

Roanoke Electric **FLASHES**

Vegetation management clears the way

Maintaining right-of-way (ROW) for power lines has its share of challenges for the crews at Roanoke EC. In the battle against power outages, it's the co-op's most effective weapon.

A right-of-way refers to the pathway an electric line follows, whether it's along the road or through the woods. ROWs provide line crews with access to lines for improvements, maintenance and repairs. They also provide an operational safety zone between the electric lines and trees, buildings, etc. On the majority of its lines, Roanoke EC holds easements that give it the right to clear land on 20 feet from either side of the pole.

The co-op's ROW maintenance program has two phases: mechanical clearing and herbicide application. Both methods are used to balance cost effectiveness and environmental impact.

During the mechanical clearing phase, bucket trucks, mowing machines, chain saws and hand-held tools are utilized. The results from the mechanical clearing will last for about 3 to 5 years before the process should be repeated. The herbicides method treats hardwood



Maintenance program increases safety and reduces power outages.

sprouts. This eliminates the need to recut and reduces the amount of work during the next mechanical clearing phase. Roanoke EC uses herbicides registered and approved by the Environmental Protection Agency and are applied in compliance with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture's Division of Pesticide Control.

ROWs must be periodically re-cleared to ensure public safety and an acceptable level of service reliability. Keeping lines clear of trees and brush also sustains a safe environment for our consumers, the general public, co-op employees and construction contractors. Many outages are a direct result of insuffi-

cient ROW maintenances; therefore, keeping electric lines clear of trees and other undesirable vegetation minimizes outages and provides easy access for line maintenance and inspections.

Currently, Roanoke EC crew members can be seen throughout the service area performing vegetation management clearing ROWs up to 20 feet away from the poles. Roanoke EC spends approximately \$550,000 clearing over 2,000 miles of land beneath power lines yearly. It's an ongoing project that promotes the safe and efficient flow of electricity to more than 14,500 members served by the co-op.



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Roanoke EC officials elected to national and state cooperative boards

At the April 3 annual meeting of N.C. electric cooperatives organizations held in Raleigh, the following Roanoke EC were elected to various boards:

Curtis Wynn, president and CEO of Roanoke EC, has been re-elected to represent North Carolina as a member of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) board of directors by a popular vote of N.C. electric cooperative leaders.

NRECA is the national service organization that represents electric cooperatives and their members. The NRECA board of directors, consisting of 47 members, elects one representative from each state containing an electric cooperative. In this capacity, Wynn will serve as a liaison for the state's 26 electric cooperatives while helping set policy for their national arm. Wynn is approaching his 16th year of serving Roanoke EC as its leader.



Curtis Wynn

Columbus Jeffers, a Roanoke EC district director, was elected to the Tarheel Electric Membership Association's (TEMA) board of directors for a three-year term.



Columbus Jeffers

TEMA, a material supply organization founded in 1975, began as the brainchild of 26 member-cooperatives that combined their efforts to purchase materials, equipment and supplies at competitive prices. TEMA's modern ware-

house contains 112,000 square feet of storage space. To ensure economy, 24-hour service, and on-time delivery, supplies are shipped by common carrier and contract haulers.

TEMA maintains a multi-million-dollar inventory to respond rapidly to customer needs. In the event of a storm or other emergency, TEMA goes to work immediately to direct materials and crews to where they are needed.

Allen W. Speller, chairman of the Roanoke EC board of directors, was elected as president of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives (NCAEC) board of directors.



Allen W. Speller

NCAEC is a statewide association that has worked since 1943 to promote training, safety, education and legislative advocacy on behalf of electric cooperative members and the public. NCAEC programs serve the needs of their 26 member cooperatives, which are member owned, not-for-profit and overseen by a board of directors elected by the membership. While serving as president, Speller will be the principal executive officer of the cooperative and shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the board of directors 126500-001.

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

Roanoke EC awarded blue ribbon at N.C. electric cooperatives' annual meeting

Roanoke Electric Cooperative took home the "blue ribbon" at the recent annual meeting of North Carolina's electric cooperatives.

Roanoke EC finished first in the state for 2012 in per capita contributions to the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE), the national political action committee of the nation's more than 900 electric cooperatives.

The per capita award is the average contribution to ACRE from all eligible contributors and reflects a strong commitment to the ACRE program from Roanoke EC's members, board of directors, management and employees.

Curtis Wynn, Roanoke EC president and CEO, stated, "We're thankful to our members not just for their contributions to the political action committee but the

grassroots effort their support demonstrates."

He further went on to state that it takes the full support of the cooperative membership to send clear messages to Raleigh and Washington on matters affecting our rural areas.

ACRE supports candidates for Congress who support electric cooperatives and helps ensure cooperatives can continue to deliver affordable, reliable energy. ACRE membership is available to cooperative members. For more information or to join, please contact Robin Phillips at (252) 209-2259 or via email at rphillips@roanokeelectric.com.



The time is now to prepare for hurricanes

Advancements in technology warn us of coming storms days in advance, but don't wait until a hurricane forms to start preparing. Hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30 and, when these disasters strike, they pose serious threats to North Carolinians. True preparation starts now. Follow these tips to make sure that you, your family and home stay safe this hurricane season.

Before the Storm

- ❑ Have a family evacuation plan. Determine a safe site for your family to meet and include the safest route to an emergency shelter or other facility.
- ❑ Locate important papers and documents and have them ready to take with you, should you need to evacuate. These items include drivers' licenses, Social Security cards, proof of residence, insurance policies, wills, deeds, birth and marriage certificates and tax records.
- ❑ Put together a disaster supply kit that includes a two-week supply of water, non-perishable food items, a first-aid kit, flashlights, a battery-operated radio, batteries and your prescription medications.
- ❑ Fill your car with gas as soon as a storm is forecasted.
- ❑ Secure your home. Close storm shutters and lock up outdoor objects or bring them indoors.

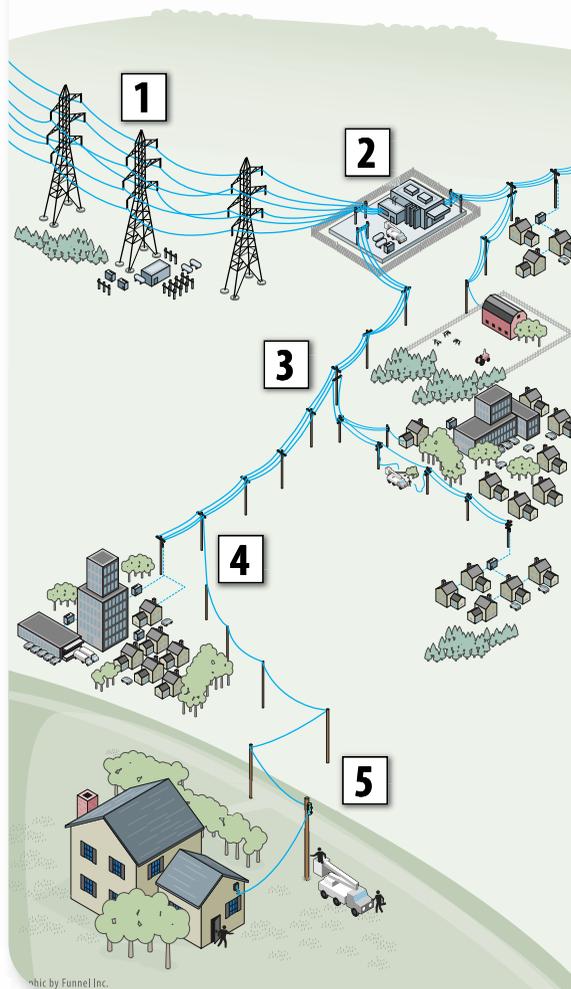
During the Storm

- ❑ Follow hurricane progress reports on the television, radio or online. Have a battery-powered radio on hand in case the power goes out.
- ❑ Avoid windows and glass doors and keep curtains and blinds closed. Take refuge in a small

Powering UP

When electricity goes out, most of us expect power will be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm causes widespread damage, longer outages may result. Co-op line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible.

Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark.



1 High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

2 Distribution Substation

Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist down the line.

3 Main Distribution Lines

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

4 Tap Lines

If local outages persist, supply lines, called tap lines, are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools, and homes.

5 Individual Homes

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issues.

interior room, closet or hallway on the lowest level.

- ❑ If evacuation is necessary, leave as soon as possible and unplug all appliances.

After the Storm

- ❑ Make sure the storm has completely passed before going outside.
- ❑ Never pick up or touch downed power lines. Because the lines could still be energized, report

them immediately by calling your electric cooperative or 911.

- ❑ If your power is out for an extended period of time and your emergency situation requires a generator, have a qualified, licensed electrician connect the generator to your home's main electrical supply. Power from generators can backfeed along power lines and electrocute anyone who comes into contact with them.

Co-op reps discuss issues at Rally in Raleigh

Representatives from Roanoke Electric Cooperative joined more than 150 electric cooperative board members and employees from electric co-ops across North Carolina at the state legislative building on March 13 for the annual 'Rally in Raleigh.'

During the Rally, cooperative leaders met with their local representatives in the North Carolina House and Senate to discuss issues facing electric cooperatives including regulatory reform, copper theft and tax reform 8637-001.

The board and staff of Roanoke EC also shared success stories with elected officials about the projects in their districts including: new construction, energy efficiency, economic development, grid modernization, community outreach and more.

Establishing strong two-way communication between legislators and electric cooperatives is an important component of delivering safe, reliable, affordable electricity in the diverse communities we serve.

Roanoke EC employees compete in Gaff-N-Go Lineman's Rodeo

Roanoke Electric employees Kenny Liverman and Justin Francis competed in the Apprentice Gaff-n-Go Lineman's Rodeo in Ruther Glen, Va., on April 5-6. Nine different states participated in this event. The Rodeo included a written test, hurt man rescue, climbing skills demo test, CPR with AED and primary neutral sag. Forty Apprentices competed.

"The men did an outstanding job for their first time competing," stated Billy Joe Yates, manager of operations at Roanoke Electric Cooperative.



Left: Kenny Liverman. Right: Justin Francis shows his climbing skills.

This was the 11th Gaff-N-Go Lineman's Rodeo and approximately 120 line crewmembers participated.

Community Forum 10 a.m., Saturday, June 29

A "Straight Talk" Community Forum will be held on this date at Windsor Community Center in Windsor. The forums are filled with useful information about rising energy costs, ways to work together to lessen the impact and programs available to assist co-op members in reducing individual energy consumption.

Call (252) 209-2267 for details and to reserve your seat.



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Published monthly
for the member-consumers of
Roanoke Electric Cooperative

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