



National Electrical Safety Month

Electric Vehicle Safety

More and more people are jumping on the opportunity to own an electric vehicle and reduce their environmental impact. With May being National Electrical Safety Month, we're sharing some tips on how to safely set up your home for an electric vehicle (EV).

Home charging is so convenient for EV owners that the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that 80 percent of owners choose this method as opposed to charging at stations away from home. If you're an EV owner or are considering purchasing an EV, it's important to learn the safest way to power-up at home and that starts with planning your home-charging setup.

Plan your setup

Most EV charging is as easy as picking the closest outlet and plugging in your car, but it's important to contact us at 800.222.3107 if you purchase an EV or a Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV). We can ensure our equipment is set up to properly handle the new high-volume energy usage of your vehicle.

Hire an electrician

If your EV charging cord does not reach the outlet or you'd like to upgrade to a Level 2 charger, you'll need to have a licensed electrician install a new circuit in your garage, carport or driveway.

Acquire a permit

As Level 2 EV chargers must comply with local, state and national codes and regulations, you may need to acquire a permit before your electrician begins installation. Permit request forms can be found on your county's website. Before your electrician installs a Level 2 charger or modifies your electrical system, notify Piedmont Electric by calling 800.222.3107.

Sign up for our EV Time-of-Day rate

As a Piedmont Electric member, you can save money on your bill with our Electric Vehicle Time-of-Day rate by charging your EV overnight. For more about this rate, go to pemc.coop/electric-vehicle-rate.

To learn more about residential charging stations, visit pluginnc.com.

IMPORTANT DATES

Month of May
National Electrical Safety Month

May 13
Mother's Day

May 28
Memorial Day

Piedmont Electric offices will be closed and employees will be on call.

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MAY RIGHT-OF-WAY MAINTENANCE

ORANGE COUNTY:

Dimmocks Mill Road
Davis Road
Orange Grove Road

PERSON COUNTY:

Mountain Road
Allensville Road
Dirgie Mine Road





Camryn Batchelor

System Engineer at Piedmont Electric

Why Does the Power Go Out?

When a power outage happens, it can feel like you're quite literally in the dark. So we spoke with Camryn Batchelor, System Engineer at Piedmont Electric, to learn more about why power outages happen.

What causes power outages?

Severe weather conditions, such as lightning, wind, ice, or even extreme cold, are the most common reasons for power outages. Lightning can damage our electrical equipment and the wind and ice knock trees and branches onto the lines and equipment. Also, extremely cold temperatures increase the load on our electric system due to more energy being used to heat all our members' homes.

Animals and vehicle accidents are other frequent causes for outages. Squirrels, birds and snakes are the usual culprits that chew on the power lines or crawl into substation equipment. Vehicles and tractors occasionally hit poles or pull down overhead power lines. These are causes of outages and are also incredibly dangerous. If a downed power line comes in contact with your vehicle, remain in your vehicle and call 911 as the ground around your vehicle may be energized.

Why does the co-op plan outages?

We plan outages to keep other unplanned outages from happening. During planned outages, we are either reworking the system, balancing the load on the lines or carrying out repairs.

By conducting regular inspections along our lines and at our substations, we can catch and fix small issues

before they grow. We test equipment, inspect poles, monitor fluid levels and search for excess heat (which indicates a potential issue). While these inspections can lead to a short, planned outage, they help prevent longer outages and keep our system working efficiently.

How can the power go out on underground lines?

All underground lines are fed from overhead lines that are connected to our substations. This means that if your lines are underground and you're experiencing an outage, the outage source might stem from an overhead line that is connected to your underground line.

Aging cables and construction work are also sources of underground line outages. It is important to always call 811 before you dig to make sure all construction avoids underground power lines. Underground power line outages often take longer to restore because they require our

crews to dig up the cable to locate and fix the issue.

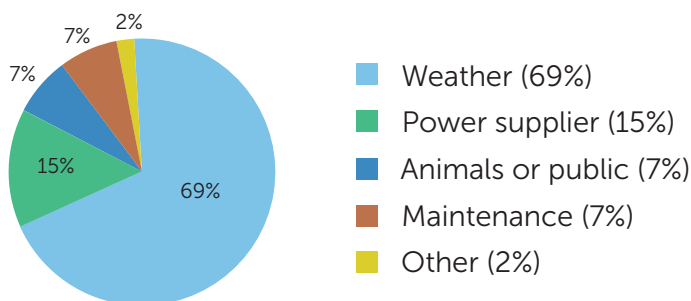
Why does my power blink?

If you notice your lights blinking, it means that your power was close to going out but our protective equipment detected the issue and avoided an outage. If you often notice your lights blinking, call us at 800.222.3107 so we can perform an inspection on the lines in your area.

What does Piedmont Electric do to keep power from going out?

Regular right-of-way maintenance is vital to keeping the power on. We trim trees and maintain a clear right-of-way around all 3,548 miles of our lines every three years to help keep tree branches from falling on the lines. Our crews also conduct regular inspections of all our equipment, poles, lines and substations and continually upgrade aging equipment to ensure an efficient and reliable electric grid.

Causes of Piedmont Electric Outages in 2017



SOAK UP THE SUN WITH COMMUNITY SOLAR

Join Our Community Solar Program

Our community solar program gives all of our members a chance to participate in renewable energy. Our program can help you go green even if you rent, have a lot of shade on your property or don't want to spend the upfront cost of installing solar!

Visit **pemc.coop/community-solar** for more information or call our energy specialist, Jay Berry, at 919.644.3449.

Our solar panels have produced more than 1.8 million kilowatt-hours of energy! That's enough CO₂ reduction to offset 3.2 million miles driven by an average passenger vehicle or 1.4 million pounds of coal burned.

Source: epa.gov



Piedmont Electric
Membership Corporation

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Outage Notifications Right in the Palm of Your Hand

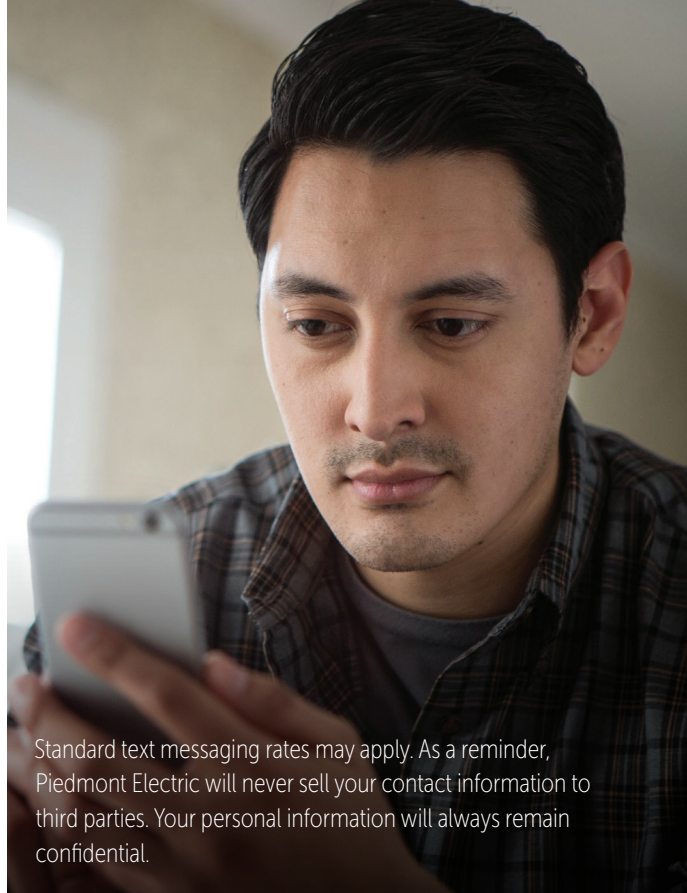
Piedmont Electric is excited to announce a new text outage alert program for our members! This program will give you the ability to use your cell phone to quickly report an outage and receive restoration updates.

How does it work?

Opt in to these alerts by texting "pemc" to 800.222.3107. Once you've opted in, report an outage by texting "#out" to 800.222.3107. If you want an update on the outage you're experiencing, text "#status".

Other ways to report an outage

You will still be able to report outages by calling 800.222.3107 or through SmartHub. The text outage alert program is just another way Piedmont Electric provides easy and convenient methods of communication for our members.



Standard text messaging rates may apply. As a reminder, Piedmont Electric will never sell your contact information to third parties. Your personal information will always remain confidential.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

CHARGES AND CREDITS ARE SET FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY RIDERS

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.

The following riders will be in effect for 12 months.

RENEWABLE ENERGY RIDER

	PREVIOUS CHARGES	NEW CREDITS
RESIDENTIAL	\$0.53/month	(\$0.26)/month
COMMERCIAL	\$2.34/month	(\$1.16)/month
INDUSTRIAL	\$15.62/month	(\$7.71)/month

ENERGY EFFICIENCY RIDER

	PREVIOUS CHARGES	NEW CHARGES
RESIDENTIAL	0.00¢/kWh	0.0317 ¢/kWh
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL	0.00¢/kWh	0.0621¢/kWh

SMALL & MEDIUM RENEWABLE GENERATION NET METERING RIDER

PREVIOUS CREDIT	NEW CREDIT
4.94¢/kWh	4.11¢/kWh

These changes are effective May 1, 2018.
To see all of our rates, visit
www.pemc.coop/rates.

LED REBATE NOTICE



LED residential lighting rebate of \$1 per LED bulb up to \$15 per year will end December 31, 2018.

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
800.222.3107

Piedmont Electric is an
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and employer.

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IF YOUR POWER GOES OUT, CALL US AT 800.449.2667 OR TEXT US AT 800.222.3107 (SEE OUTAGE NOTIFICATION ARTICLE ABOVE FOR INSTRUCTIONS)

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.