



Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

Meeting moved to fall

As North Carolina's COVID-19 metrics continue to improve with community vaccination programs well underway, Tideland's board of directors decided it is in the best interest of public health to postpone our May 2021 Annual Meeting of Members. The event will be rescheduled for October 2021, at which time we hope to conduct an in-person meeting. Official notice with meeting details will be published in an upcoming issue of Tideland Topics. Stay tuned.



Double duty pickup truck

In February, as Texans dealt with a record-breaking cold snap that resulted in rolling blackouts and extended power outages, a handful of residents used their 2021 Ford F-150s to get through the worst of it utilizing the built-in Pro Power Onboard generator.

Learn more about this feature starting on page F. It's also a timely reminder to invest in a carbon monoxide detector for your home.





To our heroes in hard hats, thank you for keeping the lights on.

Tideland Linemen

- Jeremy Mills
- Cole Bennett
- Caleb Banks
- Grant Jackson
- Perry Austin
- Michael Baldwin
- William Sawyer, Jr.
- Austin Roscoe
- Josh Dunbar
- Bubba Calhoun
- Robert Shively
- Jonathan Lee
- Joe Pugh
- Kane Cox
- Raymond Wilson
- Kevin McCarvill
- Greg Morris
- Timmy Ipock
- Andy Midyette
- Michael Marslender
- Joe Gibbs
- Steven Harris
- Jacob Hardison
- Chris Rice
- Justin Boor
- Phillip Sawyer
- Jason Kitchen
- Matthew Neal

Lineworker Appreciation Day

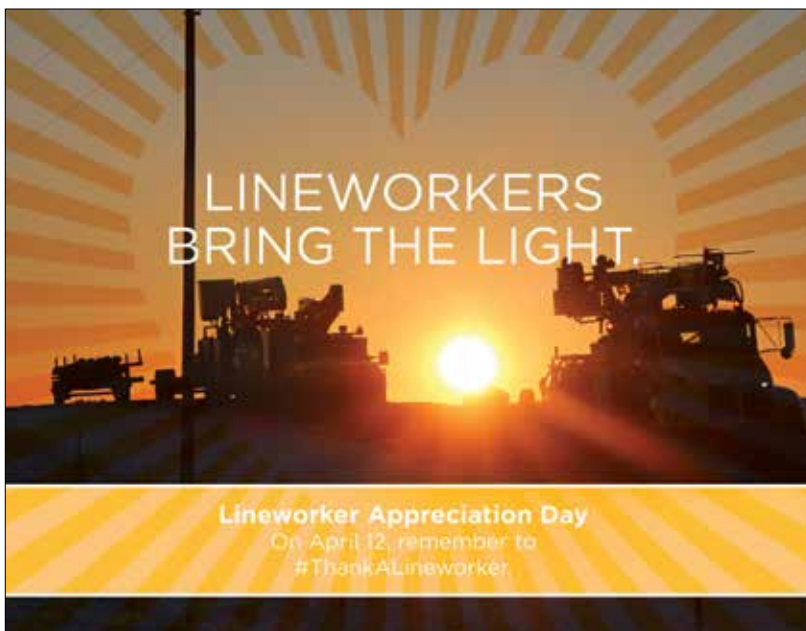
Each year, Tideland joins other electric cooperatives across our state and nation to celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day. Held annually on the second Monday in April, this day recognizes lineworkers' critical role in providing our members with the power they depend on every day.

The important responsibilities of lineworkers have become all the more challenging over the past year as they have implemented additional safety procedures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our line crews undergo years of training in the classroom and on the job site to ensure safety as they work to maintain our lines and restore power. Restoration efforts often take place late at night and sometimes require hard work in severe weather said Paul Spruill, Tideland EMC's general manager and chief executive officer. "The pandemic required additional safety consideration, particularly after the 2020 passing of Hurricane Isaias here at home and winter trips to help the Electric Co-op Network in 2021, but our employees have risen to the challenge and demonstrated a commitment to excellent work while actively being thoughtful of health risks to each other on a daily basis."

In addition to serving their own communities, lineworkers are also called on to provide aid across the state and nation following major storms and other times of need. This commitment to "cooperation among cooperatives" is one of the core principles that demonstrates the true strength and character of the cooperative network.

We also want to recognize the families of our line crews. A lineworker's family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages. This means in times of prolonged outages, the family and their line-worker may have minimal communication and not see each other for several days. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be all the more difficult.



A Texas-sized tragedy

Carbon monoxide detectors are essential for all homes regardless of propane use

In Texas on February 20, shortly after 9 p.m., Nacogdoches County Sheriff Jason Bridges sat inside his patrol vehicle and began a Facebook live feed. He had just left a gruesome scene where three residents were found deceased due to carbon monoxide poisoning. While the generator was being operated outdoors on a porch, it was in close proximity to the residence. Investigators discovered that the exhaust pipe from the generator had melted a hole in the home's siding that allowed carbon monoxide to enter the home. (*Sheriff Bridges video can be viewed on Tideland's Facebook page.*)

Unfortunately, those would not be the only three carbon monoxide deaths experienced in Texas during a freak winter storm that left much of the state contending with a combination of rolling blackouts and extended power outages. In Harris County, Texas, more than 580 residents were treated for carbon monoxide poisoning. A mother and her young daughter perished after being overcome by exhaust from their running vehicle where they had sought warmth for the night.

Elsewhere, residents were poisoned after trying to heat homes with gas stoves and even outdoor grills.

Because carbon monoxide is colorless and odorless, it is hard to detect exposure. It can sometimes produce flu-like symptoms such as headache, dizziness, nausea or vomiting, shortness of breath or weakness. When carbon monoxide builds up in your bloodstream, your body replaces the oxygen in your red blood cells with carbon monoxide. This can lead to serious tissue damage and death.



Carbon monoxide detectors range in price from \$20 to \$45

Each and every one of these tragedies could have been avoided with a working carbon monoxide detector. Carbon monoxide detectors generally range in price from \$20 to \$45. While installation is now required in all new construction in North Carolina, the vast majority of homes do not have one, even where gas appliances are already present.

The National Fire Protection Association recommends that smoke detectors be replaced every 10 years since they have a limited lifespan. That's the perfect opportunity to retrofit existing smoke detectors with models that also feature carbon monoxide sensors. Units that have both features generally start at around \$40 and are often discounted by building supply stores when buying more than three.



Smoke detectors have a 10 year life-span which makes a combination detector an ideal retrofit

Right-of-way maintenance schedule

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

During April, Gunnison will be working on the Pamlico Beach and Gaylords Bay circuits in the Pantego operational district.

Lucas will be trimming along the Swan Quarter and Lake Comfort circuits and along Highway 264 between Swan Quarter and Engelhard.

Osmose crews will be conducting pole integrity inspections throughout the Engelhard operational district east of the Swan Quarter bypass to Manns Harbor. Their testing can include minor digging at the base of the pole. Poles are also "sounded" with a hammer to detect any internal decay.

Construction continues in Pinetown to install new ductile poles. River City crews will be working along Slatestone Road during April.

Lee Electric will have one overhead construction crew working on Orchard Creek Road in Pamlico County. Two Lee Electric crews will be working in the Pantego operational district with one on Refuge Road and the other on Shore Drive at Lake Phelps.

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

Be sure to give crews wide berth when approaching them on public roadways.

2021 Ford F-150s to the rescue

We would never insert ourselves into the ongoing debate about which brand of pickup truck reigns supreme, but if an onboard generator option is a must-have, the new Ford F-150 has got you covered. The feature got rave reviews from midwesterners impacted by February's freak winter storm that left millions without power.

During the storm, Ford even authorized its dealers in Texas to ink loaner agreements for unsold models so they could be used for emergency power.

There are three different levels of "Pro Power Onboard," as it has been dubbed by Ford, and the charts below serve as a good reference to understand what each level is capable of handling.

Car and Driver reviewer Ezra Dyer noted in January that the 7.2-kW version is the quietest generator you'll ever hear. Just a "muted whirr from beneath the truck." Upsizing to the 7.2-kW version costs less than \$1,000 when buying an F-150 Hybrid

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WHAT CAN PRO POWER ONBOARD DO FOR YOU?

2.0 KILOWATTS

Optional on 2.7-liter EcoBoost®, 5.0-liter V8, 3.5-liter EcoBoost / Outlets in bed: Dual 120V 20A



FIXING A FENCE ONE OPERATOR

TOOL	WATTAGE
8-inch Circular Saw	1,200
Reciprocating Saw	1,200
Portable Speakers.....	400
Battery Charger	200

SIMULTANEOUS USE TOTAL **1,800W**



LANDSCAPING CREW

TOOL	WATTAGE
Gang Charger	1,200
Pole Saw	800

SIMULTANEOUS USE TOTAL **2,000W**



FOOTBALL TAILGATING

TOOL	WATTAGE
Electric Heater	600
Television	400
Portable Speakers.....	400
Mini-Fridge	400
Blender	200

SIMULTANEOUS USE TOTAL **2,000W**

2.4 KILOWATTS

Standard on PowerBoost™ / Outlets in bed: Dual 120V 20A
85-hour maximum run time on a full tank*



BUILDING A DECK ONE OPERATOR

TOOL	WATTAGE
8-inch Compound Miter Saw	1,200
Circular Saw	1,200
1/2 hp Air Compressor ..	1,000
Battery Charger	200

SIMULTANEOUS USE TOTAL **2,400W**



CEMENT/MASONRY CREW

TOOL	WATTAGE
Jackhammer	1,800
Compact Concrete Mixer	500

SIMULTANEOUS USE TOTAL **2,300W**



NEIGHBORHOOD DRIVE-IN

TOOL	WATTAGE
Loudspeakers	1,100
Popcorn Machine	800
Projector	500

SIMULTANEOUS USE TOTAL **2,400W**

7.2 KILOWATTS

Optional on PowerBoost / Outlets in bed: Four 120V 20A, one 240V NEMA L14-30R
32-hour maximum run time on a full tank*



FRAMING A HOUSE CREW

TOOL	WATTAGE
12-inch Compound Miter Saw	1,800
Circular Saw	1,000
Gang Battery Charger	1,200
Hammer Drill	1,200
1/2 hp Air Compressor ..	1,000
Area Flood Lights	800

SIMULTANEOUS USE TOTAL **7,000W**



MOBILE METAL SHOP CREW

TOOL	WATTAGE
120V Plasma Cutter	1,800
120V TiG Welder	1,700
Chop Saw	1,500
1.5 hp Air Compressor	1,200
Angle Grinder	800
Work Light	200

SIMULTANEOUS USE TOTAL **7,200W**



DAY AT THE ORV PARK

TOOL	WATTAGE
Two Electric Dirt Bikes	4,800
Electric Griddle	1,400
Portable Air Compressor	1,000

SIMULTANEOUS USE TOTAL **7,200W**

*Assumes 86° F ambient temperature and no A/C.



Time-of-use hours change

Members participating in the co-op's residential time-of-use rate plan are reminded that the switch to summer peak times occurs on Friday, April 16.

The on-peak hours will be 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday-Friday. Memorial Day will be off-peak.

In the next few months, we will be reaching out to each of our residential time-of-use members to discuss the restructuring of the rate program. The revamped program will no longer treat holidays and weekends as off-peak however the on-peak hours will be cut back to two hours in winter and three hours in summer. There will also be a new super off-peak time from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. daily when the price per kilowatt hour will drop to just 3.631¢. We think electric vehicle owners will find the rate particularly attractive.

Our goal is to roll out the updated time-of-use rate by summer.

Questions? Call Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410.

Message to members

Hats off to our men in hardhats

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

National studies consistently rank power line installers and repairers among the most dangerous jobs in the country and for good reason. Positioning your body at the right angle, high in the air, wearing heavy equipment, and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. Electric lineworkers are up to the task, however. These brave employees are committed to safety, the challenges of the job, and responsiveness to our Tideland members.

Tideland EMC's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it also requires a combination of a determined commitment to daily work assignments and reliability and readiness in emergency response to be a good lineworker.

In fact, this service-oriented mentality is evident in the character of the good people doing this work every day in our Tideland communities. The job often requires they set aside personal priorities to better serve our members who are also their neighbors. I am particularly proud of our linemen because they routinely have to battle crisis situations given our coastal geography and the prevalence of hurricanes, thunderstorms, strong Northeasters, and winter weather. They also



respond when needed to provide mutual aid assistance for sister co-ops along the Eastern Seaboard.

In Tideland territory and across the country, electric co-op lineworkers' mission-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op. Lineworkers are often familiar figures in the community. They can be found coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for local charities and serving on local advisory boards.

Monday, April 12, is National Electric Cooperative Lineworker Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of Tideland's lineworkers, both on and off the job, I encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. We are grateful for their service.

GENERATOR SAFETY

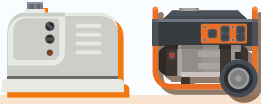
USE BACKUP POWER SAFELY

When used properly, portable and standby generators are a great option to provide backup power during brownouts or blackouts.

Learn how to use generators safely with the following tips:

GENERATORS

Location



20 ft

Always keep generators at least **20 feet away** from your home



Never operate a generator in an **enclosed space**



Make sure the generator has **3-4 feet** of clear space above and on all sides for proper ventilation



Keep generators **away** from doors, windows, and vents



Always **direct exhaust away** from your home

Use



Always use **grounded cords** and inspect cords for damage prior to use



Use the **proper cord** for the wattage being used



Always use **GFCI protection**



Make sure to start / stop generators when **no electrical loads** are connected



Keep generators dry, **do not operate when wet**, and refuel when cool

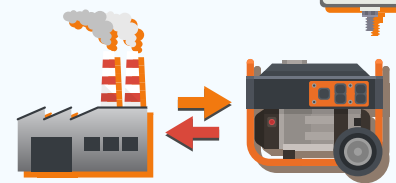


Do not overload generators



Do not plug a generator directly into your home, connect items being powered **directly to the generator**

TRANSFER SWITCHES



Transfer switches, whether manual or automatic, allow you to choose between **utility power** or **backup generator power**



Transfer switches are the only way to **safely power** your home's electrical system



Using a transfer switch **prevents backfeeding**. This occurs when your generator becomes a power source for the **surrounding area** and can damage your home, your neighbor's homes, and injure workers trying to restore power

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING PREVENTION



Improper use and installation of generators could **cause CO poisoning**



CO can kill in as little as **5 minutes**

Symptoms of CO poisoning



Dizziness



Headaches



Nausea



Tiredness



If you experience CO poisoning symptoms, **get fresh air, do not reenter areas, and call 911.**

Please **share** this **free** resource to save lives



www.facebook.com/ESFi.org

www.twitter.com/ESFIdotorg

www.youtube.com/ESFIdotorg

Knowledge is power

Plug in with Trickle Star Energy Monitors

Little things can add up. That's why monitoring your home or business plug loads can be a real eye opener.

With that in mind, Tideland EMC has a limited number of Trickle Star Energy Monitors for sale to members. Unlike the Kil-A-Watt monitors we've loaned out over the years, the Trickle Star monitor has a detachable display unit with a 4-foot cord.

The display unit can be placed on a counter or table for easy viewing. This makes monitoring a refrigerator or freezer much easier than before. The monitor also has 360 joules of surge protection.

The Trickle Star displays kilowatt hour consumption, cost, and CO² by day, month and year.

The units are available for purchase at all Tideland EMC offices. The cost is \$29.99 and will be billed to your electric account.



Ford powered

Continued from Page D

and to quote Dyer, "A 7,000-watt Honda - the aspirational luxury brand of generator - goes for about \$4,500. The F-150 generator is a deal, and you don't have to lug it around, find a place for it in your garage, or worry about the fuel going stale." While Dyer and other reviewers utilized the onboard power via heavy gauge extension cords, a 30-amp transfer switch could deliver meter base power to dedicated household circuits.

The onboard generator can also be monitored and controlled via the Ford Pass mobile app. You can see what the load is on each circuit and more. If the system detects a ground fault, it immediately shuts off.

As always, we remind you that a carbon monoxide detector remains essential in your home or business when operating any generator. That's even more important with an idling vehicle.

Real People.
Real Power.

Tideland Topics

www.tidelandemc.com

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Member Service

252.943.3046

800.637.1079

24 Hour Outage Reporting & Automated Services

252.944.2400

800.882.1001

Tideland EMC is an equal
opportunity provider & employer



Holiday Closing

Our offices will be closed Friday, April 2, for Good Friday. Our 24-hour member service center will remain open and crews are on standby to respond to outages as needed.



**DON'T SWEAT IT.
LEVELIZE IT!**

**AVOID THE HIGHS & LOWS OF
SEASONAL ELECTRIC BILL FLUCTUATIONS.**



To enroll, call Tideland EMC at 800.637.1079. Account must have zero balance to activate.