



# Tideland Topics

## REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBER-OWNERS OF TIDELAND ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

## Keep Safe: During and after the storm

No one knows electrical safety better than the experts who practice it every single day. Tideland EMC encourages you to practice safety with these reminders – for during and after a summer storm:

**Avoid wires and water:** When lightning strikes a home during a storm, the electrical charge can surge through pipes and utility wires. That means you can get zapped if you're touching water or any device that's plugged in, whether it's a landline phone or toaster.

**Skip the makeshift shelter:** During a storm, it's tempting to take cover under a picnic gazebo or golf cart, but in open-sided structures with no conductors to channel strikes, a bolt's path of least resistance to the ground could be you. On top of that, these structures raise your risk of a lightning strike because of their height. Keep moving toward suitable shelter. Portable generators — Take special care with portable generators, which can provide a good source of power, but if improperly installed or operated, can become deadly. Do not connect

generators directly to household wiring. Power from generators can back-feed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including co-op line workers making repairs. It's best to hire a qualified, licensed electrician to install your generator and ensure that it meets local electrical codes.

**Flooded areas:** Stay away from downed power lines and avoid walking through flooded areas. Power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Report any downed lines you see to Tideland EMC by calling 252.943.3046 or 800.637.1079 immediately.

**Electrical equipment:** Never use electrical equipment that is wet – especially outdoor electrical equipment, which could be a potential danger after a summer storm. Water can damage electrical equipment and parts, posing a shock or fire hazard.

For a checklist to assess safety hazards around your home or to take a quick safety quiz, go to [www.togetherwesave.com/power-of-community/safety](http://www.togetherwesave.com/power-of-community/safety).

## *Researchers Predict Less Active Hurricane Season*

The scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are predicting the 2015 Atlantic hurricane seasons to be one of the least active in decades. NOAA's 2015 Atlantic hurricane season outlook calls for 3 to 6 hurricanes, with 1 becoming a major storm. A major storm is a Category 3 or higher.

The Atlantic basin tropical cyclone activity is forecasted to be about 20% below the 1950-2014 long-term norm and about 30% below the recent 10-year norm.

Although the less-active prediction is promising, scientist warn that you should not become complacent due to the prediction. You should always make plans and prepare ahead of time for a major storm so you are not caught off guard. Take time to lay out a hurricane plan and gather the necessary supplies to keep you safe.

## Generate Safely

Safe Generator Operation

Keep this card in your home's emergency kit or with your generator.

- Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment:
  - Stationary Generator:** An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a professional.
  - Portable Generator:** Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.
- Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows, and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is **DEADLY**.

- Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.
- Start the generator first **BEFORE** connecting appliances.

Source: *SafeElectricity.org*

Developed jointly by the Energy Education Council & Rural Electricity Resource Council



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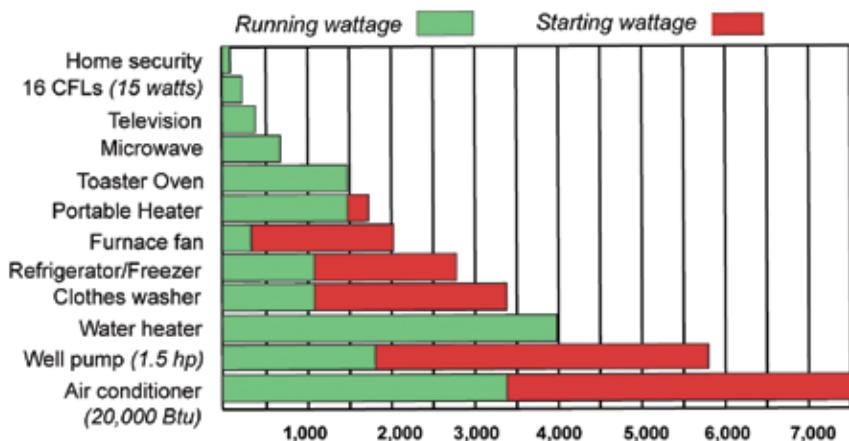
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## The Right Portable Generator for the Job

Before purchasing or operating a portable generator, make a list of the appliances you will need to run at the same time. Find both starting and running wattage requirements on appliance nameplates or in owner's manuals; add them up to determine the total wattage your generator should handle.

Sample running wattages, as compared to spiked starting wattages:



Sources: North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives; National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

OUR OFFICES WILL BE  
CLOSED JULY 3 FOR  
THE INDEPENDENCE  
DAY HOLIDAY



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Call before you dig.

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