



Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

JIM CHRISMAN PHOTO

Proud to be *people powered*

Co-op Month has been celebrated annually in October across the United States for more than half a century. Today there are more than 40,000 cooperative businesses in the United States with 350 million members. Cooperatives generate more than \$514 billion in annual revenues and more than \$25 billion in wages. They're especially vital to rural communities and areas underserved by for-profit businesses. We're proud to be a co-op. And even prouder to be powered by you.



October is National Co-op Month.

Electric co-ops are proud to power more than 20 million American homes, businesses, farms and schools in 48 states.



Power supply *planning survey*

Tideland EMC will be conducting a random survey of our members at the end of October. The survey requests information about your household's use of energy so we can adequately forecast electric system load and plan for the entire membership's power needs in future years.

If you receive a survey in the mail, please take a moment to complete and return the document at your earliest convenience using the prepaid envelope. You will also have the option to complete the survey online. Responses are confidential and you will not be personally identified. Rather, the results will be reported in summaries such as group averages and percentages.





Responding to Hurricane Dorian

Time-of-use hours change October 16



PINEY WOODS ROAD, HYDE COUNTY
JIM CHRISMAN PHOTO

6 am to 9 am Monday - Friday

Members participating in Tideland's residential time-of-use program (rates 2 and 4) will switch to the winter demand schedule on Wednesday, October 16. The on-peak hours will be 6 a.m. to 9 a.m., Monday through Friday.

The off-peak winter holidays are Thanksgiving Day and the Friday after Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years and Good Friday, April 10. Winter hours continue through April 15.

Members interested in learning more about the residential time-of-use program can visit: tidelandmc.com/my-residence/billing/time-of-use-rates.

On September 1, Tideland activated its emergency response plan as Hurricane Dorian came to a lethal standstill over the Bahamas. Utilities from Florida to Virginia called up line and tree crews, unsure of



Dots represent Ocracoke structures not initially approved for electric service following Dorian.

Dorian's path. Coastal vacationers made the best of the last summer holiday, unsure of what they would return to the following season.

With the upcoming one-year anniversary of Hurricane Florence fresh

on our minds, Tideland prestaged eighty-one additional personnel from Virginia, South Carolina, Maryland and Maine at area hotels. Two of the six counties we serve would eventually be under mandatory evacuation orders.

As Dorian neared, we watched outage maps of utilities to the south and most barely budged. Until Dorian reached North Carolina. The maps began to glow around Wilmington. A rapid succession of local tornado alerts coincided with the loss of transmission to our Engelhard and Fairfield substations. But much of our territory seemed to hang

on and just as the sun was starting its ascent into Dorian's path and we thought we'd made it through, our outage map lit up. And Dorian was just getting started. Before it was over, 85% of our system would become dots on that map.

Message to members

Three Hurricanes in 51 Weeks

by PAUL SPRUILL

GENERAL MANAGER & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

It happened again. Forgive me for opening with such a simple observation, but consider the following timeline:

Friday, September 14, 2018:

Hurricane Florence made landfall as a Category 1 Hurricane in Wrightsville Beach, NC, in the early morning. On the subsequent Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday morning, the storm crept through the region. While the hurricane weakened to a strong tropical storm, it caused widespread flooding and outages across five of the six counties we serve, resulting in an agonizing ten (10) days to energize all facilities not otherwise deemed unsafe by Building Inspectors.

Thursday, October 11, 2018:

Hurricane Michael weakened quickly to a tropical storm after devastating Mexico Beach, Florida. As the storm traveled west to east across North Carolina, Tideland waited for the opportunity to do work on a late Thursday night. At approximately 12:30 am Friday morning crews began visiting worksites to repair multiple broken poles and individual outages across the service area. The co-op worked through the night and into the next day to finally restore power to all facilities Friday evening.

Friday, September 6, 2019:

Hurricane Dorian made landfall as a Category 1 Hurricane in Cape Hatteras, NC in the early morning. Between 6:00 am and 9:00 am Friday reports began to make their way from Ocracoke of unprecedented storm surge depths inside hundreds of homes and

businesses. Winds finally began to ease Saturday at mid-day in our northern counties. With no power to several of our substations, crews worked just over half of a planned 16-hour day in order to start 5:00 am Saturday morning restoring power in all six (6) Tideland EMC counties. Like Hurricane Florence, the loss to so many of our members due to flooding allowed us only to measure full restoration by the number of structures not otherwise deemed unsafe by Building Inspectors. This resulted in full restoration on Tuesday night after 4.5 full days of work utilizing the largest number of linemen and tree crews in the field in at least 15 years.

The threat and consequences of three Hurricane impacts within 51 weeks is a reminder of the vulnerability of our coastal region, as beautiful as it is and as much as we all love living here. While the emotional cost to families, individuals, and business due to the recent flooding is difficult to quantify, we can accurately estimate the cost to our membership for our response to three severe impacts in less than one year. Clear numbers exist for Hurricane Florence and Tropical Storm Michael with a cost of \$2.2 million and \$140,000, respectively. Our estimate for Hurricane Dorian is \$2.1 million as of the time of this writing (12 hours after having fully energized what we could).

Perspective helps one appreciate the impact of this unplanned "storm response spending."

Member Message continues on page F

Right-of-way maintenance schedule

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our right of way. During October they will continue trimming on the Merritt circuit. They will be working on Trent Road and all side roads in that area.

Another Lucas crew will be working on the Silver Hill circuit along Hwy. 306 from Hwy. 55 to Rebecca Road and all side roads in that area.

They will also continue to troubleshoot storm debris from Hurricane Dorian as needed in the six counties Tideland serves.

Early bird prize winner

Congratulations to Brianne Black. A first grade teacher at Bridgeton Elementary, she was one of five educators in the state to win a \$100 VISA gift card from North Carolina's electric cooperatives. Winners were randomly selected from among the 490 educators statewide who submitted a Bright Ideas Grant application to their local electric cooperative by the early bird deadline of Aug. 15.



Brianne Black
Bridgeton Elementary

One Shot



LONNIE AND ANDREA COLEMAN



It began with one shot. An Instagram post.

Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative tagged Tideland in a photo of Lee Electrical construction crews boarding ferries from Hatteras Island to Ocracoke. The sight of so many men and their equipment mobilizing to bring transmission relief to beleaguered O'cockers after Hurricane Dorian would stir anyone. But the photos were more than that. They were breathtaking. Works of art that revealed an enduring beauty amongst the wind and water swept chaos.

An exchange of emails identified the social media source as The Gaff Gang and we knew the photographer had to be a member of the Lee construction team. But who? A few phone calls later we were speaking with photographer-lineman Lonnie Coleman and then his wife Andrea who maintains their social media accounts.

The Colemans reside in Columbus County and Lonnie has been a lineman nine years. He joined Lee as a foreman just two weeks before Dorian's arrival. Andrea has been a passionate photographer since her teens and given her husband's line of work she naturally trained her lens toward the sky, marveling at the juxtaposition of the setting sun and the magical wires that can turn darkness into light. She takes pride in her husband and his chosen profession and celebrates it through photography.

Lonnie captured these Ocracoke images on his cell phone, then sent them to Andrea who did the editing and online posting from home. She'll be behind the camera this fall when Lonnie returns for another Outer Banks job. We sure hope Tideland territory is on their itinerary. For pleasure though. Not storm duty.

Follow The Gaff Gang on Facebook and Instagram





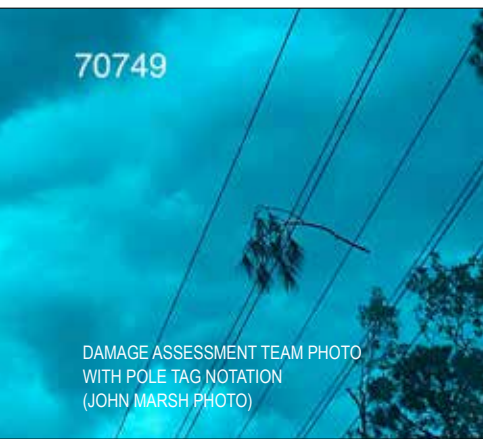
Tag team



SIMULTANEOUS POLE FIRES ON THE LOWLAND CIRCUIT HALTED RESTORATION WORK SIX HOURS WHILE CLIMBERS REFRAMED THE BURNED STRUCTURES. THE HEAT INDEX WAS 97° F THAT DAY. (WAYNE BRACKIN PHOTO)

In June we ran a brief article about the pole tags that uniquely identify each of Tideland’s 43,317 poles. Clearly many of you read it as evidenced by the number of members that called in pole tag numbers when reporting Dorian system damage. That proved extremely useful in pinpointing trouble spots to expedite system restoration.

A shout out to member Michael Smith in East Lake who immediately called to provide the location of a damaged transformer when crews attempted to bring all three phases up in that community. The lineman said without the tip it could have taken hours to locate the damaged equipment. Truly teamwork makes the dream work!



DAMAGE ASSESSMENT TEAM PHOTO WITH POLE TAG NOTATION (JOHN MARSH PHOTO)

Member Message continued from page C

A good measure of this financial impact is “storm response spending” as a percent of total electric sales revenue in any given calendar year. Together, we suffered “**storm response spending**” of **4.97% of total electric sales revenue in 2018** and we will suffer the spending of **4.67% of total electric sales revenue in 2019**.

Luckily, in 2018 we were able to catch our breath after this punch to the gut due to quick emergency relief action on the part of the State of North Carolina and Federal Government via a Presidential Disaster Declaration. The State is hard at work conducting preliminary damage assessments from the impact of Hurricane Dorian at the time of this writing.



CRYSTAL BEACH BONNERTON CIRCUIT (CHRIS RICE PHOTO)



BUCKLAND ROAD MERRITT CIRCUIT (WAYNE BRACKIN PHOTO)

Together, we are all very hopeful that a Presidential Disaster Declaration will save us again and bring relief not only to our membership of nearly 23,000 separate electric services, but also to the individuals, families, and businesses that have suffered so much loss as of September 10, 2019, with hurricane season still upon us.



PUNGO SHORES IN BELHAVEN
PHOTO BY TIDELAND MEMBER PAUL SMITH



DISTRIBUTION DAMAGE IN OCRACOKE
LONNIE COLEMAN PHOTO



OFF THE BEATEN
PATH IN AURORA
(JOSH BAIN PHOTO)



WATCH YOUR STEP:
PYGMY RATTLER
(JASON KITCHEN PHOTO)



LINEMAN WILLIAM SAWYER
EAST LAKE RESTORATION
(JENNIFER SADLER PHOTO)

High Tide on the soundside

Ocracoke resident and Tideland employee Rachel O'Neal stayed in touch with friends and coworkers during Dorian via Facebook videos. On September 6 she posted a video at 7:39 a.m. of howling winds and a rain soaked yard. At 8:43 a.m. she posted another video with son Austin wearing a life jacket as he stood on a recliner in their flooded home. That's how long it took for previous island flood records to be broken, altering hundreds of lives in the process. At 12:48 p.m., with the flood waters having receded nearly as fast as they rose, Rachel sent another video revealing our flood damaged office. Much more than electricity has to be restored at Ocracoke. We hope you'll be part of the island's recovery.

Comparative Storm Stats

HURRICANE DORIAN

System outages: 85%

Event Days: 5

Member outages by county:

Beaufort County: 8,235

Craven County: 991

Dare County: 765

Hyde County: 4,138

Pamlico County: 4,208

Washington County: 845

Total Personnel in Field: 147

Initial Meters Pulled: 389

Poles Replaced: 82

Estimated cost: \$2.1 million

**At press time a Presidential Disaster Declaration had not been made*

HURRICANE FLORENCE

System outages: 77%

Event Days: 10

Member outages by county:

Beaufort County: 8,379

Craven County: 2,742

Dare: 0

Hyde County: 1,888

Pamlico County: 4,515

Washington County: 120

Total Personnel in Field: 133

Initial Meters Pulled: 915

Poles Replaced: 40

Cost: \$2.2 million

Approved Disaster

Reimbursement: \$1.8 million



METERS INITIALLY REMOVED FROM SERVICE
DANA ANDREWS PHOTO

The trail blazers

REAL PEOPLE.
REAL POWER.

Tideland Topics

www.tidelandemc.com

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Tideland EMC is an equal
opportunity provider & employer



LUCAS CREWS FROM MAINE
IN A PARTING SHOT WITH
CO-OP SAFETY DIRECTOR
WAYNE BRACKIN

*"I think that I shall never see,
A poem lovely as a tree."*
Said no electric lineman...ever.

We really don't mean to throw shade on Joyce Kilmer's classic poem "Trees" but the truth is trees are the primary cause of power outages. Even on a clear day. And

of trees thanks to a robust timber trade (Beaufort County ranks first in the state), conservation easements, land trusts, hunting preserves and federal wildlife refuges. That's why Tideland spends \$1.8 million a year to trim or remove trees in our rights of way.



DARREN BAUER PHOTO

when a Category 2 hurricane has just found second gear as it climbs the Carolina coast, trees soon come raining down, in whole or in part. And Tideland territory has lots

So the first big wave of personnel you're likely to see during a storm break are Tideland's vegetation teams, Lucas Tree Experts. They often blaze the trail for line construction crews by removing trees from the main three-phase circuits before turning their chainsaws loose on tap lines and then individual services. They trudge through swamps to free wire trapped under fallen trees and work from buckets to cut away tangled tree tops. They sort of put a whole new spin on the word "tree hugger." And we'd like to give them a big ol' hug for all their help.

SIEMPRE
LLAMA
ANTES DE
EXCAVAR

