

the Co-op Connection

AUGUST 2021

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM YOUR POWER PARTNER



Recognizing The Danger In Our Work

As I write this column, Tropical Storm Elsa has just passed the Central Florida Electric Cooperative service area. I am hoping while this newsletter is being put together that all has been quiet with the weather!

Here are a few observations:

- During Tropical Storm Elsa, CFEC members had 158 outages, including 7 broken power poles, affecting 5,646 meters. All outages were restored by 7 am on Thursday, July 8. Besides CFEC's own line side operations, we were able to secure the assistance of those crews listed on the page opposite. Thanks to all these folks!
- Governor Ron DeSantis made a point in every television appearance to highlight what has become the unfortunate killer in the wake of Hurricanes – carbon monoxide poisoning from the improper use of generators. We are thankful this storm was not stronger and the duration of outages were so short that generators were not needed or not used for very long. Information highlighting this very real danger is included on page 4.
- Once again, our members have shown that they are the best of any cooperative! We appreciate your patience for those outages that did occur. Some kind words of encouragement are included on page 3. One theme of these messages are for our line workers to "Be Safe!" This fits with our everyday message, but also one that came to the forefront recently.

Safety is an everyday message here. From constant training to gear checks to well-planned policies, we work diligently to create a safety culture. Unfortunately, a recent incident at a neighboring cooperative served as reminder of the dangerous nature of the work. The

danger is compounded when our staff are working to restore service in poor weather, at night or both. A downed wire, fallen trees on the line or reduced visibility from rain all complicate the work.

When CFEC staff arrive at a job, they need to determine the cause of an outage. First, they perform a rigorous analysis to determine

that electricity is not present, then ensure that all employees have additional measures in place to ensure their safety. These steps take time, and we appreciate your patience as we work to evaluate the location of the damage, what is needed to safely restore power and then perform the work in a way where all our employees return home safely – exactly the way they showed up.

Because of the nature of the work in the field, we ensure that field staff have the training needed, that they have the necessary tools and equipment (and safety gear – and that it is kept in good shape), and that we create an atmosphere focused on safety.

Since the beginning of June, our staff has been in the field clearing outages, mainly because of thunderstorms. Hopefully, this pattern clears soon. Again, we appreciate your patience and look forward to better weather in the near future.



Denny George
General Manager

Cooperative Principles In Action!

Cooperation among cooperatives is one of the seven principles that guide Central Florida Electric Cooperative and other electric cooperatives.

An important part of this is mutual aid provided by other utilities during times of need.

When Tropical Storm Elsa was still moving across the Caribbean, CFEC was in contact with other cooperatives who were ready to come to the aid of members and restore power along with CFEC's linemen and some of our regular contracted companies.

We thank all of these workers for helping serve CFEC's members and we stand ready to help wherever we are needed next.



Burford's Tree



Baird's Tree Service



Dixie Electric Cooperative



Davey Tree



Musgrove Construction



Central Alabama Electric Cooperative

Best Wishes From Our Members:

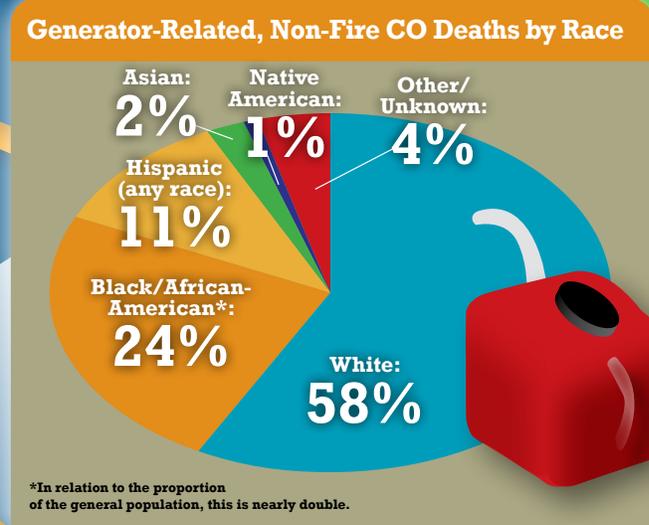
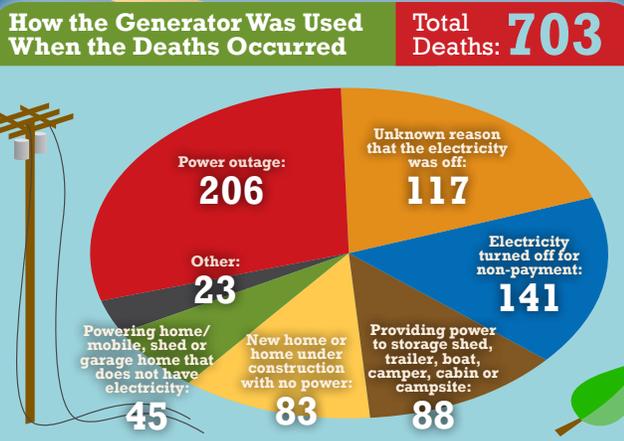
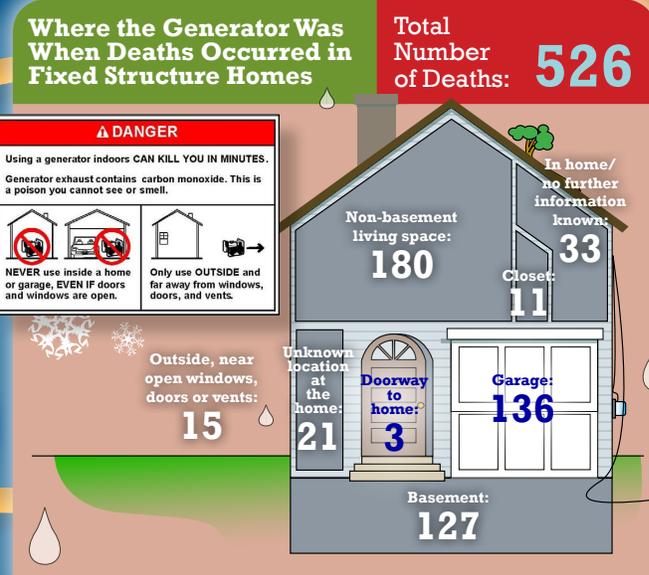
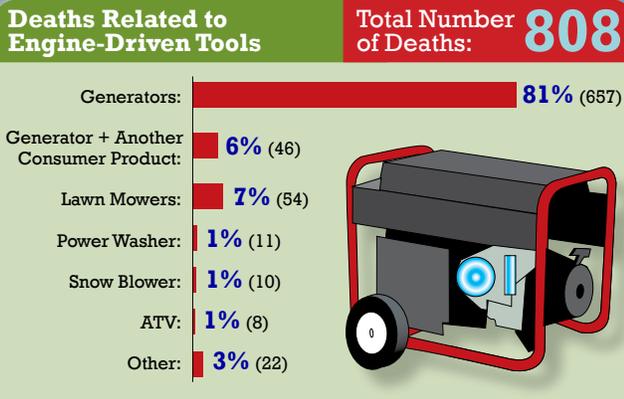
- "Praying for the safety of all your crew members! Thank you for all you do!" Jacki Shehan Clark
- "Thank the linemen for their dedication to the customers. They sure do work hard in a time of need." Rebecca Wilson-Norris
- "Very grateful for such dedication. Stay safe. We appreciate each and every one of you." Melissa Weedman
- "Thank you Central Florida Coop. for your service to your customers. Stay safe." Shirley Hill



PORTABLE GENERATOR-RELATED CARBON MONOXIDE DEATHS

You don't run your car indoors; don't run your generator inside, either.

Most deaths occur in homes during cold months. Data Years: 2004-2013



Carbon Monoxide Safety Tips

- Run portable generators away from the house, garage or any enclosed space.
- Keep generators at least 20 feet away from windows, doors and vents.*
- Install a battery-operated or battery-backup CO detector in the hallway outside bedrooms.
- NEVER ignore a beeping CO alarm. Go outside and call 911 if the alarm sounds.

* Minimum distance recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



NSN 14-10

CFEC Is Ready To Return To School!



Education is a valuable part of Central Florida Electric Cooperative's mission in the community. When students return to school this fall, CFEC will be ready too!

Using an energized model depicting various scenarios where kids might encounter power lines, CFEC personnel demonstrate all the hazards and dangers of electricity. Kids can see the line spark and hear it sizzle, even though they cannot tell by looking at it whether it is energized or not. That is one of the primary messages – you cannot look at a powerline, whether on a pole or down on the ground, and see electricity running through it.

Kids also get to see all the safety gear electric linemen wear and some of their safety tools. The message that electricity, a necessary part of our lives, is nothing to play with or around.

Some tips CFEC shares with kids include:

- NEVER touch a downed power line! Back away from the line, and do not touch anything touching the line, such as a fence or tree, because it may be energized as well.



- Electricity and liquids DO NOT mix! Never place electronics and appliances near water – like next to the sink or tub.
- This tip applies to gaming equipment, too! Never place a drink near your gaming console. Spills could result in electric shock.
- NEVER climb trees near power lines and electrical equipment. Same goes for kites and drones – before you fly them, make sure you're far away from any overhead power lines.
- NEVER pull a plug from an electrical outlet by its cord! Pull from the plug to avoid potential shock. Or, ask an adult to help you.
- Never put metal objects into outlets or an electrical appliance.

It is not possible to know whether a line is energized or not. Always assume that it is and play it safe! While we use electricity daily and it makes our life enjoyable, it is always to be respected because of how dangerous it can be.



Mushroom, Shrimp and Grits with Bacon

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound medium shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 cup mushrooms, sliced
- ½ cup green pepper, chopped fine
- 3-4 slices bacon
- 1 small onion, finely minced
- 1 large garlic clove, minced
- 3 celery sticks, chopped fine
- 1 sprig fresh thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 cup half-and-half
- ½ teaspoon ground cayenne pepper
- 2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Dash hot pepper sauce
- 1 tablespoon parsley, chopped
- 4 servings of grits (your favorite)



PREPARATION

Prepare grits according to package directions; set aside and keep warm. Fry bacon until crisp then remove from pan and set aside. Pour off all but 1 tablespoon of fat in the pan and add olive oil to bacon fat; heat over medium-high heat. Add onion, garlic, celery, green pepper, thyme, bay leaf and mushrooms; saute until soft. Add shrimp and cook until pink and cooked through. Stir in cream, bacon, cayenne pepper, hot sauce and lemon juice; simmer until heated through. Remove bay leaf when ready to serve.

Snapper and Shrimp Scampi | Shrimp Tacos with Cabbage



INGREDIENTS

- 4 (6-ounce) snapper fillets
- ½ pound medium shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 shallots, minced
- 1 tablespoon capers
- 1 tablespoon pimentos, diced
- ½ cup white wine
- ½ cup bottled clam juice
- ½ teaspoon coarse ground black pepper
- ½ cup fresh parsley, minced
- 12 ounces vermicelli or angel hair pasta, cooked
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 tablespoons butter Sea salt, to taste

PREPARATION

Heat the oil and butter in a large sauté pan. Add garlic and shallots and sauté for 2 minutes over low heat, stirring often. Raise heat to medium, add capers, pimentos, wine, clam juice and pepper; simmer for 2 minutes. Add fillets and simmer over medium-low heat for about 5 minutes. Add shrimp, spreading them evenly over the skillet; simmer for 3 minutes until fillets and shrimp are cooked through. Stir in parsley; add salt to taste. Place fillets and shrimp on pasta on individual plates. Spoon scampi sauce over all and serve.



INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound medium-sized shrimp, peeled
- 8 corn or flour tortillas
- ¼ cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- 2 cups cabbage, shredded
- 2 tomatoes, diced
- 1 tablespoon hot pepper sauce (your favorite)
- 1 fresh lime, juiced
- Vegetable oil (cooking)
- ½ cup plain yogurt
- 1 teaspoon dried cumin
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste

PREPARATION

Wrap tortillas in foil and warm in 300-degree oven. Preheat a medium sauté pan over medium-high heat. In a small mixing bowl combine the yogurt, lime juice, cumin and hot sauce. Stir ingredients to combine. Taste, adjusting seasoning with salt and pepper. Set aside the yogurt sauce for later use. Lightly season the shrimp with salt and pepper. Add 1 tablespoon of oil to the preheated sauté pan. Carefully add the seasoned shrimp and cook for 2 to 4 minutes or completely cooked. Assemble tacos by layering cabbage, cilantro and tomatoes in the tortilla shell. Place an even portion of shrimp on top of the vegetables. Spoon the yogurt sauce on top of the shrimp.

Payment Options:

- **In Office / Drive-Through** – Payments can be made at any CFEC location during working hours. Payments can also be placed in the drop-box at each location after hours.
- **By Mail** – Mail payments to: Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 9, Chiefland, FL 32644. Please allow sufficient time for delivery or payment may be received as late.
- **Phone / Online** – Payments can be processed through our third party provider, SEDC. A \$2.50 service fee will be charged by SEDC per \$500 transaction and is NOT a CFEC charge. Payments made through SEDC are posted to the member's account at the time of payment. Pay By Phone at 352-493-2515 or toll free at 844-434-3962. Pay online at www.cfec.com.
- **Bank Draft** – Payments can be made automatically by bank draft by filling out a form and mailing or dropping it off at any CFEC office. The form can be found at cfec.com under the "Documents" tab. Returned checks or payment arrangements cannot be processed by these banks.
- **Bank Locations** – Payments can be made at any Drummond Community Bank location or at the Lafayette State Bank in Bell, Fla., during their normal working hours. Returned checks or payment arrangements cannot be processed by these banks.



**Central Florida Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

~YOUR POWER PARTNER~

MEETING NOTICE:

The Board of Trustees for Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc., meet on the fourth Monday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Cooperative's main office in Chiefland. Members are always welcome to attend.

Register For "Special Needs" Shelter Status

The Florida Division of Emergency Management, in coordination with local emergency management agencies, developed the Special Needs Registry to allow residents with special needs to receive assistance during a disaster. Residents must be registered to enter a special needs shelter, should one be opened in your community.

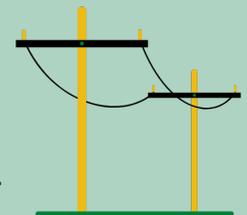


To register for the Special Needs Program, go to the Florida State Emergency Response Team website for Special Needs Registry at <https://snr.floridadisaster.org>.

Create an account by selecting your county from the drop-down menu, then click on "Sign Up." Select a username and password and fill out the questionnaire. If you are unable to complete the registry on the website, contact your county emergency management office.

- Alachua County Emergency Management: 352-264-6500
- Dixie County Emergency Management: 352-498-1240
- Gilchrist County Emergency Management: 386-935-5400
- Lafayette County Emergency Management: 386-294-1950
- Levy County Emergency Management: 352-486-5213
- Marion County Emergency Management: 352-369-8100

To Report A Power Outage:



- **Call: 1-800-227-1302 or 352-493-2511**, follow the prompts of the Automated Outage Response system.
- **Use the CFEC Connect App:** On the Home page, click "Report An Outage," select the issue causing your outage and the information will be submitted.
- **Online:** Click on the "report outage" button located at the top of the website. Fill in the "Identify Outage Location," form and click "submit."

CENTRAL FLORIDA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC



Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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PRSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ORLANDO, FL
PERMIT NO. 3937

MAIN OFFICE

11491 NW 50th Ave.
Chiefland, FL 32626-3247
352-493-2511
or 800-227-1302
www.cfec.com

Physical Address/Payment Locations

MAIL ADDRESS

P.O. Box 9
Chiefland, FL 32644-0009

CROSS CITY OFFICE

207 NE 210 Ave.
Cross City, FL 32628
352-498-7322

INGLIS OFFICE

167 Highway 40 West
Inglis, FL 34449
352-447-3553

ADDITIONAL PAYMENT LOCATIONS

Drummond Community Bank
Lafayette State Bank (Bell only)
For a complete listing of payment locations, go to www.cfec.com.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Are you following the CFEC Facebook page yet?

Like us now to see:

- What's happening in the CFEC service area
- Weather warnings and updates for significant outages
- CFEC announcements and events

Find the page at "Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc."

Connect with CFEC on Facebook now!



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