



WHY ELECTRICAL SAFETY IS IMPORTANT

In honor of National Electrical Safety Month, Piedmont Electric wants to help raise awareness this May about potential home electrical hazards and the importance of electrical safety. This year, cooperatives across the country are focusing on getting “Back to the Basics,” encouraging our members to make electrical safety a priority in their homes.

Today more than ever, electricity is an integral part of our lives. According to the Consumer Electronics Association, the average home has a minimum of three televisions, two DVD players, one desktop computer and two cell phones. These modern conveniences, while important, create many different situations for an electrical fire, or for a member of your family to be electrocuted.

Adding to the danger is the fact that many homes (and their electrical systems) were built before modern day electronics were even invented. As technology advances and becomes more ingrained in our home lives, the energy these devices demand can overburden an older home’s electrical system, leading to a house fire or other damage.

More than 30,000 non-fatal shock accidents occur each year. The most common products that cause these shocks are small appliances (such as toasters and microwaves), power tools and lighting equipment, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International.

The good news is, electrical safety measures are easy and inexpensive. In celebration of Electrical Safety Month, Piedmont Electric encourages our members to:

Look at the electrical wires

of all the devices in your home and ensure that the insulated wrapping isn’t damaged—replace damaged wire or equipment.

Check your entertainment centers

and computer desks, make sure that these devices have plenty of space for ventilation.

Check the number of power strips

in each room, if you are using more than two it may be an indication that you have too few outlets and you should consider having additional outlets installed by a professional. Also, avoid using extension cords.

MAY
26

Memorial Day Closing

Offices are closed all day for the Memorial Day holiday.

Offices will reopen the next day Tuesday, May 27.

AUG
15

Bright Ideas Grant Early Bird Deadline

Early Bird applications from teachers are due August 15.
ncbrightideas.com



AFTER THE STORM: ASSESSING DAMAGE AND STAYING SAFE

As May introduces the summer storm season, it is important for our members to understand the risks associated with any power outages that may come from powerful storms across our service area. After the storm, we understand that inspecting your home for damage is your first priority, but these early hours can also be the most dangerous.

Damage from fallen trees is the most common effect of a major storm. Before you begin to inspect your property, look up. Broken tree limbs may be hanging precariously in other tree branches or on power lines. Do not stand directly under loose limbs, as they may fall and cause injury.

[SEE STORM PAGE 23](#)

Piedmont EMC funding helps buy new fire trucks for Mebane

[See page 9](#)

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Thanks to all of the members who attended the Annual Meeting of the Members last month! Because of early printing deadlines for *Carolina Country*, a summary of the meeting will be included in next month's newsletter.

Each May, Piedmont Electric celebrates Electrical Safety Month. This year, our focus is keeping both our members and our employees safe when interacting with electricity. Ensuring that appliances and generators are installed and used properly is not only important for keeping our members safe, but it helps ensure that our line crews are able to work safely as well.

Improper use of personal generators is just one example of how the actions of one member can put others at risk. Plugging a generator directly into a wall socket creates "backfeeding" which puts electricity back onto the grid. This can cause an electrocution risk to utility workers and others served by the same utility line. This can also damage other appliances that are still plugged in.



Our focus is keeping both our members and employees safe.

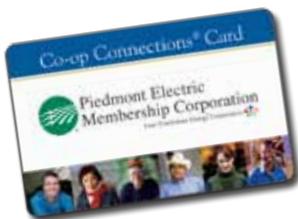
R.G. Brecheisen
President & CEO of Piedmont Electric

I encourage all Piedmont Electric members to have generators and major appliances professionally installed, to keep yourself and our line crews safe. If you are concerned about an appliance, or just want more information before purchasing a major appliance, we also offer free in-home energy audits, and HVAC technical

advice to identify places where you may be using appliances in an unsafe or inefficient manner.

Remember to always stay away from downed power lines. If you see any downed power lines, call us at 1.800.222.3107. You can find out more about these programs, and electrical safety, on our website pemc.coop.

CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD



Piedmont Electric Members have saved a total of **\$19,103.10** in Rx purchases since the program launch in October 2012!

Use your card this Summer. Show it and save. It's that easy!

Visit www.connections.coop/co-ops/piedmont-emc for discount details.



ENDLESS VACATION RENTALS BY WYNDHAM
National
SAVE 20%
SAVE 20% ON THE BEST AVAILABLE RATE. REDEEM ONLINE OR BY PHONE



SIGN ME UP FOR LOAD CONTROL



Sign up and get a **FREE GIFT!**

Join now and receive a FREE electric water heater wrap kit (\$55 retail value).

Join today by including this insert with your next electric bill or by calling 800.222.3107

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Best Time to Call Morning Afternoon Evening

STORM

FROM PAGE 21

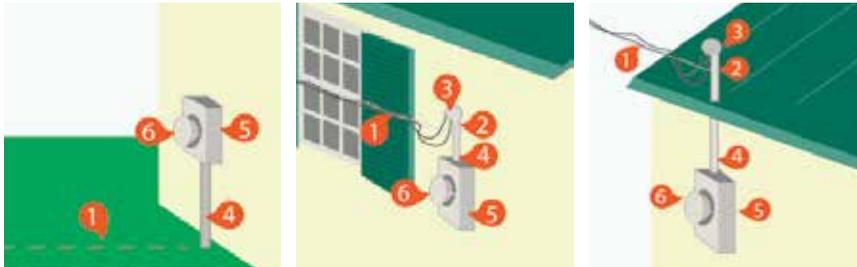
As you begin walking your property, pay special attention to the power lines around your house. Are there any lying on the ground? Be sure to stay at least 10 feet away from any downed lines as you inspect property damage, as lines may still be live. Call us at 1.800.222.3107 to report any downed power lines.

IF THERE IS AN OUTAGE

If your home loses power after a storm be sure to call our automated outage reporting number at 1.800.449.2667. Don't think that just because all of your neighbors are out of power that you shouldn't report your outage. Knowing exactly which of our members are without power is important to the repair effort and can help speed up outage restoration.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE WHEN THE SERVICE CONNECTION TO YOUR HOUSE IS DAMAGED?

During an outage, Piedmont Electric is responsible for repairing any damage to the (1) service line and (6) electric meter. However, the member is responsible for the installation and maintenance of (2) the attachment hardware, (3) weatherhead, (4) riser or the (5) meter box—the box that sits behind the meter and routes power into your home.



For residential installations, Piedmont Electric installs and maintains the (1) service line and (6) electric meter. If the (2) attachment hardware, (3) weatherhead (4) riser or (5) meter box is damaged during a storm, it is the member's responsibility to get an electrician to repair the damage before Piedmont Electric can restore service. In some instances, an electrical inspection may be required before Piedmont Electric can reconnect your service.

CHARGES ARE SET FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY RATES

Changes in the riders are due to general costs for purchases and programs being different than forecasted and requiring a true-up to reflect actual costs.

RENEWABLE ENERGY RIDER

The following Renewable Energy Rider charges are effective May 1, 2014, and will be in effect for 12 months.

| | PREVIOUS CHARGES | NEW CHARGES |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| RESIDENTIAL | \$0.36/monthly | \$0.35/monthly |
| COMMERCIAL | \$4.45/monthly | \$4.35/monthly |
| INDUSTRIAL | \$29.64/monthly | \$28.97/monthly |

ENERGY EFFICIENCY RIDER

The following Energy Efficiency Rider charges are effective May 1, 2014, and will be in effect for 12 months.

| | PREVIOUS CHARGES | NEW CHARGES |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| RESIDENTIAL | 0.0825¢/kWh | 0.0798¢/kWh |
| COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL | 0.0171¢/kWh | 0.0471¢/kWh |

SMALL RENEWABLE GENERATION NET METERING RIDER

The following Small Renewable Generation Net Metering Rider excess energy credit is effective May 1, 2014.

| | PREVIOUS CREDIT | NEW CREDIT |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Retail Energy Rate per kWh | | 0.0556¢/kWh |

BY THE NUMBERS

2,320 MEMBERS ↑ 24 MEMBERS
have signed up for the use-monitoring portion of www.MyUsage.com

906 MEMBERS ↑ 8 MEMBERS
are participating in the FlexPay Program

2 MEMBERS ↑ 1 MEMBER
have turned in receipts for 4 LED bulbs, representing a total of 2,344 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate

43 MEMBERS
received solar water heater rebates

927 MEMBERS
purchased electric water heater wrap kits

607 RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS
have signed up for Time-of-Day Rates

1,012 VISITS ↑ 2 VISITS
made to TogetherWeSave.com, where you can learn more about the power of your electric cooperative membership.

601 MEMBERS
have signed up to participate in the "Beat the Peak" program

1,388 MEMBERS
are participating in Project Helping Hand

6,063 MEMBERS ↑ 2 MEMBERS
are participating in the A/C Load Control Program

4,617 MEMBERS
are participating in the Electric Water Heater Load Control Program

THIS MONTH'S RIGHT-OF-WAY ACTIVITY

PERSON COUNTY

- Antioch Church Road
- Houston Blalock Road
- Lucy Garrett Road
- Kermit Duncan Road
- Dink Ashley Road

(and surrounding areas)

Locations are SUBJECT TO CHANGE due to uncontrollable circumstances.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY



Spring is winding down and the hot days of summer are quickly approaching, which means it is almost time to begin running your air conditioner and other appliances full blast. Some members may also be thinking of upgrading some of these appliances before the summer months set in.



Remember to look for the EnergyStar logo on appliances. This logo signifies that the appliance is considerably more energy efficient than average comparable models.



If you'd like to save money this summer, without the financial commitment of a brand new appliance, Piedmont Electric recommends a programmable thermostat. These high-tech devices allow you to change the temperature inside your home based on the time of day so that you don't waste money cooling an empty house. For example, you may want to turn the temperature up while you are at work and then back down just before you arrive home.



Choosing which appliance will best suit your family's needs can be daunting, you want to be sure you get the most effective appliance for your money. When choosing any new appliance, be sure to take into consideration how much electricity is needed to run the appliance. Refrigerators, water heaters and air conditioners all require labels detailing their estimated annual energy consumption or energy efficiency rating.



Visit pemc.coop and click on "Save Energy and Money" to find helpful calculators to estimate the effect running appliances, or running your air conditioner less can have on your energy bill.

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corp.

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm
Hillsborough 919.732.2123
Caswell County 336.421.1296
Roxboro 336.599.0151
Elsewhere in North Carolina
800.222.3107

IF YOUR POWER GOES OUT, CALL US...

800.449.2667

Our automated outage reporting system uses your phone number to determine your service location. That's why it's important to update the number connected to your account. If your number has changed, or if you no longer have a land line, let us know by completing the form that comes in your monthly billing statement or calling 800.222.3107.

To report an outage 24 hours a day
800.449.2667*

To pay account and access account information by phone 24 hours a day
877.999.3394*

*Voice instructions will direct you through the system.

Call 811 BEFORE you dig

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative