



Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

August 11
is 811 day

Every nine minutes, an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811.

To ensure safety, reach out to 811 via phone or online.



By contacting NC811, your excavation needs will be communicated to member utility companies, prompting them to dispatch locators to mark buried lines at no cost to you.

Compliance with the law mandates that individuals responsible for excavation submit a locator request to NC811 three full business days in advance. This allows underground utilities the opportunity to mark their lines, preventing any potential interference during the excavation process.

See page B for more information.



Ask Lineman Larry

How does rain impact our electric system?

Thanks to improved construction standards and routine line maintenance, rain typically does not impact Tideland's electric system. However, it can cause short circuits if a vulnerability exists that doesn't present itself during dry weather such as a cracked or broken insulator. Of course, heavy rain and strong winds can bring trees and branches in contact with power lines, causing momentary blinks or an outage. Rain is less likely to impact underground power lines unless flood conditions exist. At Ocracoke, we occasionally have blinks and arcing due to salt accumulation on power lines. In that case, a good heavy rain is our best friend to clear away the salt.

Have a question? Email linemanlarry@tidelandemc.com



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.



STORM READY

Weather radios are an excellent way to stay informed. From incoming storms to national disasters, make sure your family is prepared.

Safe Electricity.org



Back to basics

Sometimes low-tech is the most effective solution during a disaster. That's why we encourage you and your family to purchase a NOAA Weather Radio. A basic model runs less than \$20.

The New Bern transmitter KEC-84 (162.400 MHz) serves Beaufort, Craven, Pamlico and mainland Hyde counties.

The Cape Hatteras transmitter KIG-77 (162.475 MHz) serves Dare and Washington counties and Ocracoke Island.

Message to members

Current events emphasize the need to have a Plan B

PAUL SPRUILL

GENERAL MANAGER &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As this issue of Tideland Topics went to press, teams were still searching for victims of the Guadalupe River flood in Texas. Coming so soon after events like Hurricane Helene, the California wildfires, and the spring outbreak of Midwest tornadoes, it's a stark reminder that emergency preparedness must continually evolve to meet the realities of more frequent and severe storms along with changing populations.

Preparedness is a team sport that requires a deep bench. While federal, state and local officials are crucial players in response and recovery, so many of the decisions made by you, your family, and your neighborhood can define the magnitude of an event in terms of human costs.

In many ways, we are fortunate in Tideland territory that most of our natural disasters are tropical systems that can be viewed, analyzed and prepared for days in advance. Yet even that nerve-racking task of hurricane tracking can sometimes lead to storm fatigue or a false sense of security when comparisons are made to past storms. Please don't be lulled into complacency especially when it comes to the Saffir-Simpson classification of storm strength. We know all too well the havoc that can be wreaked on our area by a slow moving Category 1 storm that arrives at high tide and then stalls in the Pamlico Sound.

Please avoid the hazards posed by last minute evacuations that expose both those fleeing and the public servants trying to respond

to increased hazards once an event is underway.

Today I challenge you to not only prepare your own personal disaster preparedness plan, pick it apart and devise a Plan B for any step that may not come to fruition due to unforeseen circumstances.

Consider purchasing an inexpensive weather radio as an added layer to your communications plan. Learn how to use your cell phone's satellite positioning service for emergency help in the event that cellular service goes down.

Welfare checks can be time consuming for first responders so make sure someone knows where you will be during the event so you are not presumed to be among the missing.

Have cash on hand. That may seem pretty basic, but after Hurricane Helene many evacuees encountered problems obtaining fuel because electronic payment networks were down far and wide. As technologically advanced as our society is today, it is more important than ever to remember the basics.

One member told us at a hurricane preparedness event in May that their entire family performs a drill to see how quickly they can get all their essentials together and head out the door. When time is of the essence you must be prepared to act and remove yourself from harm's way. Your well-being matters to us.

Rights-of-way maintenance schedule

Tideland has hired Gunnison Tree Service to trim trees in our rights-of-way.

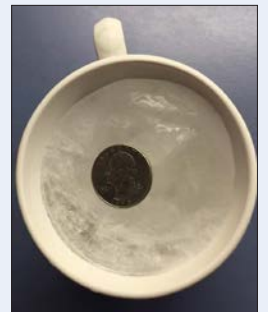
During August, Gunnison Tree will be trimming the Pantego circuit. The work area includes Highway 264, Highway 99 and all roads in the Pantego area.

In the Grantsboro district, Lee Electric, our construction contractor, will continue targeted pole replacements. These replacements are the result of our proactive pole inspection program. The inspections were undertaken by our contractor Osmose.

Quarter trick

Here's an easy way to know if your freezer contents thawed during a power outage.

Freeze a cup of water. Place a quarter on top and return the cup to the freezer. If power goes out, be sure to keep the freezer closed, but once power has been restored check the depth of the quarter. If it remains on top food is perfectly safe. If the quarter is at or near the bottom of the cup, then frozen food should be tossed. If the quarter is in the middle you'll have a judgement call to make so consult [foodsafety.gov](https://www.foodsafety.gov) for guidelines.



Of course, when in doubt, throw it out.

Lineman Larry's ex

Here are a few "Lunch with a Lineman" contest entries. Email photo(s) to linemanlarry@tidelandmc.com by Aug. 15 for a chance to win. Remember to use your high-resolution setting when taking cell phone pictures.



Larry is living a dream summer with Addy Kate, the daughter of Brett and Kimberly Smith of Belhaven. Her grandmother Debbie Smith has kept the photos coming!



Sweet Sadie, the 3-year-old daughter of Ethan and Brittany Credle of Sladesville, met one of Larry's co-workers to snap a few photos. Next she and Larry headed to church.



Emma and Stuart VanderWeit celebrated the last day of school with Lineman Larry. Thank you Grandma Irene for sharing!



Olive and Taylor, the granddaughters of Spencer and Leigh Stanley, took Larry for a swing at the Washington Yacht and Country Club.

Excellent adventures



Lavender-loving twin sisters Evelyn (left) and Aubrey (right), are the 8-year-old daughters of Camilla Leonard of Arapahoe. Their grandmother is member Gaye Hoots of Oriental.



Wyatt, the 5-year-old son of Tyler and Brienna Sawyer, took Larry to meet WITN meteorologist Charlie Ironmonger.



July magazine cover girl Chloe Dillehay celebrated her fifth birthday with Larry at Lions Water Adventure in Kinston.



Lineman Larry even got his passport and flew with members Matt and Heather Morrone from New Bern to Cozumel, Mexico.

Report for duty junior storm troopers

Name that 'Cane

Hurricanes are named according to a rotating set of 6 lists, each containing 21 names. Names are in alphabetical order, skipping the letters Q, U, X, Y and Z. They also alternate between girl and boy names.

What would your list of hurricane names be?

2025 Official Atlantic Hurricane Names Create your own list of names below

Andrea	A_____
Barry	B_____
Chantal	C_____
Dexter	D_____
Erin	E_____
Fernand	F_____
Gabrielle	G_____
Humberto	H_____
Imelda	I_____
Jerry	J_____
Karen	K_____
Lorenzo	L_____
Melissa	M_____
Nestor	N_____
Olga	O_____
Pablo	P_____
Rebekah	R_____
Sebastien	S_____
Tanya	T_____
Van	V_____
Wendy	W_____

I spy with my little eye

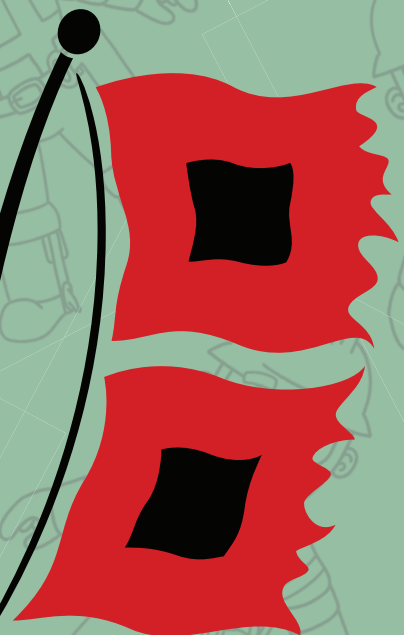
Electricity travels like a car down a highway to reach your home. Tideland's electric highway is made up of poles, wires, substations, transformers, meters and more. Most items are labeled with a unique number. That number helps us track the age of our equipment. It also has exact location information so Lineman Larry knows just where to go when repairs are needed.

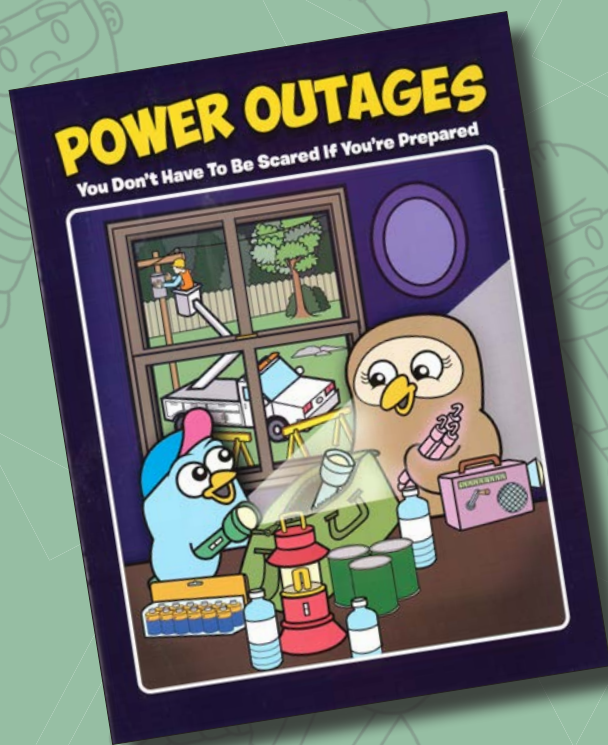


Accompanied by an adult, see if you can spot a Tideland EMC pole tag and write the number in the box below:

We also tag our big green transformer cabinets that serve underground lines. Can the two of you find the identity tag? Write the number in the box below:

Every electric meter on our system also has a unique identifier. Find your home's meter number and write it in the box below:





Submit your “Lunch with a Lineman” contest entries by Aug. 15 and we’ll mail you a copy of our kids’ power outage preparedness book

On Aug.16, we will draw four lucky winners: three will receive \$25 gift cards and the grand prize winner (along with their besties of course!) will be our guest to have “Lunch with a Lineman.” The contest is open to children and grandchildren of Tideland EMC members. Email your contest photos to linemanlarry@tidelandemc.com. Remember to use your high-resolution setting when taking cell phone pictures.

Want to become a Master of Disaster? Go to ready.gov/kids to build and test your storm preparedness skills.

Also visit redcross.org and use their search feature to find “Prepare with Pedro” with a friendly penguin as your guide.

Danger, Will Robinson!

Do you think you would spot the downed power line below after a storm? Our everyday environment can look so different after a hurricane or snowfall that a downed power line can be easy to miss. Even if utility power is off, a downed power line could still be energized if a nearby generator backfeeds onto our electric system. But don’t expect a downed line to spark, pop, and wildly dance around if it is energized. It’s silent which makes it all the more dangerous. So don’t be too eager to explore after a storm passes.

And if you “see something, say something.”









Keep Your Phone Charged During an Outage

6 Essential Tips



Our phones have become lifelines to the world — use these quick tips to keep them powered up during an outage:

-  **1. Charge ahead:** Fully charge your phone before predicted storms or outages.
-  **2. Use your car:** Keep a car charger handy, but only charge devices when the engine is running to avoid draining your car battery.
-  **3. Emergency gear:** Keep a charged portable power bank ready for emergencies. Look for emergency radios and portable speakers that double as charging jacks.
-  **4. Laptop backup:** Use your laptop's USB port to charge your phone (note: this will drain the laptop battery).
-  **5. Conserve battery:** Turn off Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, GPS, dim your screen and use airplane mode or power down to save energy.
-  **6. Alternative chargers:** Use solar-powered or hand-crank chargers for emergency calls.

Regularly check your emergency charging gear to ensure it's ready when you need it!

Learn more:  **Safe
Electricity.org**

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www.tidelandemc.com

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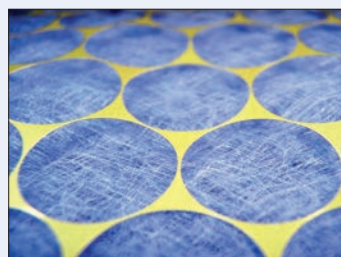
252.943.3046

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252.944.2400

Text OUT to short code 85700

Tideland EMC is an equal
opportunity provider & employer



Remember
to change or
clean your
HVAC filters
monthly