



Vol. 62 No. 8
August 2000

“Owned By
Those We
Serve”

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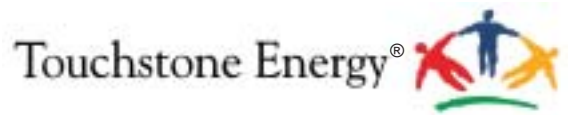
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Randolph wishes
all students, a
safe and happy
return to school



Watts



Working

Safety

*Safety - so many times we
take it for granted until some-
thing happens - then it's too late.*

At Randolph EMC we take safety on the job seriously. All our employees, both inside and outside workers, have periodic safety seminars about safety as it relates to their job. For the inside workers, people that work in our two offices, it means being careful around the everyday dangers that working people face: Buckling your seat belt; A rug that might not be laying flat; Water on the floor near the lobby door; an open filing cabinet; not looking where you're going; picking up something that is too heavy. For the outside workers, the ones that actually construct our lines, it's a little different. Obviously, the outside workers must be aware of the everyday hazards, but safety in their workplace is much different. The electrical industry is a very dangerous occupation. The obvious danger from energized lines is just one danger these workers face. Climbing poles using their hooks and belts is also dangerous. Working below ground level while installing underground services is dangerous. The hydraulic equipment used to dig holes, set poles and work on them is a constant danger. Interestingly, perhaps the biggest danger to our workers is traffic. During daylight hours our trucks are pretty visible. We use flashers, cones and signs and sometimes even workers to control traffic when we are working on power lines along a road. At night it is even more dangerous. Often times our workers are out at all hours of the night working to restore power. People are a little less likely to see cones and signs at night. Please drive safely around our workers.



Pole top rescue practice session

At Randolph EMC we actually practice accidents. Or at least we practice what to do if an accident happens. By practicing what to do if an accident happens we go over how it happened and what steps we need to take to make sure it doesn't happen again. Pole top rescue is just one of these practice sessions. During this exercise we simulate an accident on a pole to one of our workers. It could be an electrical shock, a heart attack or just an injury where we must help a lineman down. During the exercise the lineman must call for help on the radio, put their gear on, climb the pole, give two breaths into the injured workers lungs, drive a pulley set up into the pole, lower the injured person down to the ground, and give two more breaths to the victim. This practice must be completed in less than five minutes. Most of Randolph EMC's lineman can complete this rescue in under three and one half minutes!

Safety

A Major Concern Before, During and After a Storm

Summer is a great time to relax around the home. Sitting on the porch or in the back yard enjoying the cool evening breezes. It's also a good time to think back about what has taken place over the last year. This past year was quite a year for weather! Quickly, Hurricane Floyd, and its tremendous devastation to our east, comes to mind. Also, the tremendous snowstorm that paralyzed our area in late January with over 20" of snow comes to mind. Summer is a good time to think about what we could have done differently during those storms and how we can be better prepared for the next one. There are certain things that need to be done before, during and after a major storm. Lets take a look at those actions with regard to Hurricanes, Tornadoes, and Snow/Ice Storms.

HURRICANES:

Fortunately Hurricanes don't happen many times around the central parts of North Carolina. When they do most times we have a lot of time to prepare. Unfortunately, many people think, "Oh that will never hit our area!" Old timers will remember Hurricane Hazel while younger people quickly name Hurricane Fran. Both these storms hit our area and did tremendous damage to homes, trees and



Randolph EMC's system. Power was out for several days. There are many things that you can do to prepare for a Hurricane. First, know the difference between a Hurricane Watch and a Hurricane Warning. A HURRICANE WATCH is issued when there is a threat of Hurricane conditions within 24-36 hours. A HURRICANE WARNING is issued when Hurricane conditions (winds of 74 miles per hours or greater, dangerously high water and/or rough seas) are expected within 24 hours or less.

TORNADOS:

Tornadoes give very little warning. Most times you are literally running for your life and have very little time to prepare. Know the difference between a Tornado watch and a Tornado Warning. A Tornado WATCH means that weather conditions are right for the possible development of a storm. A Tornado WARNING means that a tornado has been sighted or indicated by radar in your area. Before a tornado strikes it does not have to be windy. Many times it will actually get very still and winds will be calm. Don't be fooled! Many people refer to that as the calm before the storm. The traditional funnel cloud can be visible, but sometimes you will not be able to see it because of storm clouds. With tornadoes comes a tremendous noise. Many people compare it to a train sound. If you hear or see a tornado get to the lowest level of the building you are in. If there is only one level get to the middle of the home in a closet or inner hallway. Never try to outdrive a tornado. Tornadoes can change direction and quickly overtake a car.



SNOW and ICE STORMS:

Snow and ice storms are much different in their intensity. Usually an ice storm is a gradual build up of ice on trees

and power lines.

Unfortunately, when an ice storm hits there is no means of evacuating the area. Hopefully, you are prepared, but most times you just have to ride it out. One of the major differences with this type of a storm is the cold. Travel is almost impossible because of downed trees and power lines. Fire is a major concern as people try to keep warm by means of their fireplace or other types of heaters.

Lets take a look at different things that need to be done before, during and after a storm.



BEFORE THE STORM

Have disaster supplies on hand.

1. Flashlights and extra batteries
2. Portable battery-operated radios and extra batteries
3. First aid kit and manual
4. Non-electric can opener
5. Several days supply of essential medicines
6. Cash and Credit cards
7. Sturdy shoes
8. **Make sure Randolph EMC has your correct phone number. It is listed on your bill each month. If it is incorrect, please call either the Asheboro or Robbins office**
9. Plan an evacuation route
10. Know where your emergency shelters are located.
11. Make sure you automobile is ready to transport you and/or your family.
12. Make arrangements for pets.
13. Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1, police or the fire department.
14. Protect your windows
15. Develop an emergency communications plan for your family.

DURING THE STORM

Things to do during a storm

1. Listen to radio and/or television for progress reports.
2. Check emergency supplies
3. Bring in outdoor objects like lawn furniture, toys, tools and anchor other objects.
4. Secure out buildings by closing doors and boarding up windows
5. Remove outside antennas
6. Store drinking water in jugs, bottles and clean bathtubs

7. Turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest settings.
8. Review your personal emergency plans
9. If in a mobile home check the tie downs
10. Store valuable items and jewelry in a water proof container
11. Stay away from windows and doors.
12. If power is lost turn off all major appliances to reduce any surge when restored
13. Avoid any open flames like candles and kerosene lamps for light.

AFTER THE STORM

The following is a list of what you should do after a storm.

1. Turn on your television or radio for the latest emergency information
2. Stay out of damaged buildings
3. Use the telephone for emergencies only
4. Leave the building or home if you smell gas or chemical fumes
5. Take pictures of the damage.
6. Check for gas leaks. Any blowing or hissing could mean a leak. Leave!
7. Look for electrical damage. Do not try to repair them. Call Randolph EMC!
8. Give first aid where appropriate
9. Beware of snakes and other animals that sought shelter during the storm.
10. Drive only if absolutely necessary. Avoid bridges and/or standing water.

Have your Randolph EMC Emergency Outage Reporting Number ready:

1-877 REMC OFF (736-2633)

Hopefully, we will not have a major storm like we have had during the last year. But if we do, please do your part to insure your family's safety. Know too, that our employees will do everything humanly possible to restore your power as quickly as possible.

After all...

During the last year we have had a lot of practice!