



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

POWER FACTS

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

AUGUST 2013

Beware of Recent Scams!!



Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative wants to remind everyone to always ask for identification when someone unexpected shows up at your home. There have been some recent reports of people impersonating utility workers to lure unsuspecting victims out of their home, while they attempt to steal their valuables. Be sure the vehicle driven by the visitor is properly marked with the company in which they claim to be with. Also, ask for identification before opening the door and giving them access to your home. Most all utility company employees carry a picture ID, so ask for it. If you are ever

unsure or feel threatened, please contact your local law enforcement immediately. If the person truly is who they say they are, they will wait patiently for you to get the verification you deserve. Mecklenburg Electric has been serving Southside Virginia for the past 75 years and wants to be sure everyone stays safe.

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Hurricane Season Is Here

Are you prepared? Hurricane season in the Atlantic begins June 1 and ends November 30. Hurricanes and tropical storms can generally be tracked days ahead of any impact; however, these storms can change direction, speed and intensity quickly. Make a plan to protect the people and things you value before a hurricane or tropical storm arrives.



No matter what type of severe weather, there are always three essential steps to disaster and emergency preparedness:

- ▶ Have a disaster supply kit, so you're ready for any emergency.
- ▶ Develop a plan for what you and your family will do before disaster strikes.
- ▶ Stay informed during severe weather... any way you can.

Create a written emergency preparedness and action plan for your family and/or business.

- ▶ Decide where to go if you're at home, school, work, outdoors, or in a car when a hurricane or tropical storm threatens. Update these plans every school year and as places of employment and residence change.
- ▶ Identify two places where you and your family members can meet if you are separated: one outside your home and another outside your neighborhood.
- ▶ Learn how your local government handles emergencies by contacting your local American Red Cross chapter or local Emergency Management Agency (EMA).

** *Weather.com*

Back-To-School Safety

Another school season is upon us and Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative would like to remind its members to be cautious; as both a parent and a driver. Be proactive and take the time to talk about safety with your children before they head back to school. Here are a few reminders:

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 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.

Kids

- ▶ Children should cross the street with an adult until they are at least 10 years old.
- ▶ Never run out into the streets or cross in between parked cars.
- ▶ When waiting for the bus, stay out of the road and away from traffic.
- ▶ Line up away from the street or road as the school bus approaches.
- ▶ Wait until the bus and approaching vehicles have stopped and the door of the bus opens before stepping onto the roadway. Wait for the bus driver to signal that it is safe to cross the road.



** Safe Kids USA and National Safety Council

Sharing Memories



"I was four or five years old when electricity came through my area. It really changed everything for us. Mama says that before it came, some of my kin folks lived in town and already had power before us. She says that I would just stare at the light and I was fascinated with flushing the toilet when we went to visit them. One of our first electrical appliances was a churn. My brother and I would have to take turns churning butter before we got the electric one. Sometimes we would try to hit the bottom of the churn so hard that we could splatter the butter on the ceiling. Mama would fuss. I guess that is why my parents bought that for our first appliance. They also bought an iron and a refrigerator. As an adult, after the ice storm of 1976, when the power was out for a week, I realized how much I appreciated those old wood stoves that we had when I was a boy. I went out and bought one so that we could cook and heat up water if it ever happened again. To this day, we still have that stove and use it when necessary but I am very thankful for the conveniences of electricity and the difference that it has made in my life as a farmer."

- Hugh M Gravitt, Virginina, VA



We thank Mr. Hugh Gravitt for sharing his memories of the days before electricity. If you have some that you would like to share, please send them to:

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative
C/O : Sharing Memories
P O Box 2451
Chase City, VA 23924