



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

POWER FACTS

An informational publication for members of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative concerning electricity and related subjects.

AUGUST 2011

Hurricane Preparedness

Develop A Family Plan

- Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family. Know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind.
- Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hurricane hazard. In certain circumstances the safest areas may not be your home but within your community.
- Determine escape routes from your home and places to meet. These should be measured in tens of miles rather than hundreds of miles.
- Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact, so all your family members have a single point of contact.
- Make a plan now for what to do with your pets if you need to evacuate.
- Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 911.
- Check your insurance coverage - flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance.
- Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a Disaster Supply Kit.
- Use a NOAA weather radio. Remember to replace its battery every 6 months, as you do with your smoke detectors.
- Take First Aid, CPR and disaster preparedness classes.

For more information, visit:

- <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>
- <http://www.fema.gov/>
- <http://www.redcross.org/>

Disaster Supply Kit

- Water - at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days
- Food - at least enough for 3 to 7 days
 - non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices
 - foods for infants or the elderly
 - snack food
 - non-electric can opener
 - cooking tools / fuel
 - paper plates / plastic utensils
- Blankets / Pillows, etc.
- Clothing - seasonal / rain gear/ sturdy shoes
- First Aid Kit / Medicines / Prescription Drugs
- Special Items - for babies and the elderly
- Toiletries / Hygiene items / Moisture wipes
- Flashlight / Batteries
- Radio - Battery operated and NOAA weather radio
- Telephones - Fully charged cell phone with extra battery and a traditional (not cordless) telephone set
- Cash (with some small bills) and Credit Cards - Banks and ATMs may not be available for extended periods
- Keys
- Toys, Books and Games
- Important documents - in a waterproof container or watertight resealable plastic bag
 - insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.
- Tools - keep a set with you during the storm
- Vehicle fuel tanks filled
- Pet care items
 - proper identification / immunization records / medications
 - ample supply of food and water
 - a carrier or cage
 - muzzle and leash



August is Back-to-School Safety Month

With summer coming to an unfortunate end, it's time to think about our children and their safety as they head back to school. Follow these tips to keep your children safe as they head back to school.

Top Back to School Safety Tips

Here are some simple reminders for drivers:

- Slow down and be especially alert in the residential neighborhoods and school zones
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully
- Watch for children on and near the road in the morning and after school hours
- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings. Put down your phone and don't talk or text while driving

Reminder for your kids:

- They should cross the street with an adult until they are at least 10 years old
- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks
- Never run out into the streets or cross in between parked cars
- Make sure they always walk in front of the bus where the driver can see them

www.safekids.org

During Extremely Hot Days, "Beat the Peak" More Important Than Ever

By reducing our energy usage during peak times, we are able to minimize our purchase of wholesale power for your use, which reaches its highest prices during these periods. When we reduce the amount of wholesale power needed during these peak periods, your Cooperative can save energy, you can save money, and together we help protect the environment.

Your Cooperative is constantly evaluating the weather, and time of day and usage patterns to estimate when peak periods will occur. We then notify participants in the "Beat the Peak" program as to when the peak will occur so they can assist by reducing their electricity usage in the following ways:

- Move the thermostat up 3 degrees in the summer
- Delay the use of major appliances (washer, dryer, dishwasher, etc.)
- Postpone use of hot water
- Turn off all unnecessary lights and electrical appliances
- Unplug cell phone chargers, computers and other "vampire" electronic devices not in use

Please assist us in keeping electric rates down and become an active member of the "Beat the Peak" team today. To join this beneficial program, fill out this form and return it with your next electric bill payment, or sign up on our website at www.meckelec.org.

Help Conserve Energy, Especially From 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Help us "Beat The Peak" by Signing Up Today

Please fill in the information and return the form to us.

Name on Account: _____

Account Number: _____

Home Telephone #: _____

Email Address: _____