

## CHEC offers Hatteras Island storm and hurricane preparedness information

Hatteras Island residents should be prepared in advance with a detailed plan for extreme storms or hurricane weather on Hatteras Island. Have a detailed and practical evacuation plan ready should emergency evacuation be advised.

Take into consideration that electric service may be interrupted at any time during storm conditions. Emergency services for restoration of the electricity, as well as rescue services, fire and medical services will not resume until it is safe to do so. Always stay away from downed or low hanging power lines. Report downed or low hanging power lines to CHEC. Do not approach restoration crews while they are at work. They are focused on restoring electricity and an interruption can interfere with their progress and their safety.

### Evacuation

*Before evacuating:*

- Turn heating/cooling systems off at the thermostat
- Leave a street-side outside light on to alert restoration crews that the power is restored
- Turn off breakers to ground floor electrical receptacles
- Remove all loose items from outdoors, including window/door screens and outdoor furniture
- Unplug electronics, lamps and appliances, including refrigerators which will need to be emptied

### Following Evacuation and return to the island

- Stay away from downed/low-hanging power lines. Report their location to CHEC immediately.

- Do not restore power to receptacles or to appliances that have been wet or damaged until they are checked by a qualified electrician.
- Wait to turn on heating/cooling systems until news releases are issued from CHEC or Dare County that indicate adequate power is available on the island.

### Portable Generators

Although generators can be a good source of power during emergencies, if they are improperly installed or operated, they can become deadly.

Do not connect generators directly to household wiring. Back feeding generator power along power lines can electrocute anyone coming in contact with those power lines, including line crews making electrical repairs following the extreme weather. Do follow these generator safety precautions:

- Make sure the generator is properly grounded.
  - Keep the generator dry.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator.
- Extension cords used with the generator must be free of cuts, worn insulation and have three-pronged plugs.
  - Do not overload the generator or electrical cords being used.
  - Do not operate the generator in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. Generators produce high levels of deadly carbon monoxide gas.
  - Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to connect to the generator.



- Prior to shutting down the generator, remove electrical load and allow the generator to run for five minutes to cool down generator windings.
- Always shut down the generator and allow it to cool before refueling.
- Keep a portable fire extinguisher of the appropriate type available near the generator.

See page 26-27 of this Carolina Country issue for the "Storm Watch," your guide to being prepared.

# CHEC honored for safety program

CHEC received national recognition for its comprehensive safety program. The Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program, which recognized the electric cooperative, is one of the few programs in the country that provides a management tool for continuous safety and loss control assessment that is specific to electric utilities. The program was founded in 1967.

The co-op's 5th safety certificate was presented to CHEC at the annual meeting of members on May 9 in Buxton.

CHEC is a member-owned electric cooperative serving more than 7,000 members in Dare County.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives serve 2.5 million people in 93 of the state's 100 counties.

# CHEC reports patronage capital allocation

As a cooperative, CHEC operates as a non-profit organization returning the profits or margins to its members. After closing the record books each year, these margins are allocated to the members based on the dollar amount of electricity purchased during the year. This allocated margins are referred to as "capital credits."

A portion of these capital credits is refunded to the members around December of each year. These refunds are in the form of checks or are returned to members as credits on their bill. The remaining capital cred-

its not refunded to members in a calendar year are invested in the facilities of the cooperative and also are retained as operating funds.

While these funds will indeed eventually be refunded to the member, they are retired and refunded over a 30-year period. This allows the cooperative to reduce costs by reducing the amount of money the cooperative has to borrow, repay and pay interest on.

The patronage capital allocation factor per \$100 of electricity usage for 2010 is \$12.86.

# CHEC member services

CHEC offers a variety of products, program and services that benefit our members. Make sure you take advantage of everything your co-op offers!

- ▼ E-mail notification of planned outages and other important information
- ▼ Capital Credits (current & former members should provide current address)
- ▼ Co-op Connections discount program card
- ▼ Carolina Country and Cape Hatteras Highlights (also available online)
- ▼ ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union Membership
- ▼ Automatic Bank or Credit Card Draft
- ▼ Online Bill Payment
- ▼ E-Bill (please provide e-mail address and request to switch to e-bill)

- ▼ Budget Billing
- ▼ No convenience fee with Credit Card and E-check payments
- ▼ Low Interest Loans for qualified Energy Efficient products
- ▼ Energy Star Appliance Rebate
- ▼ Secondary Refrigerator/Freezer Turn-in Rebate
- ▼ MARATHON Water Heater Program
- ▼ Kill-a-Watt Loaner Program
- ▼ Security Lights
- ▼ Backup Generators
- ▼ Surge Protection

For more information on any of these benefits, please call (252) 995-5616 or visit [www.chec.coop](http://www.chec.coop).

## Director recognized for years of service

Richard A. Midgett of CHEC has been recognized for 15 years of service to the electric cooperative. The commendable service awards were presented at the N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives' (NCAEC) annual meeting on April 7. Midgett, a native of Hatteras Island and resident of Hatteras village, joined the CHEC board of Directors in 1995 and now serves as board president.



## CHEC new employee

CHEC welcomes Michelle Ditton as an accountant. Michelle will work closely with the billing, warehouse and finance functions of the co-op.

Michelle grew up in Perry, Kansas. She graduated from the University of Phoenix with a masters degree in accounting. Prior to CHEC, Michelle worked as an accountant at the Kansas City Orthopedic Institute. Michelle began at CHEC on March 14 and resides in Buxton with her fiancé and two daughters.



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