Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

Ben Cahoon contributed photo

The sting of cold weather

On the heels of the fourth-warmest December since 1933, Tideland territory plunged into an extended cold snap the second half of January. As temperatures dropped, energy use soared, leaving more than a few members with sticker shock when bills began to arrive. We discuss this in detail on Page C.

Scholarship deadline March 4

High school seniors have until Friday, March 4, to submit their college scholarship applications to the Tideland Electric Care Trust. The Trust will award eight scholarships: six to students attending a four-year college or university and two to students attending a community college or trade school. To apply visit tidelandemc.com/my-community/college-scholarships.

March *maintenance*

Tideland has contracted with Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our rights-of-way. During March they will be working along the Highway 32 circuit out of our Plymouth substation.

Lee Electric overhead construction crews will continue work on the Dowry Creek circuit out of Ponzer substation along Allen Road. They will also have crews working on the Rose Bay circuit along Highway 264 in Scranton. That circuit also originates out of our Ponzer substation.

Bellwether Management Solutions is currently in the field conducting our metered service inspections.

Reminder:
Always call 8-1-1 before you start any construction or excavation project to have all utility lines properly identified and marked.

811
Know what's **below.**
Call before you dig.

Warmest December in 88 years, followed by late January deep freeze that saw kWh sales soar

Member heating systems worked overtime to keep up with a dramatic and prolonged dip in temperatures that began shortly after the New Year, and began to reach critical mass starting January 20 as forecasters warned of an impending ice event. While the severe icing never materialized, unusually high electric bills did in many cases.

Bills for January energy use juxtaposed with lower than average December consumption seemed to cause even more concern because what many of us didn't realize at the time was just how warm it was in December 2021. It was actually the second-warmest December in the past 30 years and the fourth warmest on record since 1933. High December temperatures were reflected in Tideland energy sales of 27 million kilowatt hours (kWh). For the month ending January 2022, kWh sales soared to 38 million.

Of course by the time your meter was read and a statement generated, those unusually warm December days and bitingly cold January days may have been a distant memory. Especially as we entered February with daily highs reaching the 70s.

Anticipating the potential for large swings in monthly energy bills, Tideland took to social media February 1 to encourage members to enroll in levelized billing if their January energy use had not yet been billed. We often promote levelized billing as a way to insulate one's household budget from seasonal spikes in energy use.

Interestingly, despite the temperature disparities between December and January, the 2022 winter heating season has been on par with past years based on heating degree days. November 2021 through January 2022, Tideland territory had experienced 1,390 heating degree days. We even had a few cooling degree days in December and January. As recently as 2018 we had a much colder January and a remarkably cold heating season.

This is precisely why we encourage members with post-paid accounts to take a serious look at levelized billing and by all means please enroll in high energy use alerts.

Heating Degree Day Analysis

Season	Nov HDD	Dec HDD	Jan HDD	Total HDD
2021-2022	387	305	698	1390
2020-2021	214	575	650	1439
2019-2020	407	440	465	1312
2018-2019	328	479	630	1437
2017-2018	361	621	814	1796

Message to members:

January packed a punch. We're here to help.

by PAUL SPRUILL
GENERAL MANAGER &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As noted on the previous page, winter arrived full force mid-January with kilowatt hour sales peaking January 22 as most of us hunkered down for an ice storm that thankfully never found its footing.

Home heating needs increased 128% in January over the previous month, but that figure may understate the expensive impact on some households where more expensive supplemental heat, like plug-in space heaters, was utilized for days at a time. Thus, the individual impact for some members has been even greater than the degree day data would indicate.

And that's the brief yet important point I want to make this month. No two members are alike, nor are your circumstances. If winter energy expenditures have caught you off guard, please reach out to our call center and work with one of our team members to formulate a payment plan that works for you. Whether that means converting to levelized billing, making a one-time payment arrangement, or moving to our Flexpay service plan, someone is here to help you navigate options that keep your electric service account on track.

What are degree days?

Degree days are based on the assumption that when the outside temperature is 65°F, we don't need heating or cooling to be comfortable.

Degree days are the difference between the daily temperature mean, (high temperature plus low temperature divided by two) and 65°F. If the temperature mean is above 65°F, we subtract 65 from the mean and the result is Cooling Degree Days. If the temperature mean is below 65°F, we subtract the mean from 65 and the result is Heating Degree Days.

Example 1:
The high temperature for a particular day was 90°F and the low temperature was 66°F. The temperature mean for that day was:
(90°F + 66°F) / 2 = 78°F

Because the result is above 65°F:
78°F - 65°F = 13 Cooling Degree Days

Example 2:
The high temperature for a particular day was 33°F and the low temperature was 25°F. The temperature mean for that day was:
(33°F + 25°F) / 2 = 29°F

Because the result is below 65°F:
65°F - 29°F = 36 Heating Degree Days.

The calculations shown in the two examples above are performed for each day of the year and the daily degree days are accumulated so we can compare months and seasons.

2022 Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship Program

North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives are providing deserving students from across the state the opportunity to attend two basketball camps. The scholarships are being offered to rising 6th and 7th grade females to attend the NC State Wolfpack Girls Basketball Camp at NC State University and to rising 6th and 7th grade males to attend the Carolina Boys Basketball Camp at UNC-Chapel Hill. North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives will send more than 50 students to the camps this year. Two students will be selected to participate from the Tideland EMC service area: one boy and one girl.

The head coaches of each team will use the help of their staff and current players to conduct the camps. Both camps will work closely with each camper to develop skills that will benefit the young athletes both on and off the court.

Applications for both camps will be accepted through March 31, 2022.

Winners of the Touchstone Energy Wolfpack Girls Basketball Camp Scholarship will attend the overnight camp in Raleigh, June 19-22 and winners of the Touchstone Energy Carolina Boys Basketball Camp Scholarship will attend the overnight camp in Chapel Hill, June 18-22. Campers

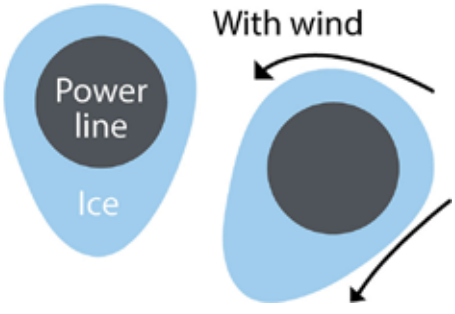
continues on page H

ice, ice, maybe...

Jim Chrisman photo

On Friday, January 21, Tideland activated ist emergency response plan for what was expected to be a significant ice storm targeting the most southern points of our service territory.

Additional trucks and heavy equipment, along with a significant contingency of tree trimmers and line construction crews, were staged on both sides of the Pamlico to supplement our own workforce. An email blast was sent to members warning of the potential for both multi-day and recurring power outages in the event of an initial icing and subsequent thaw. We sent test text messages to those members living in areas deemed most likely to be impacted.



On January 22, galloping lines resulted in five broken crossarms along Beech Ridge Road in Pantego

Fortunately, the dreaded forecast for significant ice accumulation never played out and the overwhelming majority of Tidelanders never lost power.

Why did this particular forecast raise so many red flags for the co-op? It was the forecasted combination of ice accompanied by straight line winds. Those combined ingredients greatly increase the likelihood of galloping lines, a terribly destructive phenomenon.

When ice accumulates on power lines, it forms a teardrop shape. Straight line winds can cause the ice-encased wire to take on the shape of an aerodynamic airplane wing resulting in lift. Galloping can cause wires to

eventually touch, resulting in a fault or subsequent power outage. The increased movement can also cause cross-arms to break, bringing lines to the ground and even breaking poles. While prevalent in the wide-open, flat expanses of the Midwest, Tideland has experienced this phenomenon on a handful of occasions including February 2020.

In fact, we did experience galloping lines on January 22. The distribution lines attached below our 115 kV transmission line on Beech Ridge Road in Belhaven began galloping shortly after midnight. At 12:34 a.m., 79 members on that stretch of line lost power. At first light, crews found five broken crossarms while the lines continued to gallop. Power was restored to those members 10 hours later. Video is posted on our social media feeds if you would like to see those galloping lines in action.

Even with the absence of galloping lines, significant ice accumulation can be catastropic in and of itself. Consider that half an inch of ice adds 281 pounds of weight to a 300-foot span of 1-inch-thick power lines. And the weight gain is not linear. One inch of ice adds 749 pounds of weight. Two inches adds 2,248 pounds of weight.

Fortunately, heavy icing did not occur and few members were impacted by the storm. The day's largest outage was an emergency planned event impacting nearly 1,000 members on the Dawson's Creek circuit out of Tideland's Arapahoe switching station. The 29-minute outage was taken so crews could remove a burning tree limb from the line. Twenty-two members on Maple Town Lane near Swan Quarter experienced an eight-hour outage due to several broken pole top pins. Other individual outages affected an additional 11 members. Power was restored to all members by 11 a.m. on January 22.

We want to extend our thanks to the tree trimmers, line construction crews and our own employees for standing at the ready to respond where needed. We are, as always, grateful for your service.

Tideland members Tyler and Shannon Hickman put a delightful spin on snow day

Tidelanders seem to have a love-hate relationship with snow. Many of you want just enough of the white stuff to make a fresh batch of snow cream while others hope for snowdrifts. Then there are the bah-humbuggers counting down the days until summer.

No matter your stance on snow, one has to appreciate the snow sculpting skills displayed by Tideland members Tyler and Shannon Hickman of Washington. Their loveable recreation of Snoopy, the world's most famous beagle, could thaw even the frostiest snow hater.

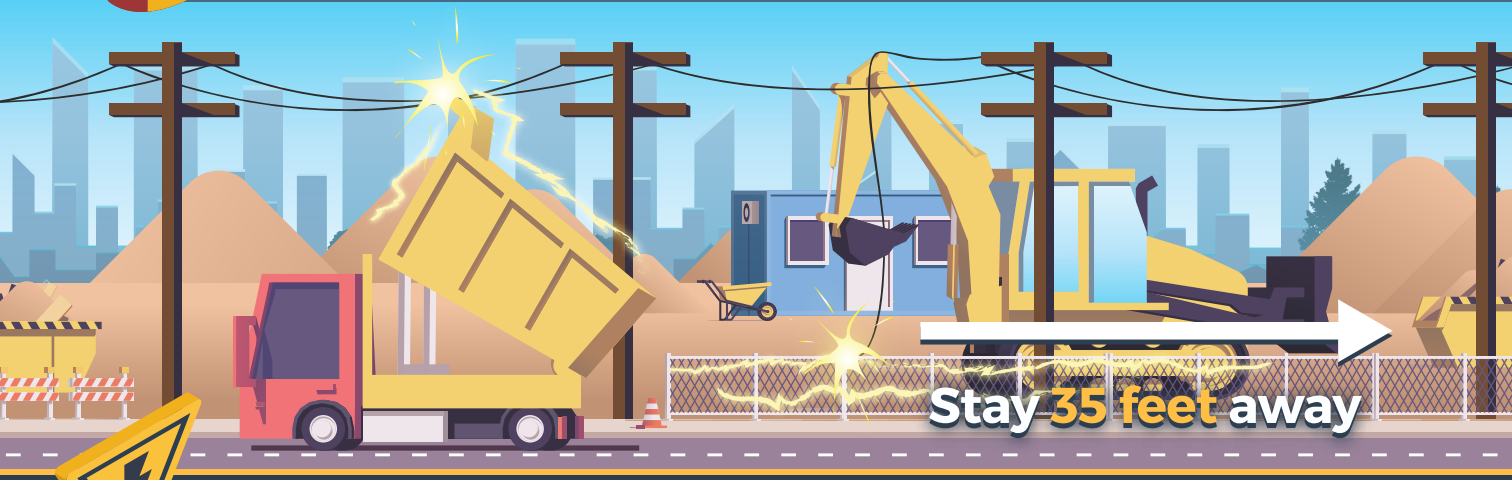
And a big two thumbs up for the cool LED lighting. Or paws up, depending on how you roll.

Thank you to Gloria Wallace for sharing these photos with us.

ALWAYS LOOK UP, ALWAYS

POWER LINES ARE A LEADING CAUSE OF ELECTRICAL FATALITIES

Between 2011 and 2017, **36%** off all electrically related workplace fatalities were caused by **overhead power lines**. In the majority of these cases, fatalities occurred in occupations with little to no electrical safety training. So when you're on a job site, **always look up, always** – it can save your life.

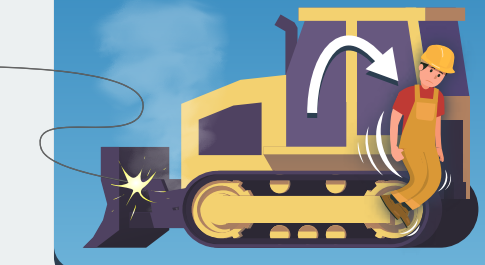


IF A VEHICLE OR OBJECT CONTACTS A POWER LINE OR UTILITY POLE

- Consider **all lines** to be live and dangerous.
- **Tell others** not to approach vehicle, downed lines, or anything that may be in contact with downed lines.
- 35 ft — Warn others to stay at least **35 feet away**.
- Stay in place or inside your vehicle unless you see **fire or smoke**.
- 911 — 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** and avoid lifting your feet.

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SIEMPRE MIRAR HACIA ARRIBA. SIEMPRE.

LAS LÍNEAS ELÉCTRICAS AÉREAS SON UNAS DE LAS CAUSAS MÁS COMUNES DE LAS MUERTES EN LOS SITIOS DE TRABAJO.

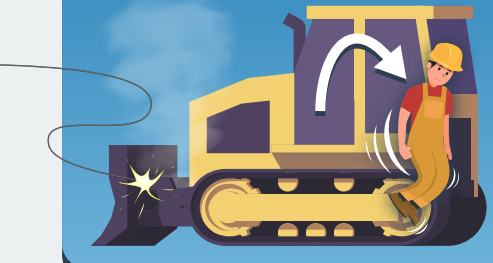
Entre 2011 y 2017, **36%** de todas las muertes en los sititos de trabajo fueron causadas por las líneas eléctricas aéreas. En la mayoría de estos casos, las muertes ocurrieron en profesiones sin capacitación en la seguridad eléctrica. Cuando está en un sitio de trabajo, siempre mira hacia arriba. Siempre.

SI UN VEHÍCULO U OBJETO HACE CONTACTO CON LAS LÍNEAS ELÉCTRICAS AÉREAS

- Recordarse que **las líneas** pueden ser electrificadas y peligrosas.
- **Avise** a los que están alrededor que no se acerquen al vehículo, las líneas caídas, o cualquier objeto que puede estar en contacto con las líneas caídas.
- 35 pies — Alerte a otros mantenerse a menos de **35 pies** de distancia de las líneas caídas.
- Si no hay **humo o fuego**, no moverse de adonde este o quedase dentro de su vehículo.
- 911 — Llame a **911**.

SI HAY HUMO O FUEGO

No toque el suelo y el vehículo al **mismo tiempo**.



Salte del vehículo con sus **pies juntos**.

Arrastres sus pies. No levante sus pies.

Para salvar vidas, comparta esta información gratis

ESFI.org www.facebook.com/ESFI.org www.twitter.com/ESFIdotorg www.youtube.com/ESFIdotorg

SAFETY Sudoku

Place the word **SAFETY** in the grid so each column, row, and block only contain unique letters!

	Y			S	
	F	T	Y		E
T	S		E		A
					F
Y		E	T	F	S
F			A		

SAFETY tip:

Look up and look out for overhead power lines. Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines aren't exactly touching the tree, they could when more weight is added to the branch.

Answers:

Y	E	A	S	T	F
S	F	T	E	A	Y
F	T	S	Y	E	A
A	Y	E	F	S	T
E	A	Y	T	F	S
T	S	F	A	Y	E

Sports Camp Scholarships

continued from page C

must have permission from a parent or guardian to attend the camp and must provide their own transportation to and from the camp. Applicants will be judged on their academics, extra-curricular activities and an essay and short answer question that must be submitted with the application.

Both camps are monitoring the pandemic and each has indicated that eligibility requirements and COVID-19 safety protocols could be implemented or adjusted prior to the start of camp.

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efficiency Reminder

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