERVICE**

2.

**CONVERT AN EXISTING SECURITY DEPOSIT INTO AN IMMEDIATE ENERGY PREPAYMENT**

3.

**NO MORE ELECTRIC BILLS. EVER. SERIOUSLY. WE'RE NOT JOKING!**

4.

**NO LATE FEES, DISCONNECT OR RECONNECT FEES. EVER. HONESTLY! IT'S THE TRUTH.**

5.

**DEMONSTRATED REDUCTION IN ENERGY CONSUMPTION BETWEEN 7 AND 12 PERCENT. TURNS OUT WHEN YOU KNOW HOW AND WHEN YOU USE ENERGY YOU TEND TO SAVE.**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT FLEXPAY @ TIDELANDEMC.COM**

## YOUR POWER OUTAGE PANTRY

We do our best to avoid power outages, but unfortunately, Mother Nature occasionally has different plans. Stay ahead of the storm by stocking your pantry with a variety of non-perishable items.

*Set these items aside for extended outages only, and your storm prep will be a breeze!*

- BEANS
- CANNED FRUIT
- CANNED TUNA
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- CEREAL
- DRIED FRUITS
- DRIED MEATS/JERKY
- GRAHAM CRACKERS
- PASTA
- RICE
- SPAM
- OATMEAL



## Tideland Topics

We are currently accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year. The last day to apply for a grant is September 19, 2018.

The Bright Ideas Grant Program was established by the state's electric cooperatives in 1994 to support innovative, creative and effective classroom initiatives that are not covered by traditional school funding. Since that time, the cooperatives have distributed over \$11.5 million in funding across the Tarheel state.

Individual teachers or a team of teachers can compete for grants up to \$2,000. All teachers and principals in both public and private schools grades K-12 are eligible to apply for a Bright Ideas Grant from Tideland EMC. However, the school must be located in Dare, Craven, Pamlico, Washington, Hyde, Beaufort or Tyrrell counties. Applications will be accepted for projects in any discipline. Multi-discipline projects are highly encouraged.

To apply: [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com)

[www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Sasnett, President  
J. Douglas Brinson, Vice President  
Clifton Paul, Secretary  
David Ipock, Treasurer  
Rudy Austin, Mark Carawan,  
Garry Jordan, Dawson Pugh,  
Wayne Sawyer & Charles Slade

### GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

Paul Spruill

### EDITOR

Heidi Jernigan Smith

### Member Service

252.943.3046

800.637.1079

### 24 Hour Outage Reporting & Automated Services

252.944.2400

800.882.1001

Tideland EMC is an equal opportunity provider & employer



Last year's Bright Ideas award-winning teachers

## OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3:

Our 24-hour call center will remain open for outage reporting and member service

# 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

### 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



### 2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



### 3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



### 4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



### 5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.

