

# Tideland Topics

*Real People. Real Power.*



## Lifeline *Gone Wrong*

As we went to press on September 9, 26 people had died in Louisiana from the impacts of Hurricane Laura. The vast majority of those deaths was caused by carbon monoxide poisoning. It's a tragedy that could easily be avoided with education and a working carbon monoxide detector.

Learn more on pages 19-20.



## Proud to be *people powered*

October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we "Power On."

As an electric cooperative, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to the members we serve. Because we are a co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our local community – this mission has never been more critical than in recent months.

One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is "concern for community." This principle is the essential DNA of Tideland EMC, and it sets us apart from other electric utilities.

Then. Now. Always.  
We're proud to power your life.  
**October is National Co-op Month.**



## #PowerOn



## Vampire power

The list of appliances and plug-in devices that leech energy even when they are shut off grows with each passing year. It has been estimated that these standby power loads can now account for 10 to 20 percent of average monthly electric bills.

While it is part of the price we pay for the connectivity of modern technology, there are ways to reduce these vampire or phantom loads without hindering connectivity.

The simplest method is to unplug a device when you are no longer using it, such as a coffeemaker that has a built in clock. The same is true for chargers that are no longer connected to a cell phone or other device.

For home entertainment equipment, consider plugging your TV and DVD player into a power strip that can be turned off when not in use. There are special entertainment center power strips that will power off only those items that don't need to regularly communicate with internet for updates or signal retention.

Be sure to activate energy saver modes that put electronics to sleep to reduce power consumption and always look for Energy Star labeling when making new purchases.

## Message to our member-owners

# After a mild six months, August electric sales packed a punch

by **PAUL SPRUILL**

GENERAL MANAGER &  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Tideland experienced record low energy sales January through July, due in large part to mild weather conditions. That changed drastically in August when we set our third-highest monthly sales record, trailing behind August 2016 and January 2018.

Between July 2020 and August 2020, sales jumped 8 million kilowatt hours. That's an increase of 24.4 percent month over month. When compared to the average kilowatt hour sales for the past three August billings (2017-2019), we billed 3.1 million more kilowatt hours in August 2020. That amounts to a 9 percent increase.

Fortunately, we continue to operate with a wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA) credit at a rate of .179¢ per kilowatt hour. As a result, we credited \$291,000 back to members during the month of August. For the first six months of the year, cumulative WPCA credits totaled only \$384,000, another measure of just how low kilowatt hour sales had been.

As we enter the shoulder months and milder fall temperatures, member bills are expected to flatten back out. Now would be an ideal time to enroll in levelized billing before the start of home heating season. Members on levelized billing make monthly payments based on a rolling average of their most recent electric bills. You can enroll in the program after one month of utility service with no minimum 12-month wait. The program is especially helpful if you annually experience high seasonal bills in winter or summer.

I also highly encourage you to sign up for high energy use alerts before the start of winter heating season. So many high bills could be prevented with this one simple service. One of our service representatives will be glad to take a look at your account and recommend a daily use alert target if you need some guidance before setting one up.

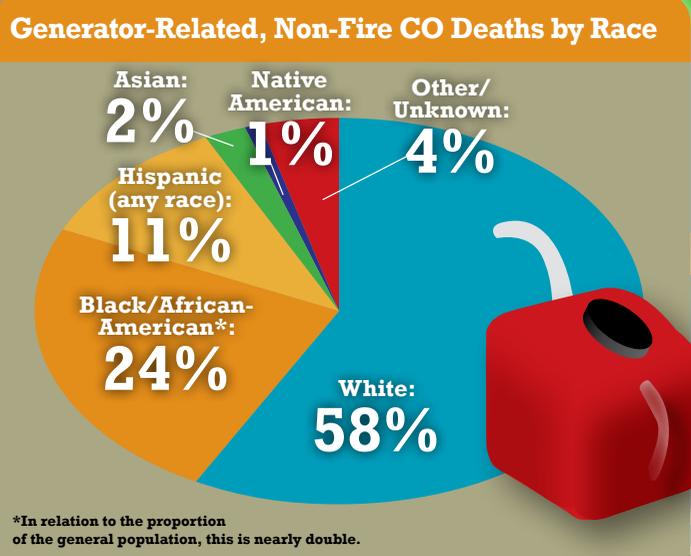
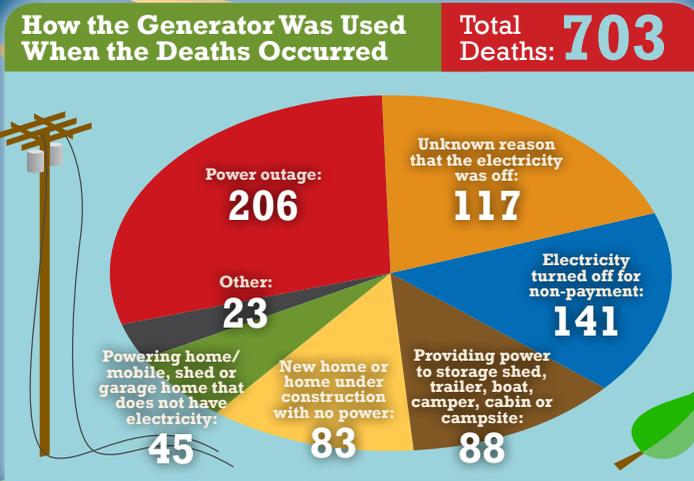
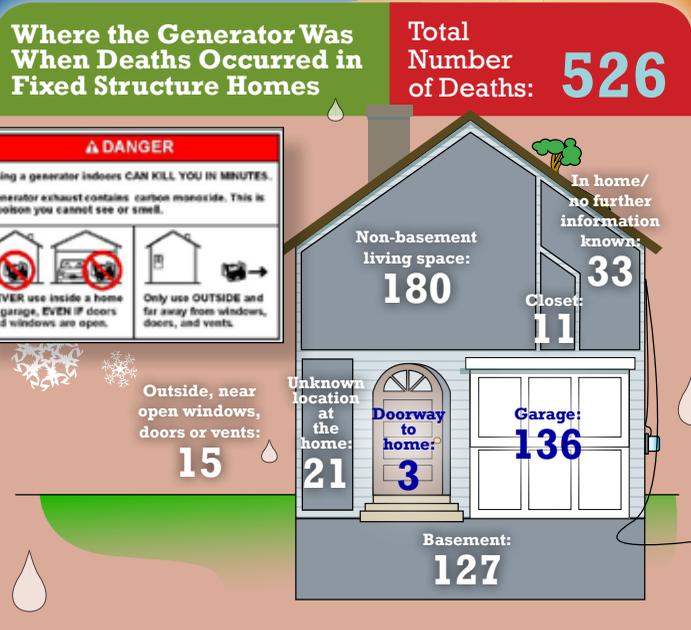
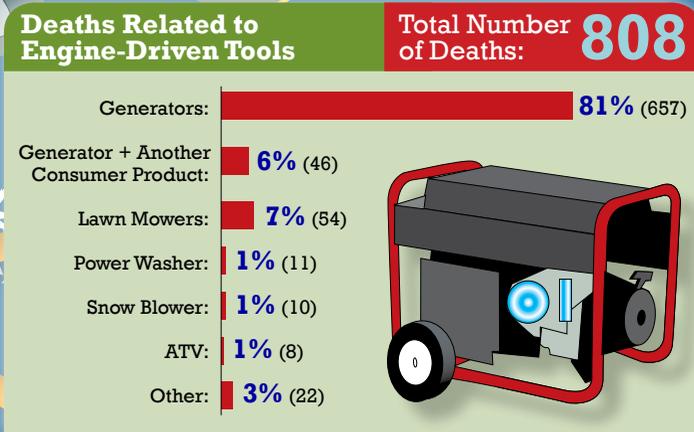
Lastly, I want to touch on hurricane season and the tragic stories we've learned about in the wake of Hurricane Laura. To date more than 26 of our fellow citizens have perished in the aftermath of that storm and the vast majority have been due to carbon monoxide poisoning. We have sounded the alarm about improper generator use regularly and often, but in the fog of a disaster, critical safety messages are often obscured.

Whether you own a generator or not, I highly recommend that you install a carbon monoxide detector in your home. Installation is now in fact required for all new homes built in North Carolina, whether or not gas appliances are present, due to the widespread use of generators in a crisis situation. The preventative measures we take now on a clear, sunny day can stop such senseless tragedy. Please take this safety message to heart.

# PORTABLE GENERATOR-RELATED CARBON MONOXIDE DEATHS

**You don't run your car indoors; don't run your generator inside, either.**

**Most deaths occur in homes during cold months. Data Years: 2004-2013**



- ### Carbon Monoxide Safety Tips
- Run portable generators away from the house, garage or any enclosed space.
  - Keep generators at least 20 feet away from windows, doors and vents.\*
  - Install a battery-operated or battery-backup CO detector in the hallway outside bedrooms.
  - NEVER ignore a beeping CO alarm. Go outside and call 911 if the alarm sounds.
- \* Minimum distance recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



NSN 14-10

# October

## right-of-way schedule

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our right-of-way. During October they will continue tree-trimming operations in Fairfield Harbour and the surrounding area, including Broad Creek Road, King Neck Road, and Highway 55.

An off-road crew will begin work on the Sidney substation circuit and in the Pamlico Beach area including South Savannah Road, Woodstock Road and Pamlico Beach Road.

Our right-of-way treatment contractor, Progressive Solutions, will spray between Stumpy Point and Manns Harbor.

We will have construction crews with Lee Electric working along Shore Road in the Lake Phelps area. Another Lee crew will continue work along Old Bay River Road, Highway 55, and Mill Pond Road in Pamlico County.

Additional Lee Construction crews are working systemwide to replace faulty underground services.

Mastec construction crews continue installing ductile iron poles on Braddy Road and Pocosin Road out of our Five Points substation.

Your support of these system maintenance activities is imperative as we work to reduce outages and harden our infrastructure against the forces of nature. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to the cooperative at 800.637.1079.

## Prevent carbon monoxide exposure

- Do have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Do install a battery-operated or battery back-up CO detector in your home. Check or replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall. If the detector sounds leave your home immediately and call 911.
- Do seek prompt medical help if you suspect CO poisoning and are feeling dizzy, light-headed, or nauseated.
- Don't use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove, or other gasoline- or charcoal-burning device inside your home, basement, or garage or near a window.
- Don't run a car or truck inside a garage attached to your house, even if you leave the door open.
- Don't burn anything in a stove or fireplace that isn't vented.
- Don't heat your house with a gas oven.
- Don't use a generator, pressure washer, or any gasoline-powered engine less than 20 feet from any window, door, or vent. Use an extension cord that is more than 20 feet long to keep the generator at a safe distance.
- Pets are also at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and death. Never operate gasoline-powered engines near their pen or housing.

*Real People.  
Real Power.*

## 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



## Time-of-Use Reminder

The on-peak demand hours change October 16. The winter on-peak hours will be 6 am to 9 am, Mon-Fri. Please adjust your schedule accordingly if you are on residential rates 2 or 4.