



Power Facts

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

February 2009

Education

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (MEC) operates on seven Cooperative Principles. **Education, Training, and Information** is Number 5. It states, Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public [particularly young people and community leaders] about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

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Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative

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(434) 372-6200

Emporia District
(434) 634-6168

Gretna District
(434) 656-1288

Do You Know?

What is a Cooperative? A cooperative is a business owned and controlled by the people who use its services. Its course is set through an elected board of directors.

How many directors does Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (MEC) have? 11

In how many counties does Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative provide electric service? Nine. Brunswick, Charlotte, Greenville, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Pittsylvania, Southampton, and Sussex.

How many accounts does MEC actively serve in those nine counties? 31,376

Does one office serve all those accounts? No, there are three district offices—one in Chase City, one in Gretna, and one in Emporia.

How much distribution line does it take to serve that many accounts? 4,365 miles

What does Touchstone Energy mean? Electric cooperatives were established to provide electricity to rural America, and now make up the largest electric utility network in the nation. Touchstone Energy is the national brand identity for that network. Touchstone Energy co-ops are owned by the members they serve and are committed to providing reliable electricity at the lowest price possible. In short, co-ops "look out" for the members they serve. There are more than 660 electric cooperatives in 46 states. Co-ops collectively deliver power and energy solutions to more than 30 million members every day.



Electric Cooperative Service Territory

Exercise Caution Around Electricity

Use Your Head When You Dry Your Hair

If you've bought a hair dryer lately, you probably noticed a warning tag attached to the power cord. There's a good reason for the warning tag. You could be injured if your hair dryer is used improperly around



water. It happens every year to hundreds of Americans. And unfortunately, most people use their hair dryer in the bathroom near showers and bathtubs. So, before you plug in your hair dryer next time, give the warning tag a read. Never use it near water. Never stand on a wet floor while drying your hair. And never leave your hair dryer where a young child can reach it. We want you to have great-looking hair, but please use your head when you use your dryer.

Power Lines Are For The Birds

Don't let the apparent safety of your feathered friends make you think it's okay to work near power lines. Because it isn't. Power lines can be dangerous. So, always keep a reasonable distance away.

Try to avoid working near them on a ladder. But in no circumstances should you use a metal ladder near power lines. Never place any ladder near a power line when it's fully extended and difficult to maneuver.

And be very careful when using any metallic tools near power lines such as paint rollers or pruning shears.



Take a Little Time



If you're planning to cut down a tree or trim dead branches, take a little time to make sure there are no power lines nearby.

If the tree or branch does touch a power line, call us right away. Wood can be a conductor of electricity if it is damp or retains moisture,

so please don't try to remove the tree yourself. Our experienced personnel know exactly what to do.

Take a moment to assess the situation; you'll be glad you did.

Make Your Home Safe For Children

When babies start crawling, they love to get around and investigate everything.

Childproof your home against electrical hazards. Outlets are fascinating to babies. Keep your children from sticking anything into outlets by installing plastic protective caps.

When bathing your child, make sure all nearby appliances are unplugged. Electricity and water can be a deadly combination. Make sure electrical cords aren't frayed or cracked. Keep them out of the reach of wet hands and mouths.

Curiosity in a baby is a wonderful thing . . . so keep it safe.

