

Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

Lifeline *Gone Wrong*

This is the same photo and headline we ran last October. All that has changed is the named storm: Hurricane Ida. One week after Ida hit, the Louisiana Department of Health reported 4 dead and 141 hospitalized from carbon monoxide poisonings. At the time of their announcement, 400,000 remained without power.

If you own a generator please make sure you have a working carbon monoxide detector. Learn and live.



E-bill *delivers*

Mail service just isn't as fast as it used to be. Increasingly, that's resulting in late payment fees being assessed when payments don't arrive on time to the cooperative.

Take advantage of Tideland's electronic billing and autopay options to avoid "past due" headaches. Enroll online at tidelandmc.com via the Member Portal or call our office at 800.637.1079.





Vampire power

The list of appliances and plug-in devices that leech energy even when they are shut off grows with each passing year. It has been estimated that these standby power loads can now account for 10 percent of average monthly electric bills.

While it is part of the price we pay for the connectivity of modern technology, there are ways to reduce these vampire or phantom loads without hindering connectivity.

The simplest method is to unplug a device when you are no longer using it, such as a coffeemaker that has a built in clock. The same is true for chargers that are no longer connected to a cell phone or other device.

For home entertainment equipment, consider plugging your TV and DVD player into a powerstrip that can be turned off when not in use. There are special entertainment center powerstrips that will power off only those items that don't need to regularly communicate with the internet for updates or signal retention.

Be sure to activate energy saver modes that put electronics to sleep to reduce power consumption and always look for Energy Star labeling when making new purchases.

Message to our member-owners

From hurricanes to harvesting, remain electric safety vigilant

by **PAUL SPRUILL**

GENERAL MANAGER &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As we put the finishing touches on this newsletter in early September, Louisiana was still deep in the initial recovery from Hurricane Ida. More than 400,000 residents remained without power, down from peak outages impacting more than 1.1 million consumers in the Gulf Coast state. Upon completing their initial damage assessment, Louisiana's largest electricity provider, Entergy, determined that the number of poles damaged or destroyed from Ida was more than hurricanes Katrina, Ike and Delta combined. Unfortunately, yet predictably, the grim news out of Louisiana included news of fatalities and serious injuries related to carbon monoxide poisonings and the electric shock deaths of two 19-year-old lineworkers who had been deployed to assist Alabama Power with recovery efforts.

As is almost always the case, the most deadly impact from any storm is after the weather event is over and recovery begins. We can achieve better outcomes by being prepared and incorporating safety into every step of our pre- and post-storm processes at home and on the work site. Don't lose sight of safety in the inevitable fog of crisis.

Peak hurricane season also coincides with harvest season in eastern North Carolina. Corn fields were being leveled at a steady clip in early September, and before long, cotton harvesting will be underway. Tideland infrastructure runs along and sometimes even through many cultivated fields. That's why we recommend conducting a pre-harvesting safety audit before work begins. Make sure you know where power lines, utility poles and guy wires are located. Under no circumstances should a cotton module builder be set up underneath a power line. In fact, the module builder should not even be within 50 feet of power lines. Likewise, you should never lift the harvesting basket to be emptied if you are within 50 feet of our lines.

In April during planting season, there were three farm-related accidents involving Tideland EMC infrastructure. Fortunately, none resulted in anything other than property damage. In one particular case the damaged infrastructure remained energized. Had the equipment operator exited the vehicle, the potential for personal injury could have been fatal. Because the worker had received training about how to handle an electric utility collision, he remained on the tractor until Tideland personnel arrived to de-energize the line so he could safely exit.

So whether it's storms or soybeans, calamities or cotton: Make a plan. Work safe. Return home at the end of the day to those who love you.

"The number of poles damaged or destroyed from Ida was more than hurricanes Katrina, Ike and Delta combined"

- Entergy, Louisiana

So 'mummy' injuries!

Fires, lacerations and falls sound like scenes from a scary movie but for nearly 5,000 people last year, these Halloween hazards resulted in real injuries.

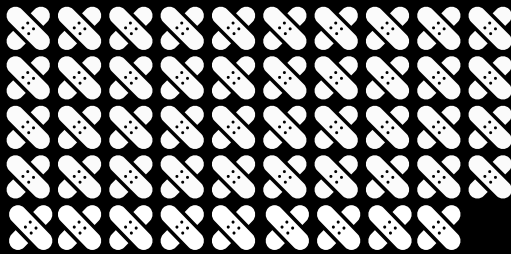
Fit for Safety.


Falls were a leading cause of injury. Adjust costumes to fit well.

54% of injuries were from PUMPKIN CARVING

choose carving utensils carefully

That's 4,900 in just 2 MONTHS!



 = 100 Injuries

THE KEY POINTS:



Leave pumpkin carving to adults. Kid helpers can grab a spoon and scoop out the inside, or use a marker to trace the template.



Prevent candle fires by substituting battery-operated lights and glow sticks for open flame candles.



Decorate carefully. To prevent falls, remove obstacles from lawns, steps and porches when expecting trick-or-treaters.

October rights-of-way schedule

Several of our contract crews were deployed to assist with Hurricane Ida recovery in Louisiana and are resuming work in Tideland territory as they are released to return to North Carolina.

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts and Gunnison Tree Service to trim trees in our rights-of-way. During October, Lucas will be trimming out the Rose Bay, Dowry Creek, Ponzer, and Rose Acre circuits. Gunnison will be trimming out the Hyde County circuit out of our Pantego substation (Beech Ridge and Hwy 264).

Our rights-of-way treatment contractor, Progressive Solutions, will continue spraying in our Pantego operational district.

We will have construction crews with Lee Electric on the Orchard Creek Road portion of the Merritt circuit, the St. Delights Church Road portion of the Cayton Road circuits, and on the Allen Road portion of the Dowry Creek circuit.

River City construction crews are continuing pole change outs along Highway 32 and Broad Creek Road (Washington). This is a high-traffic area so please give these crews wide berth when traveling in this work zone.

An Osmose crew will continue conducting pole inspections in our Engelhard operational district.

Time-of-use peak hours change October 16

Residential time-of-use rate participants are reminded that the winter on-peak schedule begins October 16. Please observe winter on-peak hours of 6 a.m. to 9 a.m., Monday through Friday. The following winter holidays

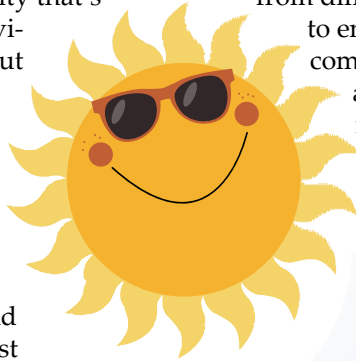
remain off-peak at this time: Thanksgiving Day, the Friday after Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Years Day.

Time-of-use members will continue to pay just 8.61¢ per kilowatt-hour, which is also subject to the wholesale power cost adjustment credits that remains in affect for all Tideland EMC rate payers.

Get solar savvy before you sign

Real People.
Real Power.

Solar energy is booming, and the future for the technology is brighter than ever. Through the use of rooftop solar panels, many homeowners can now harness the sun's natural rays to produce electricity that's both renewable and environmentally friendly. But if your primary objective is to reduce your overall energy costs, an energy audit is always a better first step. Why? Because the cheapest energy is the energy we never use and we can achieve that most cost effectively through energy efficiency.



While many solar companies are genuine and truly want to help consumers with a successful solar installation, there are the occasional bad apples.

If you're interested in solar panels for your home, consider these tips before installation:

- Talk to an energy advisor at Tideland first. We want you to feel confident about any decisions you make about your

home energy use, especially decisions about generating energy at home.

- Collect at least three quotes from different solar companies to ensure you're getting a competitive deal. As with any major purchase, research is key, so thoroughly read customer reviews for each vendor.

24 hours. Any reputable solar company will recognize that you need time to review a proposal and thoroughly weigh your decision. And if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

- Going solar is a major decision, so you'll want to conduct a good bit of research first. If you're looking for a general starting point, check out the Department of Energy's Homeowner's Guide to Going Solar.

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www.tidelandemc.com

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