



# POWER FACTS

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

FEBRUARY 2012

## Winter Weather Brings Snow... And Possible Power Outages

### Be Prepared

- Always keep a flashlight with fresh batteries, candles/matches, or an oil lamp/fuel in a safe and secure location.
- Keep enough water on hand for drinking, cooking, and flushing the commode.
- Stock your pantry with non-perishable food items that do not need to be cooked on a stove. Be sure you have a non-electric can opener.
- Keep an updated/fully-stocked first aid kit on hand.
- Keep a cooler to store frequently used foods. If the power goes out, opening and closing your refrigerator will cause your food to spoil much faster.

**Report Outages to  
Mecklenburg Electric  
Cooperative  
by dialing our 24-Hour  
Toll Free  
Automated System  
1 (877) 632-5688  
1 (877) MECK-OUT**



### Keep Your Phone Numbers Updated

In order to minimize outage times and report information accurately on our outage restoration system, it is very important that we have all possible telephone numbers that you may use to report an outage. Our system has the capability of recognizing multiple phone numbers for each member, so please take a few minutes to call our office, drop us a note on your electric bill, or send us an email at [info@meckelec.org](mailto:info@meckelec.org).

Chase City District  
434-372-6200

Emporia District  
434-634-6168

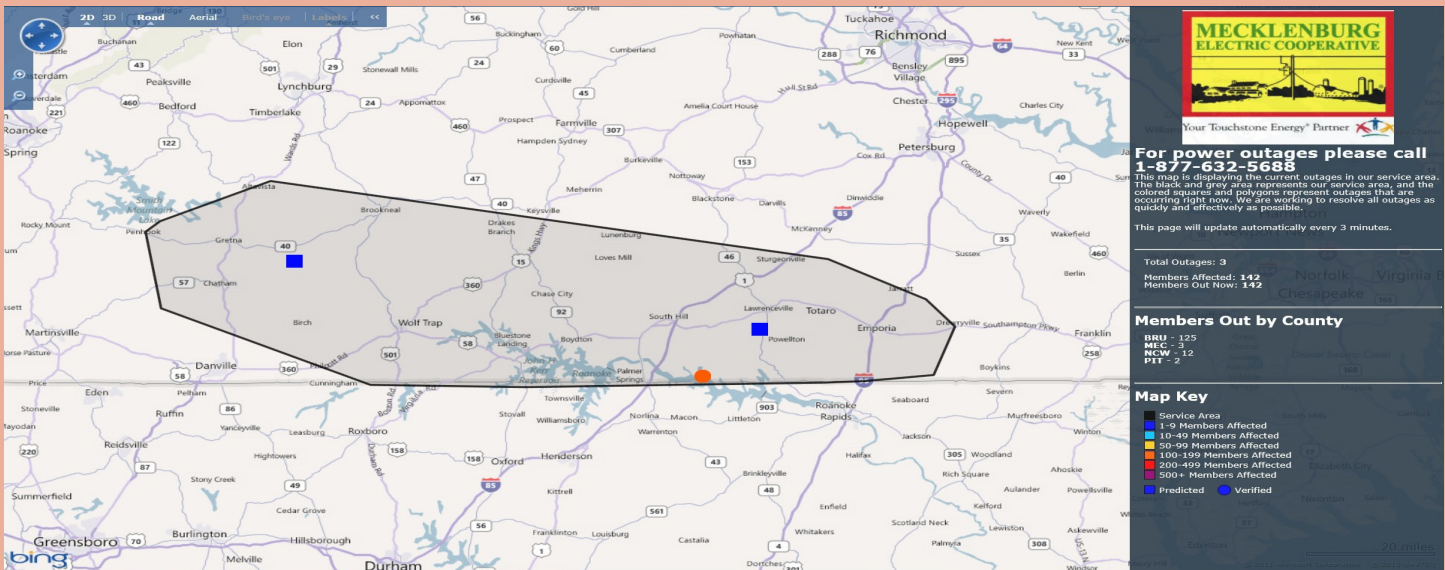
Gretna District  
434-656-1288

### Downed Power Line Safety

Weather and automobile accidents are the leading causes of downed power lines. **STAY AWAY** from the line. Downed power lines do not have to spark, arc, dance or move, or hum when dangerous - the line can carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or even death.

- If you see a downed line, move away from it and anything touching it. Call MEC's outage number immediately to report the problem.
- If you are close to the downed line, the proper method to moving away is to shuffle your feet in small steps away from the line, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times.
- If someone is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, do not touch the person. Call 911 immediately!
- Do not try to move a downed line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or a stick. Also, do not attempt to remove a downed tree over a power line.
- Do not drive over downed power lines.
- If you are in an automobile that is in contact with a downed line, stay in the vehicle and call 911.

# View Outages Online



In 2008, Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative implemented a map-based outage-management system called DisPatch, and the technology has proven to be a real asset in providing data that assists your cooperative in locating outages and identifying the causes. To enhance the value of the system to our members, we added the capability to display a real-time online map on our website that displays the location of outages.

While evaluating our outage-restoration efforts after Hurricane Irene, we recognized a need to make changes to the online map, allowing our members to be better informed regarding our restoration efforts. Accordingly, we are pleased to announce an upgrade to our online outage map that offers our members a more user-friendly way to view current outages, identify the areas affected, and track restoration progress. This outage viewer gives the added benefit of seeing the service area and outages with the detail of aerial photos. By clicking the aerial button, you have the capability to zoom into the map and see houses and other landmarks visually. By downloading an add-on tool, you can actually acquire 3D capability that allows a bird's-eye view of the streets.

In the new viewer, our outages are displayed within latitude-and-longitude-calculated locations on

the map, and our service territory is shaded. Any outages will be represented by dots. By referring to the map key in the lower right-hand portion of the page, you can determine the magnitude of the outage or number of members impacted. The information displayed on the right-hand side of the page also includes the total number of outages (total outages), members that are predicted out by our outage-restoration (members affected), and members that are currently without power (members out now). We have also broken down the number of impacted members per county to enable the local reporting agencies to access information on outages affecting their respective areas.

Please note that in order to minimize outage times and report information accurately on this site and to our outage restoration system, we need all of our members' current phone numbers. It takes only minutes to update your numbers in our records. Doing so allows us to identify and address your outage more efficiently. We do not want our members to be without power any longer than they have to, and DisPatch helps greatly in servicing you faster. So please take a moment to ensure that MEC has your current telephone information. Please see the reverse side for ways to contact MEC with this information.



MEC Offices Will be Closed on  
Monday, February 20, in observance of  
Presidents' Day.