

# MEMBER NEWS

A Monthly Magazine For Members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy<sup>SM</sup> Cooperative 

August 2001

## PREPARATION KEY TO STORM SAFETY

The next time disaster strikes, you may not have much time to act. Prepare now for a sudden emergency. We are in the middle of North Carolina's hurricane season and if you don't already know how to prepare, now is the time.

Learn how to protect yourself and family and cope with disaster by planning ahead. Discuss these ideas with your family, then prepare an emergency plan. Post the plan where everyone will see it - on the refrigerator or bulletin board.

### **BEFORE THE STORM.....**

- A Hurricane Alert is announced when a tropical storm poses a possible threat to an area. If the hurricane is believed to be an appreciable threat, the area is put on a Hurricane Watch. Tune to your local news stations for further advisories.
- A Hurricane Warning is issued when it is expected an area will be hit by a hurricane. At this time, all safety precautions should be taken. If you live in a low-lying area prone to flooding, be ready to evacuate early. Pre-storm rains and flooding may cut you off if you don't move soon enough.
- If you are asked to evacuate, do so as quickly as possible. Bring necessary medications and such children's needs as diapers and baby food. Also bring blankets and pillows.
- Stay away from beaches or other low areas which may be flooded by high tides. Haul boats out of the water and tie down or strongly moor them.
- Mobile homes are particularly vulnerable to winds of hurricane force. You should move to safe shelter when a hurricane warning is given. Secure all outdoor objects and awnings over doors and windows, and tape or board windows and doors but do not stay in your mobile home during a hurricane. Note: placing tape on windows probably will not prevent them from breaking but will keep the broken glass from flying around as much.
- Stay at home if your house is safe from high water and flash flooding. Bring in everything that could be blown away - garbage cans, tools, furniture and plants. Remove limbs from trees that could damage your house or utility wires. When taking down limbs or antennas, keep in mind that the slightest contact with a power line can cause a fatal electrical shock.

- Turn your refrigerator and freezer to colder settings. Open only when necessary and close quickly. If used carefully, a good refrigerator/freezer can maintain food-preserving temperatures up to two days without electricity. Fill empty spaces with frozen plastic jugs of clean water.
- Prepare your emergency water supply. Sterilize the bathtub and other bottles, pots and containers. Scrub thoroughly, let dry and fill with water. Boil this water before drinking.
- Secure garage doors, shutters, awnings and brace sliding glass doors. Board windows securely with good lumber.
- Make arrangements for family members who are on life support equipment to go to a shelter in case the damage from the storm takes a long time to repair.  
*(Continued on page 22)*



*The Leon Mann Center in Morehead City is a designated shelter for people with life-support equipment. Check with your county health department or emergency services department to find the location in your county.*

**The following radio stations have a backup generator so you can tune in for the latest storm updates during emergencies:  
The Hot FM 96.3 & 103.7**



## FROM THE STAFF.....

*Al Hill*  
*Line Superintendent*

### HOW THE POWER IS RESTORED

We are currently in the middle of North Carolina's hurricane season. While we hope to be spared the damage a hurricane can cause, we like to be prepared. To this end, we are continuously updating our storm plan and looking at ways to improve our response. I would like to take this time to explain how we here at the Cooperative go about restoring your power after a major storm such as a hurricane.

Most of the time the greatest damage from a storm is caused by falling trees and tree limbs. This is the reason your Cooperative has an ongoing right-of-way maintenance program. By keeping the right-of-way trimmed we can reduce the amount of damage and down time related to a storm.

Our main goal is to restore power safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible. Transmission poles and lines supply power to one or more distribution substations. While these poles and lines are not usually damaged, they could be and they are the first to be checked. This is why many times, the power lines in our area are not damaged but due to downed transmission lines inland, the power remains off.

The Cooperative has several distribution substations each serving thousands of customers. These are checked next. By repairing damage at these substations, we are able to restore power to a large number of members at once.

Next we check our distribution supply lines. These carry power away from the substations to a group of consumers such as a subdivision.

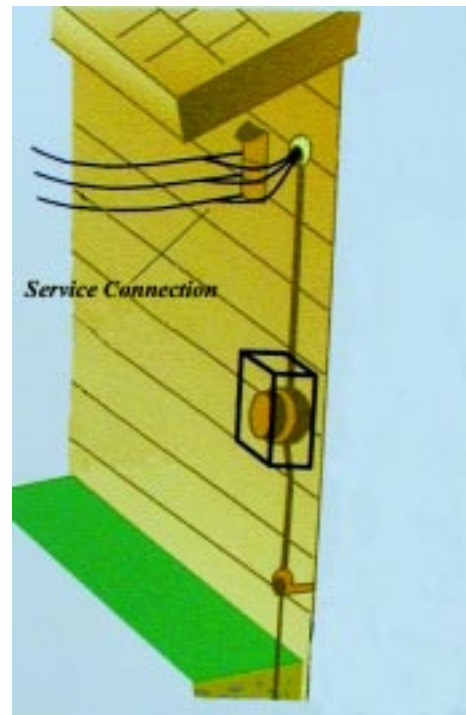
Finally, supply lines, called tap lines are checked. They carry power to the utility poles or underground transformers outside of homes and businesses.

Last are the lines from the pole or underground transformer to your home. Sometimes these lines are the only ones down. This is why your neighbor may have power and you don't.

Any damage from the service connection (see illustration below) back to the pole is the Cooperative's responsibility while damage from the connection to the house is the owner's responsibility and you will need to call a licensed electrician to handle this.

If someone in your family is on life-support equipment, we need to know. However, we can't guarantee that the power to your home will be restored immediately so you should make arrangements to have your family member stay in a shelter that is equipped for such emergencies such as the Leon Mann Senior Center in Morehead City.

Rest assured that if we have a storm to make landfall, we will do everything possible to restore power as quickly and safely as we can. The electric cooperatives across the nation work closely together to help each other during emergencies. We ask only that you be careful around downed power lines, let us know about these and other damage and most of all - be patient. We thank you in advance for your understanding.



Be sure and view the TV special, "What To Do When The Lights Go Out" which will air Sunday, August 12th @ 1:00 p.m. on WCTI Ch.12 in New Bern and again on Sunday, August 19th @ 12:30 p.m. on WNCT Ch.9 in Greenville. The program was produced by the Electric Cooperatives of Eastern North Carolina.

# Tips For A Lower Energy Bill And A Cooler Summer

Here are some tips that may help minimize the effects of hot weather on your electric bills.

- Set your air conditioner thermostat at 78 degrees while you're home; raise the thermostat setting 5 or more degrees when you'll be away from home for several hours.
- Don't turn the thermostat to a lower setting, it won't speed up cooling.
- Keep the filter clean. A dirty filter causes the unit to run longer to move the same amount of air.
- Make sure indoor registers are free of dust and clear of furniture and other obstructions, so air can circulate freely.
- Keep the outside unit clear of grass or shrubs to allow proper air flow over the condensing coils.
- Block out sunlight with louvers or awnings on the outside of your windows or close draperies, blinds, shutters, or shades inside.
- Use appliances that produce heat and moisture in the early morning or late evening hours, whenever possible.
- Turn off all unnecessary lights. They produce heat that your air conditioner must remove.
- Use a microwave oven, electric skillet, or other small appliances for meal preparation. This keeps your kitchen cooler than using the range or oven.
- Use low wattage fans to help circulate air indoors.
- Don't run your air conditioner out of habit. On cooler, less humid days, turn the unit off, and open windows.
- Weatherize and insulate. Tiny cracks and leaks around doors and windows and in air ducts can add up to a lot of cooling loss.



## USING A BACKUP GENERATOR COULD BE DANGEROUS

### Be Sure Your Generator Is Connected Properly

Today, more and more people are making use of backup or standby generators, especially during the busy hurricane season. While you can use a portable generator to supply electricity to your appliances during a power outage, if used improperly, a generator can kill or injure you and the people who are restoring your power. They can also damage the appliances you connect.

To avoid back-feeding of electricity into utility systems, you must have a qualified, licensed electrician install a double-pole, double-throw transfer switch between the generator and utility power in compliance with all state and local electrical codes.

As we said, connecting a generator to the main electrical supply for your house requires the services of a qualified, licensed electrician. Before connecting a generator to your household circuit, notify us here at Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative. We can provide you with a brochure on the proper installation of a generator.

In addition, it helps us to know where generators are located when we are out restoring the power after an outage. Remember, we work hard during storms to restore the power as quickly as possible and don't want you, your family or our employees to be injured because of an improperly installed portable generator.

Call us at 252-727-2238 or 1-800-682-2217, ext. 238 and we'll mail you the brochure "How To Operate A Portable Generator Safely" produced by North Carolina's electric cooperatives.

### Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

1-800-682-2217 or 252-247-3107  
24 Hours A Day; 7 Days A Week  
For Account Balances:  
1-877-677-4EMC

[www.ccemc.com](http://www.ccemc.com)

"You've Got The Power!"

**Storm**

**Preparation, continued from page 19**



**DURING THE STORM.....**

- Stay indoors. Don't go out at all, except in emergencies.
- Keep a window slightly open in your house or apartment on the side opposite the direction the wind is blowing in order to provide ventilation and to prevent certain types of wind damage. If a window is blown out, open a window on the opposite side of the house to prevent further damage.
- If the electricity goes out, use flashlights instead of candles or kerosene lamps when possible. And be careful with open flames. A gust of wind through a door or window could start a fire and the fire department may not be readily available during the hurricane.

- If the eye of the hurricane passes directly over your area, skies may clear and there may be a lull in the wind that lasts a few minutes to half an hour. Remain in a safe place. If absolutely necessary, make emergency repairs quickly. Be careful, the wind will return from the opposite direction suddenly and maybe with even greater force.
- Keep tuned to your local news stations for up-to-the-minute advisories and remain indoors or in a shelter until the all clear announcement is given. Use your phone for emergencies only.

**AFTER THE STORM.....**

- ◆ Stay away from disaster areas so you don't hinder first aid, rescue work or restoration efforts.
- ◆ Be on the alert for rising water in streams and rivers even after the heaviest rain has ended.
- ◆ Stay away from broken or low-hanging power lines, as well as metal objects which may be in contact with damaged power lines. Never assume the lines aren't energized. Notify the cooperative if you experience a power outage or notice downed lines. Be ready to provide your account number and/or location number.
- ◆ Be assured we will restore power as quickly as possible. We have an emergency contingency plan to follow that allows power to be restored to as many people as quickly as possible. Remember, our crews aren't being unfriendly out in the field, but each time they have to stop and answer questions, it slows down the restoration process that much longer.
- ◆ As soon as is safely possible after the storm passes, our crews will be out assessing the damage and planning the restoration efforts. Please be patient.
- ◆ Beware of efforts of strangers who show up and offer to remove limbs and trees from lines. This is extremely dangerous! Call us first.

**Carteret-Craven Annual Meeting**

**Saturday, September 29, 2001**

**DON'T FORGET**

**Crystal Coast Civic Center**

**Morehead City, North Carolina**

**Doors Open 5:00pm; Entertainment 6:00pm; Business Meeting 7:00pm**

**CASH PRIZES!!!**

