

Wake ElectriConnection



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Don't Become a Statistic: Prevent Electrical Injuries

Each year, approximately 1,000 residents in the United States die as result of electric shock. An additional 5,000 individuals seek emergency treatment for electric shocks. Approximately 20% of all electrical injuries occur in children, with the highest incidence occurring in toddlers and adolescents.

Don't let you or members of your family become a figure in this statistic. Prevent electrical injuries by practicing these safety measures:

Outlets: Avoid overloading with too many appliances. Wall plates that are found broken on the outlet should be replaced as soon as possible. If young children are present, make sure to have safety covers on all of the unused outlets.

Plugs: Check for loose-fitting plugs that can over-heat and lead to fire. You should never remove the ground pin in order to make a three-prong plug to fit a two-conductor outlet, as it could lead to electrical shock. All plugs should fit securely into an outlet.

Cords: Make sure that cords are in good condition and that they are not frayed or cracked. They should never be nailed or stapled to the wall, baseboard, or to any other object. Furniture should not rest on the cord. Cords should not be placed in high-traffic areas of the house. Extension cords are to be used only temporarily; they are in no way to be considered as permanent household wiring. Both cords and extension cords should not be overloaded.

Light Bulbs: Check the wattage of all bulbs in lighting fixtures to make sure that they are the correct wattage for the size of the fixture. Bulbs that have a higher wattage than necessary should be replaced. If you aren't sure of the correct wattage, make sure to check with the manufacturer. When inspecting light bulbs, make sure that they are screwed in securely - as loose bulbs may overheat.

Appliances: If one appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker, or if it has given you a shock, unplug it and make sure to have it repaired or replaced. In addition, appliances should not be used near water.

Computer / Entertainment Equipment: Check to see that the equipment is in good condition and working properly. Make sure to look for cracks or any damage in the wiring, plugs, and connectors.

It is also important to realize that electrical injuries don't always occur from things that are directly visible. Unsafe wiring in the walls of the home can also lead to electrical shocks, fire, and other hazards. When having additions, renovations, or upgrades done to your house that involve electrical work, it is vital to have a qualified electrician to do the work. The electrician should obtain a working permit that ensures a qualified inspector checks the electrical work, making sure it complies with the proper codes.

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



From Your Manager...

Plan to attend the Annual Meeting of Members

It is once again time for the Wake Electric Annual Meeting of the Members. This is the most important meeting of the year for members of Wake Electric.

The Annual Meeting will be held in the Louisburg College Auditorium in Louisburg on Friday, March 23. Registration begins at 6 p.m., followed by the business meeting at 7:30 p.m. Members will have the opportunity to hear reports on the plans and progress of Wake Electric, and be allowed to ask questions.

There are many issues facing our business in the ever-changing electric utility industry. We believe it is important our members have the opportunity to keep abreast of these issues. There will also be a variety of exhibits promoting services and products available from the co-op and its subsidiaries.

As in recent years, members attending will be entered in a drawing for prizes, including \$3,000 in cash prizes. The Grand Prize will be \$1,000 and the second place prize is \$500. There will be two third place prizes of \$250 each, and 10 fourth-place cash prizes of \$100 each. There will also be special activities for school-age children during the meeting. We hope you will make every effort to attend this year's Annual Meeting.



Jim Mangum

What happens when your power blinks?

Have you ever come home to find your digital clocks flashing "12:00"? Was this from a momentary blink or an hour-long power outage?

It is much like the tree falling in the forest -- does it make a sound if no one is there to hear it? If you are not at home or are asleep, does a blinking clock indicate a power outage? Most often, those blinking clocks represent a blink or short duration outage. But the impact to you is the same -- you have to reset your clocks.

Blinks occur when an obstruction, like a tree limb, animal or car, comes into contact with a power line or

transformer. To minimize the possibility of damage to the utility system or your home, a circuit breaker interrupts the flow of electricity for a fraction of a second. If the limb remains on the line, the breaker opens and tries to re-close again.

If the obstruction is still on the line after the third try, the breaker opens and does not re-close automatically. At this point, a utility worker must be dispatched to remove the obstruction and manually reset the breaker.

Most problems on the utility system are of short duration and are usually eliminated with the "re-closing" feature. Without this feature designed into the system, every brief interruption would result in an outage lasting an hour or longer.

Ultimately, power blinks improve the overall system reliability by reducing measurable power outages, protecting the cooperative's equipment and actually reducing the total time you would be without power if the technology were not in place. Does this help you? Indirectly, yes, because a healthy system with safeguards helps keep costs down.

Power blinks rarely cause damage to home electronic equipment. Older digital clocks and other devices are the most vulnerable to blinks; newer models are designed to ride out these small voltage fluctuations.

Just a phone call away...

Call Wake Electric anytime to report power outages at the following numbers:

(919) 863-6499 or (800) 743-3155

- Regular Office Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday
- Telephone Hours: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday at (919) 863-6300 or (800) 474-6300
- Underground locating service, call N.C. One-Call Center at (800) 632-4949
- Interactive customer service line for inquiries on accounts or to report outages from a touch-tone phone: (919) 863-6499 or (800) 743-3155

Apply now: Wake Electric offers college scholarships

Wake Electric will offer college scholarships to students living in homes of its member-consumers. Students planning to attend either an accredited four-year college in North Carolina, community college, technical or vocational school in the state are eligible to compete.

A \$1,500 scholarship, named in memory of former Wake Electric employee, Fred Alford, will be awarded to the top candidate selected by an independent judging panel.



Requirements for this scholarship include the following criteria:

- Must be a child of a Wake Electric member or live in a home served by Wake Electric
- Must be a high school graduating senior
- Must pursue a regular four-year undergraduate course leading to a baccalaureate degree
- Must plan to attend an accredited four-year institution in North Carolina

In addition to the Alford Scholarship, up to eight additional scholarships of \$500 or more will be awarded. Known as the Touchstone Energy® Scholarships, these scholarships are not limited to recent high school graduates, and may be used at one of the state's community colleges, vocational or technical schools, as well as at a four-year college.

The requirements for the Touchstone Energy® Scholarships are as follows:

- Must be a child of a Wake Electric member or live in a home served by Wake Electric
- Recipients of the Touchstone Energy Scholarships must use these funds at a N.C.college or university, community college,vocational or technical school.

To apply for any of the Wake Electric scholarships, applicants must provide the following information:

- Transcript from high school, college or university, community college, vocational or technical school
- Short essay describing the student's involvement in local club, school and community activities, including a personal history, as well as career goals and how they intend to achieve them. Also, explain why they should receive the scholarship.
- Three letters of recommendation (The judges prefer thoughtful and original observations.)

The criteria for selection for the scholarships are broken into three areas:

- Need: 35%
- Scholastic Achievement: 45%
- Extracurricular Activities: 20%

The deadline for submitting completed applications and supporting materials is March 30, 2007.


Applications are available from Wake Electric and on the cooperative's web site: www.wemc.com.

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Public comments sought on new PURPA standards

On August 8, 2005, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 was signed into law. Among the many provisions of this federal legislation, there are five proposed standards having to do with energy conservation and consumer-driven rate management. These proposals were included as amendments to the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA).

Your cooperative is not required to adopt any of these standards; Rather, it must consider whether or not to implement them.

The five (5) new standards include: (1) Net Metering, (2) Time-Based Metering and Communications, (3) Diversity of Fuel Sources, (4) Fossil Fuel Generation Efficiency, and (5) Distributed Generation Interconnection.

Net Metering

Net metering service is service to an electric customer in which excess electricity generated by the customer from an eligible on-site generating facility is offset against electric energy provided to the customer by the utility during the applicable billing period.

Fuel Source Diversity

Fuel source diversity involves the implementation of a plan to minimize dependence on one fuel source, and to ensure that the electric energy the utility sells to customers is generated using a diverse range of fuels and technologies, including renewable technologies.

Fossil Fuel Generation Efficiency

The fossil fuel generation efficiency standard proposes development and implementation of a ten-year plan to increase the efficiency of a utility's fossil fuel generation.

Time-Based Metering and Communications (Smart Metering)

Time-based metering is a time based rate schedule where the rate paid by electric customers varies during different time periods to reflect the variance, if any, in the utility's costs of acquiring electricity.

Interconnection

The interconnection standard sets forth the terms under which electricity generated by a customer may be connected to a utility's facilities.

Please note that cooperatives in North Carolina purchase all or a considerable amount of their power requirements either from North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation ("NCEMC"), or from large investor-owned utilities, such as Progress Energy or Duke Energy, under long-term full-requirements contracts. For this reason, they would not likely be able to adopt Standards 2 (Fuel Sources) and 3 (Fossil Fuel Generation Efficiency), and their ability to effect aspects of other standards may be limited as well. Commenters are urged to take such limitations into account when presenting their views.

A copy of the complete legislative language relevant to these standards is available online at www.ncemcs.com/purpa/purpadefault.htm, or by mail [ATTN: PURPA Coordinator, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611-7306], or by email at purpa@ncemcs.com. A copy will be provided at cost.

For us to fully consider the views of our members, our statewide trade association, NCAEC, will conduct a public comment and hearing process as set forth below:

- Initial Comments: to be submitted on or before April 6, 2007.
- Reply Comments: to be submitted on or before May 11, 2007.
- Request to Participate in Public Hearing: to be submitted on or before May 11, 2007.
- Public Hearing: to be held on May 23, 2007, commencing at 9:00 a.m. at the North Raleigh Hilton, 3415 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609-7330.
- Determination: to be rendered on or before August 7, 2007.

Initial Comments - These comments should be typed (if possible), double spaced and paginated, with appropriate headings so the reader will clearly know which of the five standards is being addressed. The comments should identify the name of the commenting party along with the address, telephone number, and (if available) the email address of the commenting party. NCAEC requests that at least three copies of the comments be mailed to the following address:

PURPA Coordinator
NCAEC
P.O. Box 27306
Raleigh, NC 27611-7306 or e-mailed to
purpa@ncemcs.com