



Power Facts

An informational publication for members of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative concerning electricity and related subjects.

April 2009

Spring Cleaning Can Help You Save \$\$\$\$

By including your appliances in your spring cleaning, you can help them operate more efficiently and save money.

- Change filters for air conditioner and furnace.
- Vacuum the condenser behind the refrigerator.



- Clean dust and lint from vents and ducts.
- Defrost the refrigerator.
- Dust lamp shades and light bulbs.
- Clean the oven and liners of stove burners.

Always Call Before You Dig



Building a deck? Planting a tree? Installing a mailbox? 811 is the new number you should call before you begin any digging project.

A new federally-mandated national “Call Before You Dig” number, 811 was created to help protect you from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects. Due to concerns about project delays, costs, and previous calls about other projects, people often make risky

assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked before digging. These assumptions can be life-threatening.

Every digging job requires a call – even small projects like planting trees or shrubs. If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs.

Smart digging means calling 811 before each job. Whether you are a homeowner or a professional excavator, one call to 811 gets your underground utility lines marked for FREE.



One easy phone call to 811 starts the process to get your underground utility lines marked for free. When you call 811 from anywhere in the country, your call will be routed to your local One Call Center. The operator will ask you for the location of your digging job and will route your call to affected utility companies. Your utility companies will then send a professional locator to mark your lines within a few days. Once your underground lines have been marked, you will know the approximate location of your utility lines and can dig safely.

Don't assume you know what's below. Protect yourself and those around you.

Call 811.



“Kids Say The Darndest Things...”

Here are some original ideas on how we might solve today’s energy needs as suggested by elementary school children:

1. Lower people’s body temperature to 68 degrees F.

2. Put more hot sauce in all the food.

3. Give free earplugs to everyone so if somebody starts talking about how cold or hot he is, nobody has to listen.

4. Eat more carrots so we can see just as good with less light.

5. Keep a dog that is trained only to bark if the temperature gets too high or too low.

6. Make it a rule that there has to be at least two people in every big bed that uses an electric blanket.

7. Find out if tulip bulbs give off heat.

8. Don’t drink so much water in the summertime. Then you won’t have so much humidity in you and you won’t feel the heat so bad.

9. Save everything! Stop the making of wastebaskets.

10. Have radio stations play all their music faster in the winter so everybody will move around and keep warmer that way.

11. Let people wear their swim trunks everywhere. And give everybody free suntan lotion. And build a swimming pool on every block.

12. Dip everything that is made into stuff that glows in the dark.

(and this always shows up when talking with kids . . .) 13. Don’t have so many days of school.



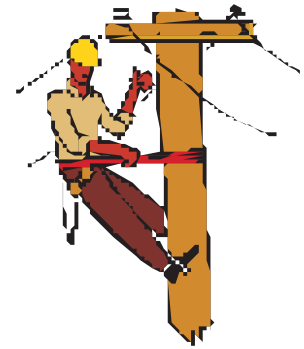
Help Keep Our Linemen Safe!

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative’s linemen must climb up and down poles in all kinds of weather, day and night. Making sure you have electric service can be a dangerous job for them.

Their work is made even more hazardous if people attach birdhouses, basketball goals, or satellite dishes to power poles. Hanging signs and posters on poles may seem harmless, but the nails or heavy staples could cause a fatal accident.

Just one small nail or tack left in a pole can cause injury to a lineman in a number of ways. It can keep the spurs on his climbers from going into the pole and he could fall, or it could snag the rubber protection he is wearing and cause him to receive electrical shock.

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative linemen are committed in providing you with dependable electric service. Show them you care. Don’t use power poles for displaying signs or posters, and don’t attach anything to poles.



Make Ahead Apple Salad

Salad



3 red apples, diced but not peeled
1 cup miniature marshmallows
½ cup chopped celery
½ cup chopped nuts
½ cup crushed pineapple, drained
½ cup raisins

Combine above ingredients and toss lightly.

Dressing

¼ cup sugar
2 Tablespoons flour
1 cup water

2 Tablespoons vinegar
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 Tablespoon butter

Combine all dressing ingredients in a saucepan and bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and cool. When dressing is cool, pour over the salad and toss lightly again. Refrigerate. Will keep five days.

This recipe was submitted by Janie Lanier of Hurt. She says, “This is one of my favorite apple recipes.”