

THE *Current* WORD

SUMMER 2007
VOL. 17 NO. 2

A PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBER/OWNERS OF HORRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Stay Safe from STORMS this Summer

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) encourages consumers to practice caution and safety during summer storms, which at times can be severe. Beware of flooded areas caused by heavy rains – water and electricity do not mix! Below is safety advice to use following a summer storm:

FLOODED AREAS — Be careful when attempting to walk in flooded areas and remember that submerged outlets or electrical cords could energize the water.

WET ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT — Do not use electrical appliances that have been wet. Water can damage the motors in electrical appliances, such as furnaces, freezers, refrigerators, washing machines, and dryers. Electrical parts can pose a shock hazard or overheat and cause a fire. A qualified service repair dealer should recondition electrical equipment that has been

wet. Certain equipment will require complete replacement, while a trained professional can recondition other devices.

PORTABLE GENERATORS — Take special care with portable electric 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 line workers making repairs. A qualified, licensed electrician should install your generator to ensure that it meets local electrical codes. Other tips include:

- Make sure your generator is properly grounded.
- Keep the generator dry.
- Make sure extension cords used with generators are rated for the load, and are free of cuts, worn insulation, and have three-pronged plugs.
- Do not overload the generator.
- Do not operate the generator in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. Generators can produce high levels of carbon monoxide very quickly, which can be deadly.
- Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries. Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and are available at prices ranging from \$12 to \$30.

Source: North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives and NRECA

HEC Sponsors Hurricane Calendar and Guide

Horry Electric Cooperative is teaming up with Media General to promote hurricane awareness and safety this hurricane season. Along with Santee Cooper and Pee Dee Electric Cooperative, HEC is a primary sponsor of the 2007 Hurricane Tracking Calendar and Guide. Horry Electric's logo will appear in the calendar and in the guide, and in announcements on WBTW News 13, in The Morning News, and on SCNOW.com. Stay tuned to these media for more information on how to get your 2007 Hurricane Tracking Calendar and Guide.

We're powerless! ...without your phone number.

Horry Electric's **PowerTouch** SYSTEM was designed to help you.

Now help us!

If you have an outage and your correct phone number is not in Horry Electric's system, we will not be able to automatically track your location and dispatch crews to the correct area. That could mean delays in restoring your electricity.

Give us a call at: 843-369-2211 to give us the correct phone number.

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc. Conway: 843-369-2211 | Myrtle Beach: 843-650-7530 | www.horryelectric.com

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 





Santee Cooper, Electric Cooperatives and USC Announce Environmental Research Initiative



Electric cooperatives in South Carolina have joined with state-owned utility Santee Cooper and the University of South Carolina in a partnership aimed at making the use of coal cleaner and more efficient.

The electric cooperatives and Santee Cooper have pledged \$5 million to establish a Center of Excellence in Columbia. The center will seek to develop new technologies to reduce carbon emissions at coal-fired power plants. It could eventually employ up to 30 researchers.

Coal remains the least expensive and most plentiful resource for generating electricity, but carbon emissions and other pollutants are a growing concern as world leaders continue studying their potential effects on climate change and other environmental impacts.

University researchers will be tasked with developing affordable technologies that maximize efficiency, reduce harmful emissions and ensure continued availability of low-cost, reliable electric power. An advisory board comprising university, state and industry leaders, including representatives from Santee Cooper and the electric cooperatives, will help guide the research program.

Easy Summer COOLING TIPS

If your home is too hot in the summer, there are many ways you can help keep heat out of your house. Planting trees, for instance, is one of the best ways to diffuse the hot summer sun before it enters your home. But a surprising amount of heat comes from inside your home.

The biggest sources of internal heat gain include lights and appliances. Reducing their use will save electricity and keep your home cooler. In humid climates, moisture that is released by cooking, bathing, and other activities will also make it harder for air conditioners to cool your home. A drier home feels more comfortable.



Here are some easy ways to keep cool in the summer:



- Replace standard incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs. The electricity used by standard bulbs produces 10 percent light and 90 percent heat. Also, compact fluorescent lights are cheaper to operate.
- Schedule heat-producing chores like baking or doing the laundry after the hottest part of the day.
- Install an insulating jacket on your water heater.
- Use kitchen and bathroom fans to remove heat and moisture during and after cooking and bathing.
- When replacing appliances, buy those with the Energy Star® label. These appliances conserve energy and release less unwanted heat.
- If you are home during the day, use a room fan to create a cooling breeze.
- When evenings are cool, don't forget about the cheapest cooling method of all. Open your doors and windows, or run window fans. This will move cool evening air through your home for almost no cost.



S.C. Co-ops WIN SPOTLIGHT on EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The South Carolina Electric Cooperative Alliance, which affectionately calls itself "Da Group," recently won two 2007 Spotlight on Excellence awards in a national awards program sponsored by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Da Group swept the "Best Advertising Program" category, winning the Award of Excellence for its 2006 "Value of Electricity" campaign and the Award of Merit for its 2006 "Community Ads" campaign.

Da Group represents a unique concept among South Carolina cooperatives in that 11 co-ops join together to produce marketing materials. This allows the co-ops to not only save money on production costs, but to present a unified message throughout the state. Members of Da Group are: Aiken, Berkeley, Coastal (Georgia), Fairfield, Horry, Laurens, Mid-Carolina, Palmetto, Santee, Tri-County, and York electric cooperatives. Da Group's marketing materials are produced by Semaphore Inc. of Columbia.