

Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

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 Aug. 11 as National 811 Day, safety matters 365 days a year.

Learn more about free underground utility locating services on page 18.



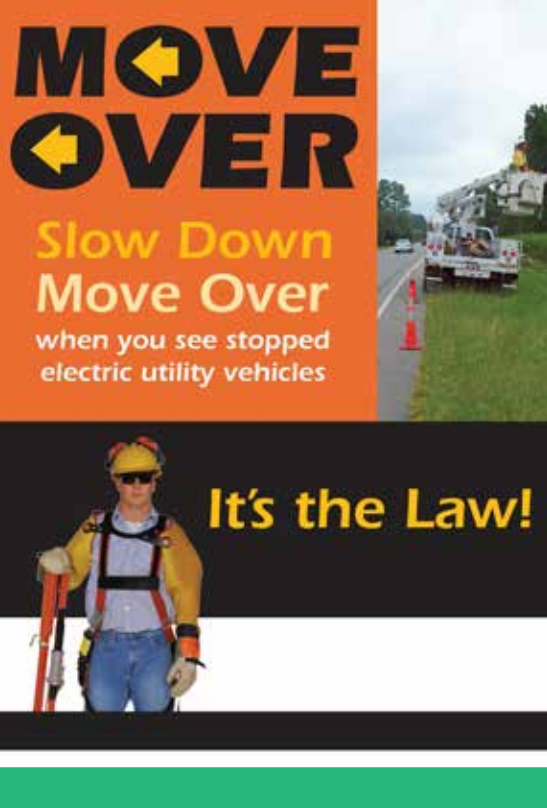
Seed money to help K-12 ideas blossom

Classroom teachers may now apply for Bright Ideas funding in amounts up to \$2,500 per grant. To access the online application and learn more about the program please visit ncbrightideas.com. The Early Bird deadline is Aug. 15. The final application deadline is Sept. 15.

Teachers, apply now!

Applications are now being accepted online at www.ncbrightideas.com!





Relocation of vulnerable Ocracoke infrastructure

When Hurricane Idalia hit Florida last year, there were numerous reports of close call incidents involving motorists and power restoration crews. So much so that in several cases local and state law enforcement officials were assigned to stay with crews where hazards by motorists were of greatest concern.

In some cases, motorists pulled into work zone areas and exited their vehicles to inquire about power restoration efforts.

In North Carolina, General Statute 20-157 states that motorists are required to move over one lane, if possible, or reduce speed for stopped emergency vehicles with flashing lights on the shoulder of the highway, including public service vehicles with amber lights. Violating the law could result in a \$250 fine.

Given that most of the roadways in Tideland served territory have minimal shoulder area observing this law is particularly important for both your safety and ours. If you need a power restoration update the safest way to obtain that information is via our Facebook page, outage text messaging notifications or by simply giving us a call. Never interrupt crews while they work.

Between December and April, the north end of Ocracoke was repeatedly impacted by storms, resulting in frequent overwash of Highway 12. As a result, that stretch of highway was subject to numerous closures during periods of high tide and road repair operations.

The frequent overwash and continuing erosion now pose a hazard to portions of Tideland EMC's infrastructure in the most hard hit areas of Highway 12.

We have identified a 4,200-foot section of our 25kV line that needs to be relocated closer to the sound. This work will require replacing 17 overhead poles, the requisite pole hardware and new wire. With favorable weather conditions, we estimate the work to take contractors 10 business days to achieve, during which the line would remain energized.

To enable this emergency line relocation, the National Park Service has issued a Special Use Permit effective until Sept. 30, 2024, for Tideland to complete the work.

At press time, Tideland had issued a request for bids with a

submission deadline of July 19. We expect to select a construction contractor by the end of July with the goal of construction getting underway in August.

This project comes less than five years after Tideland spent \$4.5 million on a submarine cable expansion on the south end of Hatteras Island due to accelerated rates of erosion. The erosion in that area had significantly increased since 2012's Hurricane Sandy. Ocracoke has likewise seen increased overwash and erosion on the north end of the island since 2019's Hurricane Dorian.

We are grateful for the ongoing collaboration and monitoring of the situation by the National Park Service, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Hyde County officials and others as changes to that section of the island continue to evolve.

In the meantime, if you haven't done so already, be sure to include a visit to Ocracoke in your summer plans. We'll keep the lights on for you!

Message to members

Outage reporting tips as hurricane season heats up

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

As we went to press on July 8, nearly 3 million Texas residents were without power as Hurricane Beryl made landfall. Beryl, the first hurricane to form in the Atlantic Basin this season, made history as the first hurricane to achieve Category 5 status this early in the calendar year.

Now is a good time to review outage reporting tips and your own personal storm preparedness plan as it relates to electric service.

To report a power outage we ask that you utilize either our text messaging service or our automated outage reporting line. To report via text, send the word OUT to short code 85700. As long as the cell phone number you are texting from is associated with your electric account, the outage will be logged into our system. That's why it is a good idea to log into the member portal and review your account information to make sure your contact details are accurate.

To report an outage via our automated phone system, dial 252-944-2400. Like the text messaging service, the system will look for a location associated with the number you are calling from. If you are calling from a number not on file, you will need to press zero to speak with an operator but please be aware that during a large outage, wait times can be lengthy.

When an outage impacts more than 100 members, Tideland will push outage notifications and

updates via text message and provide additional information on our Facebook page.

We never advise use of social media to report a power outage since those platforms cannot be integrated with our outage management system.

If you need to report system damage or a potentially hazardous situation to the co-op, we ask that you provide address details or a nearby pole tag number so Tideland dispatchers can pinpoint the location when deploying crews. Please let neighbors know you have reported the hazard to reduce redundant calls to the co-op.



If you have not done so this season, now would be a good time to do a test run of any standby generators to ensure service readiness. More importantly for generator owners, make sure you have a carbon monoxide detector and change the batteries every six months.

Here's hoping for a safe and uneventful hurricane season in Tideland territory.

Rights-of-way maintenance schedule

Tideland has hired Gunnison Tree to trim vegetative growth in our rights-of-way.

During August, Gunnison will be working on Fairfield Harbour circuits #1 and #2. Areas include Highway 55, Broad Creek Road and Fairfield Harbour subdivision. Once finished they will be transitioning to the Arapahoe circuit out of our Silver Hill substation.

Additional Gunnison crews will also be working on the Engelhard circuit with a mechanical trimmer, climbing crew and bucket crew. Areas to be covered include North Lake Road, Highway 94, Piney Woods Road, Boundary Canal Road, 5th Avenue and Hwy. 264 East. We have engaged additional manpower to get a really good cut on the circuit while conditions are so dry and make access easier.

Our line construction contractor, Lee Electric, will be working all over the system making upgrades to accommodate third-party fiber internet attachments. Lee will be changing out poles, shifting pole hardware and performing other tasks to obtain proper clearances for fiber connecting to our poles.

Tideland Topics

tidelandemc.com

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252.943.3046

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252.944.2400

Text OUT to short code 85700

Tideland EMC is an equal
opportunity provider & employer



August 11 is 8-1-1 Day

On Aug. 11, we once again
emphasize the importance of
calling 8-1-1 before you begin
any digging or excavation
project.

It is also important to identify
all underground utilities and
utility rights-of-way before
begin any construction project
that involves a poured or per-
manent foundation including
driveways and patios.



1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a
request online two
to three days before
your work begins. The
operator will notify
the utilities affected
by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for
affected utilities to respond
to your request. They will
send a locator to mark any
underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

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



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers
provided by the affected
utilities. The markers
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 location.



APWA UNIFORM COLOR CODE FOR MARKING UNDERGROUND UTILITY LINES



	PROPOSED EXCAVATION		COMMUNICATION, ALARM OR SIGNAL LINES, CABLES OR CONDUIT
	TEMPORARY SURVEY MARKINGS		POTABLE WATER
	ELECTRIC POWER LINES, CABLES, CONDUIT AND LIGHTING CABLES		RECLAIMED WATER, IRRIGATION, AND SLURRY LINES
	GAS, OIL, STEAM, PETROLEUM OR GASEOUS MATERIALS		SEWERS AND DRAIN LINES