

# Tideland Topics

*Real People. Real Power.*

STUMPY POINT  
RON HILTON PHOTO

## Can you *dig it?*

Dial the digits. 8-1-1. That's the only safe way to approach any potential digging or excavation project.

While we officially recognize August 11 as National 811 Day, safety matters 365 days a year.

Learn more about free underground utility locating services on page B.



## Evacuating? *Know. Then go.*

With peak hurricane season bearing down on us, now is a good time to "Know Your Zone." Part of a new coastal evacuation strategy, every address in North Carolina's 20 coastal counties is assigned to a zone to improve overall evacuation efficacy.

Read more beginning on page C in this month's executive message to members. To find your zone, visit [KnowYourZone.nc.gov](http://KnowYourZone.nc.gov) to conduct an address search.

KNOW YOUR  
**ZONE**

A red arrow pointing upwards and to the right, positioned below the word "ZONE".



# 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

## 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



## 2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



## 3. CONFIRM

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



## 4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They 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.





# Know What's Below

# Know The Color Codes

 White Proposed Excavation	 Yellow Natural Gas	 Pink Survey Markings	 Red Electric	 Orange Cable, Internet, Phone	 Blue Water	 Green Sewer	 Purple Reclaimed Water
--	--	---	--	--	---	---	---

# Message to members

## As peak hurricane season nears, be sure to “Know Your Zone”

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

As we went to press on July 9, all eyes were on a low pressure system off the North Carolina coast poised to become a tropical system named Fay. Days earlier, Tropical Storm Edouard had formed, making it the earliest fifth- named storm on record.

According to the Colorado State University (CSU) real-time hurricane activity site, the North Atlantic had about 340% of the usual amount of Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE) by July 6: 6.5 units, compared to the 30-year average of 1.9 units.

It is disconcerting to see 2020 beat the record for the busiest start to the Atlantic hurricane season, surpassing 2005. That unforgettable year set all-time records with 28 named storms, 15 hurricanes, seven major hurricanes, and four category 5 hurricanes (Emily, Katrina, Rita, and Wilma). Of course, many Tidelanders breathed a sigh of relief as news broke about a Saharan dust plume that formed in June, effectively putting a lid on significant tropical development while it lasted.

Nevertheless, on July 7, the team at CSU updated its 2020 forecast. They now predict 20 named storms, including 9 hurricanes and 3 major hurricanes.

Another factor to consider locally is the massive amount of precipitation we've experienced in recent months. The low pressure system, at the time of this writing, was expected to dump another 2 to 4 inches on

Tideland territory. Extremely wet conditions combined with any significant or prolonged source of wind could be problematic in the most heavily forested areas of our service territory.

Tideland area rainfall totals		
Month	Normal	Actual
May	4.15"	8.15"
June	4.59"	6.67"
July	6.17"	4.96"*

\*First 8 days of July

With peak hurricane season nearing, now is the time to review your preparedness plans. We've included several infographics in this issue of Tideland Topics related to electric safety considerations.

Another important step is to “Know Your Zone.” This initiative, launched in June 2020 by the NC Department of Public Safety and Emergency Management, created evacuation zones for the 20 coastal counties. While some counties may have one zone, others have up to five in order to evacuate as efficiently as possible without over evacuating.

In the past, some evacuation orders were overly broad or confusing because they relied on descriptions like “all unincorporated areas,” or “low lying areas” or all areas within a certain distance of a particular river or stream. Having predetermined zones simplifies

...CONTINUES ON PAGE H

## Right-of-way maintenance schedule

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our right-of-way. During the month of August their crews will be working in Arapahoe and Minnesott Beach. They will then begin work in Fairfield Harbour.

Our Lee Electric construction crews will be working in the following areas this month:

- Overhead powerline work along Old Bay River Road, Grantsboro
- Overhead powerline work on Shore Road in Creswell
- Underground repair work in both the Grantsboro and Pantego service areas

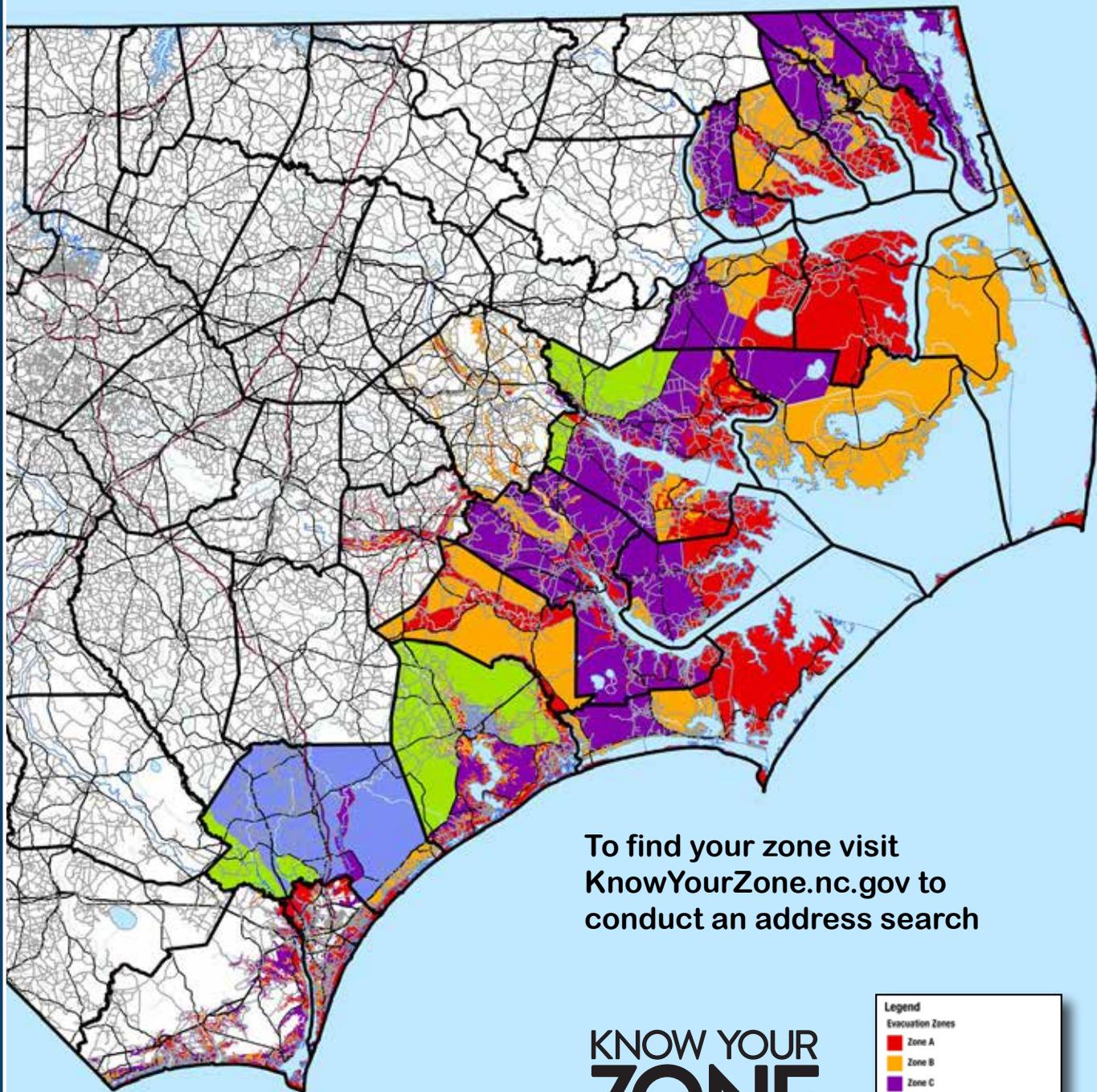
Our contractors with Mastec will have one transmission and one distribution crew working on overhead powerlines between our Five Points and Washington substations. They will be primarily working on Braddy, Pocosin and Broad Creek roads.

Osmose continues pole inspection work for the cooperative. During August they will be in Grantsboro, Bayboro and Fairfield Harbour.



An Osmose contractor bores into a pole to inspect for internal signs of decay.

# NORTH CAROLINA EVACUATION ZONES



To find your zone visit  
[KnowYourZone.nc.gov](http://KnowYourZone.nc.gov) to  
conduct an address search

KNOW YOUR  
**ZONE**



# ALWAYS ASSUME ALL DOWNED LINES ARE **LIVE**

Downed power lines can be **deadly**. Always assume a downed power line is **live** and avoid approaching them or anything near them.

## Use Precaution



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 feet away**. Even more in wet conditions.



If you see a downed power line, **call 911**.



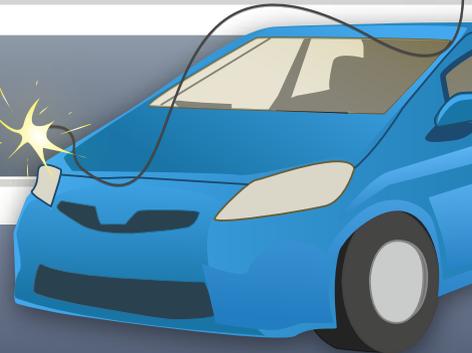
**Never drive over** downed power lines or anything in contact with them.



**Never try to move** a downed power line.

If a vehicle contacts a **power line** or **utility pole**...

## STAY AWAY AND CALL 911



Consider **all lines** to be live and dangerous.



Stay in place or inside your vehicle unless you see **fire** or **smoke**.



Warn others to stay at least **35 feet away**.



**Tell others** not to approach vehicle, downed lines, or anything that may be in contact with downed lines.



Call **911**.

## In the Event of Fire or Smoke

**Do not** touch the ground and vehicle at the **same time**.



Jump from the vehicle with your **feet together**.



**Shuffle away**, avoid lifting your feet.



[www.facebook.com/ESFI.org](https://www.facebook.com/ESFI.org)

[www.twitter.com/ESFItdotorg](https://www.twitter.com/ESFItdotorg)

[www.youtube.com/ESFItdotorg](https://www.youtube.com/ESFItdotorg)

# GENERATE SAFETY

Before use, learn about the potential **dangers** associated with portable generators, such as their production of carbon monoxide (CO). CO is an odorless, colorless, and tasteless **poisonous gas** that is often called the “**silent killer**” because it is virtually undetectable without the use of technology like CO alarms. Follow these tips to generate **power AND safety** when using a generator.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**AFRICAN AMERICANS** accounted for **23%** of fatalities, which is nearly **DOUBLE** their proportion of the U.S. population.

Storms account for many of the fatalities associated with generator use, with **ICE/SNOW** storms are accounting for **46%**. **HURRICANES** accounted for **29%**.

**67%** of the fatalities occurred when a generator was placed in the living area or **BASEMENT** of the home.

**26%** of fatalities occurred when a generator was used inside an attached **GARAGE** or shed.

BETWEEN  
**1992**  
AND  
**2012**

**NEARLY 80%**  
OF THE  
**931 CO DEATHS**  
WERE ASSOCIATED WITH  
**GENERATORS.**

Generator-Related CO Deaths:



## TIPS FOR THE PROPER INSTALLATION AND USE OF GENERATORS



**NEVER** operate a generator **INSIDE** your home or in other enclosed or partially-enclosed spaces, including **GARAGES**.



Make sure your generator is properly grounded and used with a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (**GFCI**).



Install battery-operated **CO ALARMS** or plug-in CO alarms with a battery backup inside the home.



A generator is a **TEMPORARY** power source and should **NEVER** be used as a permanent solution.



Use only extension cords that have a **THREE-PRONGED** plug and are rated for the intended load.



Do **NOT OVERLOAD** the generator.



**NEVER** connect generators directly to household wiring without first installing a **TRANSFER SWITCH**. This prevents backfeeding which could electrocute utility workers making repairs.



Your home generator should be installed by a **QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN** and bear the mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as UL, Intertek or CSA.



The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends generators be positioned at least **20 FEET** from doors, windows and vents to prevent CO from entering the home.



For more information about portable generators and carbon monoxide safety visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org)

\*Data from “Incidents, Deaths, and In-Depth Investigations Associated with Non-Fire Carbon Monoxide from Engine-Driven Generators and Other Engine-Driven Tools, 1999–2012”; U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, August 2013.



[www.facebook.com/ESFI.org](http://www.facebook.com/ESFI.org)



[www.twitter.com/ESFI dot org](http://www.twitter.com/ESFI dot org)



[www.youtube.com/ESFI dot org](http://www.youtube.com/ESFI dot org)

# HURRICANE ELECTRICAL SAFETY

The Atlantic hurricane season is **June** to **November**, with the **peak season** from **mid-August** to **late October**.

## Eyeing the Storm

On average there are six hurricanes, three of which are categorized as "major", each year. History provides important examples of the potentially dangerous impact hurricanes can have and the need to be prepared.



### PREPARE FOR THE STORM



### WEATHER THE STORM



### RECOVER FROM THE STORM



**Charge all phones** and communication devices.



**Stay indoors during hurricanes** and away from windows and glass.



**Do not use electrical equipment** and electronics, including receptacles, that have been submerged in water.



**Unplug all electronics** and move them as high as possible.



**Never operate a portable generator inside your home.**



Have a **qualified electrician** inspect any water damaged electrical equipment and electronics.



If recommended by utilities or emergency officials, **turn off breakers to avoid power surges.**



**Never connect a generator directly** into your homes wiring unless a transfer switch has been installed.



**Stay away from downed power lines.** If you encounter a downed power line, stay at least **35 feet** away and do not touch the line or anything that may be in contact with the line.



**Always use GFCIs** in areas where **water** and **electricity** may come in contact.

## HURRICANE CATEGORIES

### CATEGORY 1

**74-95 MPH Winds**  
Some Damage



Potential roof damage.



Large tree branches may snap, shallow-rooted trees may fall.



Damage to utility poles and power lines. Outages may last few to several days.

### CATEGORY 2

**96-110 MPH Winds**  
Extensive Damage



Potential major roof damage.



Shallow-rooted trees will be snapped or unrooted.



Power outages for several days to weeks.

### CATEGORY 3

**111-129 MPH Winds**  
Devastating Damage



Major home damage.



Many trees will be snapped or unrooted.



Electricity and water may be unavailable for several days to weeks.

### CATEGORY 4

**130-156 MPH Winds**  
Catastrophic Damage



Severe home damage.



Most trees will be snapped or unrooted and utility poles downed.



Power outages for weeks to possibly months.

### CATEGORY 5

**>156 MPH Winds**  
Catastrophic Damage



High percentage of framed homes will be destroyed.



Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas.



Power outages for weeks to possibly months.

According to the *Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety*, homes built to modern building codes fare much better than homes built to older codes. Make sure your home is up to code.

ESFi Additional severe weather safety information is available at [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org).

[www.facebook.com/ESFI.org](http://www.facebook.com/ESFI.org)

[www.twitter.com/ESFIidotorg](http://www.twitter.com/ESFIidotorg)

[www.youtube.com/user/esfidotorg](http://www.youtube.com/user/esfidotorg)

# Whoops! Let's try this again

Real People.  
Real Power.

Last month we ran a graphic similar to the one below with one exception: the underground service line was incorrectly labeled as being owned by the member. The line is in fact owned by the co-op, which means its maintenance and repair is our responsibility.

When installing a new underground service, the first 150 feet

of service is plowed in with no upfront cost to the member. Lengths over 150 feet require a member contribution of \$2.25 per foot of trenched cable. Members with underground service pay an additional \$2.30 per month via the basic facilities fee to help cover long-term maintenance and replacement expense.

## Tideland Topics

[www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Sasnett, President  
J. Douglas Brinson, Vice President  
Clifton Paul, Secretary  
David Ipock, Treasurer  
Rudy Austin, Mark Carawan,  
Garry Jordan, Dawson Pugh,  
Wayne Sawyer & Charles Slade

### GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

Paul Spruill

### EDITOR

Heidi Jernigan Smith

### 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



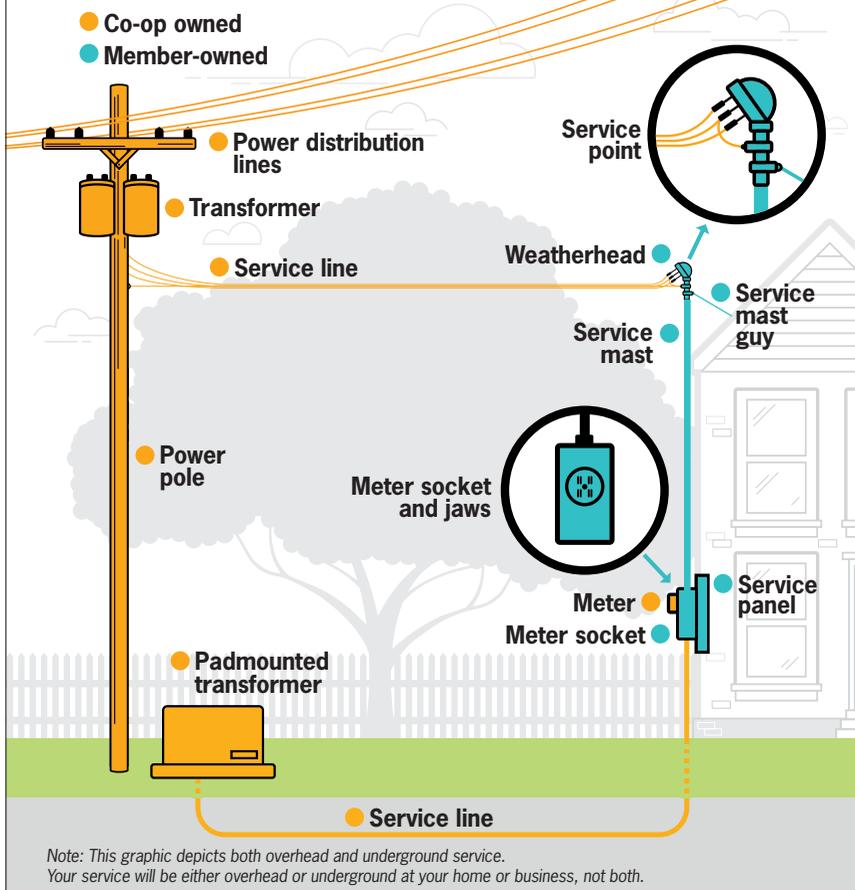
## Free Advertising

Have a festival, art exhibit, parade or other event to advertise? Take advantage of Carolina Country's free Calendar of Events listing.

To do so, submit your event online no more than three months in advance at [carolinacountry.com](http://carolinacountry.com).

## Who owns what equipment?

Do you ever wonder what equipment is owned and maintained by the co-op and what equipment you own and are responsible for maintaining? The graphic below depicts what is owned and maintained by the co-op (in gold) and you, the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we will handle all of the repairs. However, if there is any damage to member-owned equipment, you will need to handle making the repairs. We recommend to always hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to your equipment.



## memberMessage

CONTINUED FROM PAGE C

the evacuation process for local officials, residents and visitors. I encourage you to visit [knowyourzone.nc.gov](http://knowyourzone.nc.gov) and conduct an address search to find your home's designated zone.