

## Message from Advise Guy Robby Talton



### Be Prepared For Severe Weather

Having an emergency plan in place is vital to how safe you and your family are when severe weather strikes. Making sure your family is safe is most important, but having an emergency plan can make a big difference after a storm. Many of you remember the impact hurricanes Fran, Matthew, and Florence had on our area.

As a member of South River EMC, you can receive a free, no obligation quote on a whole home generator by simply calling or e-mailing us. We collect your information and a contractor will call you to set up an on-site appointment. They look at the size/load of your home/panel to determine which generator size is best. Keep in mind that you will need to have natural gas or propane for the generator to run. Most gas companies will give you free quotes on the cost of setting a tank and running lines. We recommend that you shop around so you can compare prices and get the best deal.

If you decide to install your own portable generator, safety needs to be a top priority with a portable generator. The primary potential hazards are carbon monoxide poisoning from engine exhaust, electrocution, fire and burns. GenerLink provides a safe and convenient way to connect a portable generator. It simply plugs into the meter base and the meter plugs into it. This will need to be installed by a licensed electrician and we need to be contacted to assist with access to the meter base. It is also important to note that a plug-in transfer switch like GenerLink is not compatible with the whole house surge protection device sold by South River EMC, due to grounding issues.

South River EMC offers surge protection as well. Residential electrical systems and appliances have

become more sophisticated.

With that, they have also become more sensitive. All it takes is a minor spike in voltage to cause issues with sensitive electronic devices in the home. South River EMC offers whole house surge protection as well as smaller plug-in types. Surge suppressors protect sensitive electronic devices by diverting surges to the ground. Adding a second plug-in type device offers a two-stage approach for superior protection for the most sensitive equipment like computers and televisions. All Strike Guard surge protection equipment will be installed by South River EMC employees. Products can be found online at [sremc.com/surge-protection](http://sremc.com/surge-protection). Prior to installation, technicians will check your home grounding system to ensure it is adequate and can support the surge protection equipment.

Along with the items mentioned in this article, you can take steps at home to be prepared and it starts with an emergency plan. Make sure you have flashlights and batteries available. Stock up on food, supplies, and medicine to last a few days. Don't panic and buy everything you see. Make sure you have fuel in your vehicles. Charge up electronic devices and power-banks before a storm hits. If you have medical equipment, you need to make sure you have some type of battery back up to run it. We try to get power restored as quickly and safely as possible, but as stated earlier, sometimes it is out of our hands. All of these actions you can take should be the first thing you do before moving on to larger items such as generators. Please contact [AdviseGuys@sremc.com](mailto:AdviseGuys@sremc.com) for more information.



PO Box 931  
Dunn, NC 28335  
910.892.8071  
800.338.5530  
[sremc.com](http://sremc.com)

