



From left, W.H. Holland, journeyman lineman, serviceman first class; Eric Galford, journeyman lineman; Daniel Hobson, apprentice; and Austin Williams, entry-level trainee, at the southern Alabama coast.

Holiday Office Closings

Community Electric Cooperative will be closed for the following holidays:

Thanksgiving – Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27

Christmas – Thursday, Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 25

New Year's Day – Friday, Jan. 1

As always, if you experience a power outage, CEC can be reached 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by dialing 855-700-2667. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

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After-hours Outages
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Community Electric Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

On Sept. 17, Community Electric was among six electric cooperatives from Virginia and Maryland that dispatched emergency teams of lineworkers to Alabama to help restore power in the aftermath of Hurricane Sally.

CEC's four-man crew was part of a team of 70 lineworkers who traveled through remnants of the storm to the Gulf Coast, where they spent several days in the service territory of Baldwin Electric Membership Corp.

Baldwin EMC had more than 78,000 members in the dark after Sally lashed the coast, destroying miles of power lines and thousands of power poles.

"We are fortunate to be part of a nationwide network of more than 900 not-for-profit electric cooperatives," says CEC Communications Manager Jessica Parr. "Our unique mutual-aid program was created years ago to provide skilled assistance in restoring power following severe weather and natural disasters. Our crews never hesitate to answer the call from our sister co-ops." Earlier this year, Community Electric was on the receiving end of this assistance following Tropical Storm Isaias.

The collaborative effort, coordinated by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives, was the Association's largest mutual-aid response since Hurricane Irma in 2017. CEC crews safely returned home on Sept. 26.



Improper Generator Use Can Be Deadly

Hurricanes, winter weather and other severe storms leave many without power every year. Unfortunately, the majority of the deaths attributed to these storms is often linked to improper use of generators.

There are two major types of generators: portable and standby or permanent. During long-term power outages, many rely on portable generators for emergency power. Their growing popularity has resulted in millions of them being placed in homes and small businesses across the nation. But it's estimated only a small percentage are installed correctly. Community Electric Cooperative urges members to understand the proper safety steps that must be taken.

Without taking the proper precautions, using a generator could endanger you and others; in fact, it could cost you your life or the lives of others, including your family, friends, neighbors and electric utility crews trying to restore service.

"We cannot emphasize this enough: NEVER use a generator indoors or in enclosed spaces such as garages (even if garage door is open), crawl spaces or basements," advises CEC Operations Manager Glen Presson. "Make sure the generator has 3 to 4 feet of cleared space around it and place it at least 20 feet away from all doors and windows. Do not use in an area that is wet or damp, and never plug a generator into a wall outlet or connect directly to a home's wiring."

"Carbon monoxide emitted from generators is an odorless, colorless, toxic gas, making it extremely dangerous, and just being exposed to it for a few minutes can be fatal," Presson warns.

PERMANENT STANDBY GENERATORS

Properly connecting the generator into the system is a critical step for safe and effective use. A licensed professional should install a permanent, standby electric generator and can help with proper equipment for safely using a portable generator.

All standby generators require a permanently (and professionally) installed transfer switch. (High-end generators permanently installed to power some or all rooms of the home typically have the switch built into the system. Other generators require you to manually throw the switch.)

The transfer switch has an important job, and that is to break the path of electricity between the power lines and your main electrical panel. This is the best way to protect you, your neighbors and electric utility repair crews from "backfeed," which occurs when an improperly connected generator begins feeding electricity "back" through the power lines. This can seriously injure anyone near lines, especially crews working to restore power.

"Safety for those who use generators and for those who work to restore power cannot be over-emphasized," says Presson. "Consult a qualified electrician to ensure proper installation and electrical grounding, as well as to prevent circuit overloads and to meet local electrical code."

For more information on permanent generators and to receive a free quote, please visit comelec.coop/standby-power or contact Glen Presson at 757-242-9259, option 1.

PORTABLE GENERATORS

Many homeowners choose smaller, portable generators to power essential electrical equipment during outages. Safe Electricity offers these tips for the safe operation and use of portable generators:

- **Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions to properly ground the generator.** Be sure you understand them before hooking up the generator.
 - **Maintain adequate ventilation.** Generators emit carbon monoxide. NEVER operate a generator in your home, garage or other enclosed building. Place it in a dry, outside location.
 - **Never plug a portable electric generator into a wall outlet or connect directly to a home's wiring.** This can energize utility power lines and injure you or others working nearby. Electrical backfeed also can damage the generator and home electrical equipment.
 - **Turn off generator and allow cooling before refueling.** Gasoline and its vapors may ignite if they come in contact with hot components or an electrical spark. Store fuel in a properly designed container in a secure location.
 - **Protect your appliances.** Turn off or disconnect all appliances and lights before you begin operating the portable generator. Once the generator is running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit.
 - **Use proper extension cords.** Use only safety-tested, shop-type electrical cords designed and rated for heavier, outdoor use to connect appliances. Many generators are equipped with twist-lock connects to reduce the chance of accidental disconnections due to vibrations.
 - **Shut down generator properly.** Before shutting down a generator, turn off and unplug all appliances and equipment being powered by the generator.
 - **Remember maintenance between uses.** It's important to drain the gasoline from the generator while it is being stored. It's also a good idea to inspect the fuel and oil filters, spark plug, oil level and fuel quality, and start the generator on a regular basis before an emergency situation happens.
- Community Electric suggests that these safety guidelines and basic operating instructions be posted in the home and with the generator.

Source: safeelectricity.org

10% OFF, PLUS

EXTENDED 10-YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY
ON ALL 20-KW STANDBY GENERATORS

*Offer ends 12/31/2020 and is only valid for all CEC members.



Energy Efficiency



Tip of the Month



Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cabinets and closets. Don't forget to replace caulk and weatherstripping around windows and doors.

Source: energystar.gov

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER

Don't forget to fall back on November 1. Set your clocks back by one hour.



Make your holidays more green!

Save energy and money with LED holiday lights.



Community Electric Cooperative

A Sustainable Energy Cooperative



Electric Cooperatives Accepting College Scholarship Applications



Electric cooperatives in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware are preparing to accept applications for their popular scholarship from high school seniors who intend to pursue higher-education studies.

The scholarships are awarded by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives' Education Scholarship Foundation, which since 2001 has provided almost 800 scholarships to graduating high school students totaling more than \$740,000.

"This program has helped hundreds of students advance their education and demonstrates once again how electric cooperatives are committed to their member-consumers and the communities they serve," says Richard G. Johnstone Jr., president and CEO of the VMD Association.

The open date for applications is Sunday, Nov. 1, while the application deadline is Friday, Feb. 19, 2021. Award recipients will be notified no later than June 1, 2021. The online application and additional information is posted at vmdae.com/scholarship.

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— Richard G. Johnstone Jr.
President and CEO, VMDAEC

Any high school or home-schooled senior graduating in spring 2021, and whose primary residence is served by a VMD member cooperative, is eligible to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship to be applied to a two- or four-year college or trade school.

An applicant must be entering his or her first semester at a post-secondary or technical/trade school in the fall of 2021. Scholarship funds, which will be sent directly to the educational institution, must be used toward tuition, student fees, room and board, or textbooks.

To be considered complete, SAT and/or ACT score reports must come from the College Board. A score report must be uploaded by the student in the online application system. Scores listed on transcripts do not qualify. If a student has taken the SAT more than once, he or she can take the best score from each test ("Super Score"), but both tests must be submitted in the package to qualify.

If a student's ability to take a test has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, special arrangements may be made.

The Foundation's board of directors will select recipients based on these weighted criteria: financial need at 40%; academic achievement at 40%; and personal statement at 20%.

Questions about donations and the application process should be directed to Sam Brumberg, scholarship program coordinator, at sbrumberg@vmdae.com.