




Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

Harvest season

Corn harvesting begins soon and it coincides with peak hurricane season. Depending on the forecast, that could have workers scrambling to clear fields. Be sure farm crews know what to do to in the event of downed power lines. More importantly, farm crews should have a plan before harvesting to avoid utility structures, which starts with situational awareness.



HARVEST SAFETY TIP

Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

Seed money to help K-12 ideas blossom

Classroom teachers may now apply for Bright Ideas funding in amounts up to \$2,500 per grant. To access the online application and learn more about the program please visit ncbrightideas.com. The final application deadline is Sept. 15, 2023.

Teachers, apply now!

Applications are now being accepted online at www.ncbrightideas.com!



WHEN POWER LINES COME DOWN



Since January 2023, Tideland has experienced 12 power outages due to vehicle-impacted infrastructure. Fortunately, none have resulted in a fatality. Of those 12, six involved a farm vehicle and the remaining six were passenger vehicles. The average length of those power outages came to three hours and six minutes with a total of 4,947 members impacted.

With driver-distracted accidents on the rise, it is more important than ever for drivers, first responders and passersby to know how to safely handle these types of incidents.

If a line is down, always assume it is energized and dangerous, even if the power is out in your area. Touching or getting near a live power line injures and kills. Line properties can change: Any power line that is dead could become energized at any moment due to power restoration or back feed from backup generators.

Never approach an accident scene where a power line is down or damaged. If you run toward the accident to help, you too could become a victim by entering the energized area which can include the vehicle and the ground surrounding the accident site.

If you are inside a vehicle that is in contact with a utility pole or downed power line, do not attempt to drive away or get out. Call for help and **STAY INSIDE THE VEHICLE** until utility crews say it is safe to get out. If there is a fire or you smell gasoline, jump out without touching the vehicle and the ground at the same time and then hop away to safety.

Always consider all lines, regardless of the type, energized at deadly voltages. For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.safepower.org).

If you see a downed or damaged power line or pole or a dislodged electrical cabinet:

- Do not go near it.
- Do not touch it.
- Do not try to move it with another object.
- Do not touch items that could be energized.



Message to members

Outage reporting tips as hurricane season heats up

by **PAUL SPRUILL**
GENERAL MANAGER &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The official 2023 Atlantic hurricane season outlook predicts a 40% chance of a near-normal season with 15 named storms and 3 major storms making land-fall. That's identical to the 2018 season when we experienced the most-damaging storm in Tideland history, Hurricane Florence. That was followed by Hurricane Michael, which came ashore in Florida in October 2018 as a Category 5 storm.

As we went to press on July 11, the 2023 hurricane season had already experienced three named tropical systems during the month of June. As is typical for summer, we have experienced several isolated wind events due to late afternoon thunderstorms.

Now is a good time to review outage reporting tips and your own personal storm preparedness plan as it relates to electric service.

To report a power outage we ask that you utilize either our text messaging service or our automated outage reporting line. To report via text, send the word OUT to short code 85700. As long as the cell phone number you are texting from is associated with your electric account, the outage will be logged into our system. That's why it is a good idea to log into the member portal and review your account information to make sure your contact details are accurate.

To report an outage via our automated phone system, dial 800-882-1001. Like the text messaging

service, the system will look for a location associated with the number you are calling from. If you are calling from a number not on file, you will need to press zero to speak with an operator but please be aware that during a large outage, wait times can be lengthy.

When an outage impacts more than 100 members, Tideland will push outage notifications and updates via text message and provide additional information on our Facebook page.

We never advise use of social media to report a power outage since those platforms cannot be integrated with our outage management system.

If you need to report system damage or a potentially hazardous situation to the co-op, we ask that you provide address details or a nearby pole tag number so Tideland dispatchers can pinpoint the location when deploying crews. Please let neighbors know you have reported the hazard to reduce redundant calls to the co-op.

If you have not done so this season, now would be a good time to do a test run of any standby generators to ensure service readiness. More importantly for generator owners, make sure you have a carbon monoxide detector and change the batteries every six months.

Here's hoping for a safe and uneventful hurricane season in Tideland territory.

Rights-of-way maintenance schedule

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim vegetative growth in our rights-of-way.

Lucas crews are currently trimming trees on the Lowland circuit out of Edward substation.

Our contract construction crews with Lee Electrical will be working in the Swan Quarter area. They are making improvements to the Swindell Fork circuit.

We have engaged River City Construction, based in Washington, to perform work on the Blounts Creek circuit along Highway 33 and the Arapahoe feed along Neuse Road, Beards Creek and the Cedar Gut bridge.

Osmose pole inspection crews will be working on the Five Points and Plymouth substation circuits. Pole integrity tests often include a hammer test to help detect any hollowing out of the pole due to insect infestations and rot. Osmose may also dig at the base of the pole for an additional inspection view.



Thank you for your support of each of these important maintenance activities which improve system reliability and promote public safety.



1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



APWA UNIFORM COLOR CODE FOR MARKING UNDERGROUND UTILITY LINES



- PROPOSED EXCAVATION
- COMMUNICATION, ALARM OR SIGNAL LINES, CABLES OR CONDUIT
- TEMPORARY SURVEY MARKINGS
- POTABLE WATER
- ELECTRIC POWER LINES, CABLES, CONDUIT AND LIGHTING CABLES
- RECLAIMED WATER, IRRIGATION, AND SLURRY LINES
- GAS, OIL, STEAM, PETROLEUM OR GASEOUS MATERIALS
- SEWERS AND DRAIN LINES

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August 11 is 8-1-1 Day

On Aug. 11, we once again emphasize the importance of calling 8-1-1 before you begin any digging or excavation project.

It is also important to identify all underground utilities and utility rights-of-way before begin any construction project that involves a poured or permanent foundation including driveways and patios.