



FEATURE ARTICLE

## PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CELEBRATES NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day. On April 11, Piedmont Electric will honor the hard working men who often face challenging conditions to keep the lights on.

Headquartered in Hillsborough, NC, Piedmont EMC has 30 employees who work in the field restoring power during outages and maintaining distribution lines and equipment. Across the nation, more than 19,000 men and women maintain 2.5 million miles of line for electric co-ops, public

power districts, and public utility districts. We proudly recognize all electric linemen for the services they perform around the clock in dangerous conditions to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

"Our nation's lineworkers put themselves in harm's way each and every day to ensure electricity is safely delivered to our homes and businesses," said President & CEO Randy Brecheisen. "Following severe natural disasters, these dedicated men and women work tirelessly, and often far from their families, to restore power. This month, we honor and thank them for their dedication and service and recognize the critical role linemen play in keeping the lights on."

Piedmont Electric invites members to take a moment to thank a lineman for the work they do. Join us on social media and use #ThankaLineman to show your support for the men and women who light our lives.



Lineworkers construct and maintain electric transmission and distribution facilities that deliver electricity to millions of homes, factories and commercial and retail businesses. Lineworkers are essential to quickly and safely restoring service following an outage, often at night during hazardous weather.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE

## APR 8

**Piedmont Electric Annual Meeting**  
Orange High School, Hillsborough, NC  
Enjoy local musical entertainment by Cody Shuler, special audiovisual presentation and prize drawings! Registration begins at 6pm and business meeting begins at 8pm.

*Note: We previously listed in our February newsletter and calendar that the Annual Meeting date was April 22, but the date has changed. See above.*

## APR 11

**National Linemen Appreciation Day**  
Thank our linemen during this time of gratitude for the dedication of our line workers.

## APR 13

**American Red Cross Blood Drive**  
Hillsborough Office | 11:30AM-3:30PM  
To schedule an appointment, visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or call 919.644-3402.

## APR 15

**Submit Your Earth Day Art!**  
K-5 elementary school students at PEMC-served schools have an opportunity to enter their "Earth Day" art in our Earth Day Art Contest. Submit your artwork to your art teacher at Stoney Creek, Woodland, New Hope, Grady Brown, Pathways, Little River, Carolina Friends or Emerson Waldorf schools. Two students from each school have a chance to win a \$25 gift card, and their art may be featured in local publications!

## APR 18

**Bright Ideas Early Submission**



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

## SIGN UP FOR THE CONNECTION'S DIGITAL VERSION!



Carolina Country magazine and our newsletter are available on iPads and Android tablets. Visit the App or Play store from your tablet to download the Carolina Country app today.

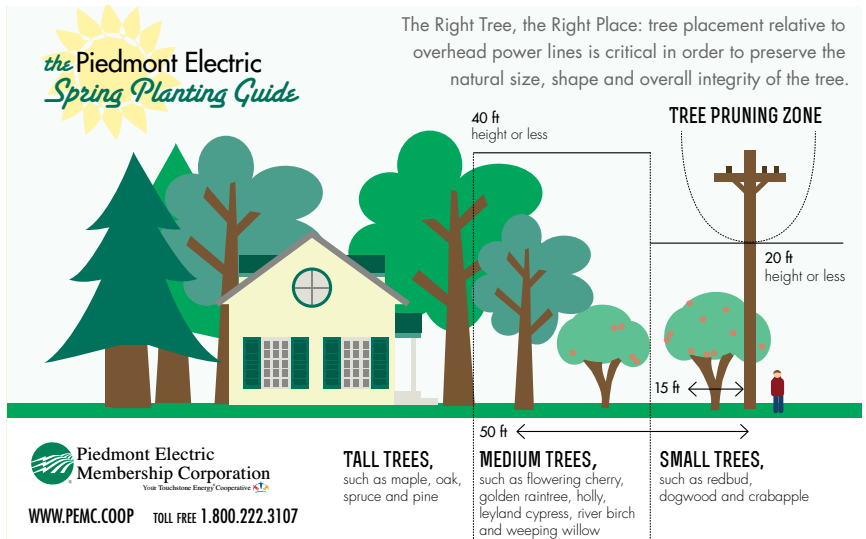
## PIEDMONT ELECTRIC SPRING PLANTING GUIDE

As the warm weather makes its way into the Piedmont Electric service area, our members are starting to get out in the yard and do some work, and so is the cooperative. Throughout the year, Piedmont Electric maintains an aggressive three-year Right-of-Way maintenance schedule to ensure that each of our distribution lines is clear of excess vegetation to prevent power outages and keep our members safe. Proper Right-of-Way maintenance allows easy access to lines during emergencies and repairs, and decreases the chance of downed lines near you and your family.

Please keep the following in mind during this planting season to ensure your safety:

### Right tree/shrub, right place

When selecting a tree or shrub to plant, it is just as important to consider what you plant as it is where you plant. The right tree or shrub, planted in the right place, can give you years of beauty and value without the potential dangers of growing too close to power lines.



Keep in mind that Piedmont Electric should always have clear access to any electrical equipment on your property, especially padmounted transformers.

When planting around padmounted transformers, please keep shrubs, fences and structures 10 feet away from the side with the door and 3 feet

from all other sides. Obstructions may be damaged or removed during service restoration or maintenance.

### Call 811 Before You Dig

If you will be doing any planting, call 811 (a free service) at least 5 days beforehand, and a team will mark any underground pipes or lines to ensure that you stay safe while digging.

## CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD DISCOUNTS



Member Mary Clayton of Roxboro, NC, won a \$25 Visa gift card just by submitting her receipt from Brookland Eats in Roxboro – home of the famous pimento cheese hushpuppies!

You too can be a winner – submit your receipt from a local Co-op Connections® business by April 30, 2015, for a chance to win a \$25 Visa Gift Card. One winner will be chosen. For contest details, call 800.222.3107 or visit [www.pemc.coop](http://www.pemc.coop).

**FREE BOX**

**ELECTEL CCU**  
Hillsborough and Roxboro, NC  
Free box of checks with new checking account

**SAVE 10%**

**ROMA'S PIZZA AND ITALIAN RESTAURANT**  
Mebane, NC  
10% off entire bill excluding alcohol

**SAVE 10%**

**SOUTHERN VINTAGE TABLE**  
Chapel Hill, NC  
Contact Shelly for vintage table settings for your party, dinner, wedding. She'll set your table and provide fresh flowers upon request.



**SPECIAL OFFER**

**CHAPEL HILL TENNIS CLUB**  
Chapel Hill, NC  
Check with the club for special offers during the year! Specials include special membership offers for year round and summer memberships.

# HOT WATER SAFETY

Did you know that hot water temperatures above 120°F can cause scalding, especially on young children? Have you ever thought about proper maintenance for your water heater? The water heater is one of the least-considered aspects of your home, but has potential to be dangerous. Follow these tips to ensure that you and your family are using hot water safely.



Keep your water heater temperature at or below 120° F



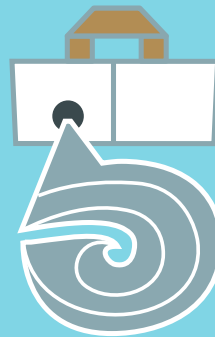
When leaving for vacation, set the water heater to the lowest setting. This saves money and reduces the risk of issues while you are away



Always follow your manufacturer's guidelines for maintenance (most require yearly maintenance)



Test the safety relief valve once a year to ensure proper operation



Flush hot water through your drain valve at least once a year to remove sediment build-up



Never leave children unattended around hot water

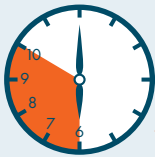


Keep all combustible or flammable material at least 18 inches from water heaters



## Switch to TIME-OF-DAY rates, and save money throughout the year

Pay a lower rate when you use energy during off-peak hours.



**AVOID ON-PEAK  
WINTER AM HOURS**  
OCTOBER TO APRIL\*

**WEEKDAY MORNINGS  
6AM-10AM**



**AVOID ON-PEAK  
SUMMER PM HOURS**  
APRIL TO OCTOBER\*

**WEEKDAY EVENINGS  
1PM-6PM**

\*Excludes weekends and holidays designated by Piedmont Electric.

### **TIME-OF-DAY PEAK CHANGES IN APRIL**

The on-peak and off-peak times change on Sunday in the second full weekends of April and October.

### **TIME-OF-DAY RATES, ARE THEY RIGHT FOR YOUR FAMILY?**

This month, our Time-of-Day rates are changing from winter hours to summer hours. That means Time-of-Day rate participants should avoid using electricity from 1PM to 6PM beginning April 1 until September 31.

If you're like many of our members, you may be asking yourself, "What ARE Time-of-Day rates?" Put simply, Time-of-Day rates are special rates that help members save money when they use energy during off-peak hours.

#### **So what are peak hours?**

"Peak" hours are times of the day when most people use the most electricity. In the winter that's 6AM-10AM, in the summer it's 1PM-6PM. When you think about it, this makes a lot of sense, as it is usually coldest in the mornings in the winter and hottest in the afternoons in the summer, and your HVAC system uses a lot of energy to heat and cool your home.

#### **How do Time-of-Day rates work?**

When you enroll in Piedmont Electric's Time-of-Day program, you will be charged a lower than average price for the electricity you use outside of peak hours. You will be charged a higher price for any energy you consume during peak hours. For families who are away from the house

and use less energy during peak hours, this system can result in a large amount of savings!

#### **How can I find out if T-O-D is right for my family?**

Piedmont Electric offers the SmartHub account management tool through our website, [pemc.coop](http://pemc.coop). When you log into SmartHub, you can see historical daily data from your account. If you notice that you don't use much energy between 1-6PM, it could be a good idea for you to choose Time-of-Day Rates this summer!

#### **How do I find out more about Time-of-Day rates or enroll?**

You can find out more information about Time-of-Day rates by visiting our website, [pemc.coop](http://pemc.coop). You can also talk to an energy specialist by calling 1.800.222.3107. Our helpful specialists will guide you through the process of enrolling in Time-of-Day rates, and answer any additional questions.

### **PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION**

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corp.

2500 NC Highway 86 South  
PO Drawer 1179  
Hillsborough, NC 27278

R.G. Brecheisen  
President and CEO

#### **DIRECTORS**

Bill R. Barber, Chairman  
Paul L. Bailey, Vice Chairman  
Sam T. Woods, Secretary  
Richal Vanhook, Treasurer  
J. Randy Kinley, Stephen C. Long,  
David Poythress, Cyrus Vernon  
& Talmadge W. Yancey

#### **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

Piedmont Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

