



FEATURE ARTICLE

ADD SAFETY TO YOUR SPRING CHECKLIST THIS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

May is a month to enjoy the flowers, soak up sunshine and cross those final tasks off your spring-cleaning checklist. Some of those jobs might require skills and equipment you don't often use, so it's a good time to brush up on electrical safety, especially considering May is National Electrical Safety Month!

If your to-do list takes you out in the yard, up a ladder or over to the power tools, keep these safety tips in mind:

Call 811 before digging. Before your shovel scoops up soil, call 811 to have your property marked. This free service will help you avoid contact with underground utility lines and could prevent a costly and dangerous mistake.

Never use electrical cords that are frayed or broken. Regularly inspect cords for damage.

Only use extension cords marked "for outdoor use" when working outside. Once the job is done, store extension cords indoors. Outdoor conditions can cause cords to deteriorate.

Never place a ladder within 10 feet of a power line. As an extra precaution, use a fiberglass or wooden ladder outdoors. Metal ladders conduct electricity.

Never leave heat-producing appliances unattended. Unplug devices like irons and hair straighteners before leaving a room.

Beware of downed power lines. If you see a fallen power line, move away from it and from anything touching it. Never drive over a downed power line.

Regularly test smoke detectors. They should be tested every month to ensure they are working properly.

Practice kitchen safety. When cooking, remember to keep appliance cords away from hot surfaces like your cooktop or toaster.

Piedmont Electric is committed to the safety of our employees and members. For more safety and energy efficiency tips, visit pemc.coop.

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY

National Electrical Safety Month

MAY 14

Mother's Day

MAY 29

Memorial Day

Our offices will be closed for the holiday. Employees will be on call.

NEW SUBSTATION OPENING

Continuing to improve reliability

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LOAD MANAGEMENT

Piedmont Electric wants to pay you to save energy

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SUMMER STORM PREPAREDNESS

Be ready for unexpected weather

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SAVE \$1 ON EVERY LED

We offer a \$1 rebate for every LED bulb you purchase up to \$15 per year. Visit pemc.coop and search "Rebate" to learn more!

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC SPOTLIGHT

Larry Hopkins
Vice President – Engineering

At Piedmont Electric, we are always looking for ways to improve reliability and meet the needs of our members. For those reasons, we began construction on a new substation near Mebane this past January.

To learn more about the new Mebane Oaks Substation, we spoke with Larry Hopkins, Piedmont Electric’s Vice President of Engineering. The engineering department oversees the construction and maintenance of all the substations on Piedmont Electric’s system.



What is a substation?

A substation transforms extremely high transmission voltages into voltage that can travel along distribution lines in your community. The electricity that comes from a transmission system is many times higher than your home can handle, so a substation steps down the power to a level that is safe to send to the transformer at your home.

Why are we building a new substation?

Since our Buckhorn Substation is running near its peak capacity, the new substation will allow us to keep up with the energy needs of the growing communities in Mebane,

Improving reliability, meeting the needs of our growing community

Efland and southwest Hillsborough. The new substation will also reduce the loading on the Buckhorn Substation and will increase Piedmont Electric’s total number of substations to 21.

How will this help our members?

The new substation will improve power reliability for members. In addition to providing improved

service to our members, the substation will help us serve new residential developments.

Will this new substation affect my rates?

No! We have been planning for the construction of the Mebane Oaks Substation for several years and will not need to increase rates because of its construction.

When will construction finish?

We expect the substation to start delivering energy to homes and businesses in the summer of 2017.



CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD DISCOUNTS

SPRING CLEANING:

Handy Andy’s

10% off \$20 or more on Hardware - excluding power tools.

Rougemont, NC



Visit connections.coop/pemc for discount details and a complete list of participating local businesses, national businesses, dentists, chiropractors, vision care centers and pharmacies.

Can’t find your Co-op Connections Card?

Visit connections.coop/pemc to print a new one or call our office at **800.222.3107** for a replacement.



LOAD MANAGEMENT

Piedmont Electric wants to PAY you to SAVE energy

Is this true?

It may sound too good to be true, but that is exactly what our Load Management program does for our members.

What is Load Management?

Piedmont Electric will install switches on your central air conditioner and/or water heater, depending on which programs you sign up for. On hot summer afternoons, our switches will turn off your water heater and cycle your air conditioner off and on for short periods of time to help the co-op conserve energy.

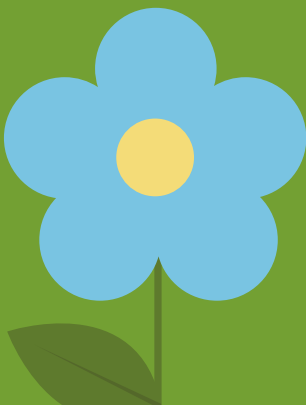
Will I notice a difference?

Since the HVAC fan will continue to run in your home and your water heater will hold a reserve of hot water, you should hardly notice a difference in your comfort.

What does Piedmont Electric get out of it?

By allowing your co-op to use less electricity during high-demand peak times, you are helping us keep rates low. So join the 6,000+ Piedmont Electric members who are already helping us lower costs!

As an added incentive, we are offering a **one-time \$25 credit** on your electric bill when you sign up for the air conditioning program with a minimum one year participation in the program.



How much will I get paid?

Air Conditioning Programs (pays June–September)

Load Management = \$2.50/month

Load Management Plus = \$5.00/month

Total Management = \$7.50/month

Water Heater Program (pays 12 months per year)

Full Management = \$1/month

If you are interested in signing up for Load Management, go to pemc.coop/load-management or call 800.222.3107 to learn more.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

CHARGES ARE SET FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY RIDERS

Changes in the Renewable Energy Rider are due to less than forecasted renewable purchases in 2016. The Energy Efficiency Rider is not necessary for the next 12 months.

RENEWABLE ENERGY RIDER

| | PREVIOUS CHARGES | NEW CHARGES |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------|
| RESIDENTIAL | \$0.78/month | \$0.53/month |
| COMMERCIAL | \$3.44/month | \$2.34/month |
| INDUSTRIAL | \$22.95/month | \$15.62/month |

ENERGY EFFICIENCY RIDER

| | PREVIOUS CHARGES | NEW CHARGES |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| RESIDENTIAL | 0.00¢/kWh | 0.00¢/kWh |
| COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL | 0.00¢/kWh | 0.00¢/kWh |

SMALL & MEDIUM RENEWABLE GENERATION NET METERING RIDER

| | PREVIOUS CREDIT | NEW CREDIT |
|--|-----------------|------------|
| | 5.518¢/kWh | 4.94¢/kWh |

The above riders will be in effect for 12 months.

UPDATES TO RATES AND SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Simplification and clarification of Service Rules and Regulations including updated costs for newly constructed services and trip charges.
- New electric vehicle rate schedule available.
- 15 SEER heat pump rating required for energy efficiency rate for new subscribers.

These changes are effective May 1, 2017. To see all of our rates as well as our Service Rules and Regulations, visit www.pemc.coop.

SUMMER STORM SAFETY



Did you know that severe storms are more common during the spring and summer months than in any other season of the year? From torrential rain to heavy winds and hail, it is imperative that you and your family have a plan in place when a severe storm hits.

Thunder is a great first indicator that a severe storm is in your area and that lightning is about to strike. When you hear thunder, immediately unplug electronics from their outlets. A power surge could damage any electronic devices. For extra protection, purchase surge protection strips and connect your most valuable electronics to these instead of the direct wall outlets.

Surge protectors should keep your plug-ins safe during storms.

Remember, do not go outside when you see lightning and hear thunder. A best practice is the 30/30 Lightning Safety Rule. After seeing lightning, count to 30. If you cannot do so without seeing another strike, stay indoors for an additional 30 minutes.

Strong summer storms have the ability to bring down power lines. If power lines have fallen in your area, never approach or touch these lines. Call to report the downed line and always assume that a downed power line is still “live.”

Just like packing a suitcase for a fun summer vacation, make sure you also have an emergency supply kit prepared in your home, workplace and car. All kits should be in a waterproof bag and contain: a flashlight, battery-powered radio, extra batteries, nonperishable snacks, water and a basic first aid kit.

At Piedmont Electric, your safety is our priority. Be prepared, stay alert and pay attention to this summer’s rapidly changing weather conditions.

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
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Piedmont Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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IF YOUR POWER GOES OUT, CALL US AT 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, let us know by completing the form that comes with your monthly bill or by calling 800.222.3107.

Pay account and access account information by phone 24 hours a day by calling 877.999.3394. Voice instructions will direct you through the system.