



South River EMC Communicator

PRIORITIZE SAFETY YEAR-ROUND

Although May is Electrical Safety Month, we want to stress the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to you, the members we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.



According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know first-hand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

To us, safety is more than a catchphrase. It's our responsibility to keep you and all members of our community safe. That's why you've seen South River EMC holding safety demonstrations at schools and organizations through the years to demonstrate the dangers of electricity.

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South River EMC offices will be closed Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day.

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ARE YOU MAKING THE GRADES?

Are you a student, or the parent of a student, with at least one A on his or her report card? Then it's time for the "Give Us An A" program!

Grab a copy of your child's most recent report card containing at least one "A" and submit it to:

South River EMC
"Give Us An A"
PO Box 931
Dunn, NC 28335

Or email it to: connections@sremc.com.

Include the member's name, address, South River EMC account number and daytime telephone number. Report cards will not be accepted without this information.

The drawing is held for students achieving at least one A on their report card, and 15 names will be drawn to receive a \$25 gift card.

The program is open to students who are members, or children of members, of South River EMC.

Don't miss an opportunity to celebrate good grades, send that report card to us by July 6.



SOUTH RIVER EMC AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

For some time, high school seniors, and their parents, have been looking toward the start of their college careers.

Recently, four students were selected to receive a \$1,000 South River EMC scholarship.

After reviewing the applications, a committee awarded \$4,000 in scholarships to the following students who live in the South River EMC service area:

Wyatt Holland, son of Johnnie and Jill Holland, of Godwin. Holland plans to attend UNC-Wilmington, to obtain a biology degree, with the intent to become an orthopedic physician.

Alyssa Hargrove, daughter of Kenneth and Allison Hargrove, of Dunn. She plans to attend East Carolina University, to obtain a degree in psychology, with plans to become an occupational therapist.

Amelia Tart, daughter of Chris and Serina Tart, of Roseboro. Tart plans to attend East Carolina University Honor's College, to study biology, with the intent to become an anesthesiologist.

Kaitlyn Giddens, daughter of Paul and Christie Giddens, of Clinton. Giddens is planning to attend East Carolina University, to major in forensic anthropology while double-minoring

in biology and criminal justice with plans to become a forensic pathologist.

Factors considered in the selection process include: character, moral standards, citizenship, past and present academic performance, letters of recommendation, statements of career goals and qualifications; and extracurricular activities.

This scholarship opportunity showcases many wonderful attributes in our students.

Congratulations!



Wyatt Holland



Alyssa Hargrove



Amelia Tart



Kaitlyn Giddens

Don't wait for the next outage event.

Text SREMCTEXT to 000530 or 888.338.5530 to sign up today!

Sign up processing takes about 24 hours, that's why it is best to do so in fair weather.

My power is out.

Mine too, I texted SREMC.

What's the number?

000530—but you have to be signed up.

How?

Thanks!

Text SREMCTEXT to 000530 and you'll be ready if it happens again.

SAFETY continued from page A

We discuss emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines. We caution students on the dangers of pad-mounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices.

Electricity is an integral part of modern life. Given the prevalence of electrical devices, tools and appliances, we'd like to pass along a few practical electrical safety tips.

Frayed wires pose a serious safety hazard. Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use or excessive

current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.

Avoid overloading circuits. Circuits can only cope with a limited amount of electricity. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle – by having too many devices running on one circuit.

Label circuit breakers to understand the circuits in your home. Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years old and you need to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.

Use extension cords properly. Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you "daisy chain" them together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don't exceed the wattage of the cord. Doing so also creates a risk of overloading the cord and creating a fire hazard. Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

We encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines near where they play outdoors.

Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity.

Contact South River EMC at 910.892.8071 or sremc@sremc.com for additional electrical safety tips or if you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school.



STOP THE SURGE

Surges in voltage levels are caused by many different events, with lightning being the most common.

And as we come into our stormy weather season, electric utilities, such as South River EMC, have devices in place on our lines to suppress surges from damaging our equipment and reaching your homes, but many surges cannot be prevented. The best way to protect your appliances is with Strike

Guard equipment.

Surge suppressors are made to protect your electronic equipment by diverting surges away from sensitive electric circuits.



South River EMC offers a whole-house protector, installed at your meter base, as well as plug-in suppressors, which connect to individual pieces of equipment.

Surge protection is a two-step approach, don't leave it to chance.

For more information, visit sremc.com/surge-protection, call 910.892.8071 or email adviseguys@sremc.com.

SOUTH RIVER EMC: Preparing for Spring Storms

South River EMC is constantly monitoring the weather to see its movement in our area.

When severe weather impacts our members, South River EMC's control center and member services representatives will be available 24/7, and members are encouraged to report any power outages through our phone system at 910.892.8071, press 2*, or by texting SREMCTEXT to 000530. Be sure that you are signed up for outage texting at least 24-hours before using it. Please do not report power outages on the Cooperative's Facebook page.

South River EMC is prepared for the severe storms that are expected in our area during the

season. If we experience any power outages or damage to the system, crews will be ready to make repairs as soon as outdoor conditions are safe.

South River EMC maintains a stock of poles, transformers and other equipment, and personnel are coordinating with suppliers should we need additional materials.

South River EMC encourages all members to have a storm emergency kit on hand. We recommend including the following items:

- water (one gallon per person per day, for several days)



- food (three-day supply of non-perishables)
- flashlights
- First Aid Kit/prescriptions
- extra batteries/wireless phone chargers
- manual can opener
- moist towelettes
- extra pet food

For updates in the event of a power outage and restoration efforts, visit our website at sremc.com or follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter @SouthRiverEMC.

IS YOUR HOME READY FOR AN EV?

Electric vehicles, or EVs for short, have really come a long way since the introduction of the first plug-in hybrid Prius in 1997.

The market now boasts four types of electric vehicles: battery electric, plug-in hybrid electric, hybrid, and hydrogen fuel cell. And these options are available from most of the ma-



for auto manufacturers.

So, if you're considering an EV, you should be aware that charging at home is something you'll need to prepare for, you are not able to just come home and plug in your new vehicle. Electric car chargers come in three options, however, only two of those are residential.

Level 1 charging plugs the car into a standard 120-volt outlet and happens at home, as all electric vehicles come with an adapter to plug into Level 1 charging.

Level 2 charging is commonly found in public locations, but can also be installed at home

if a 240-volt outlet is available. Level 2 charging is three to five times faster than Level 1. It is a great option for charging overnight at home.

But the long and short of an EV purchase is that it is not just cleaning out your garage and plugging in your car when you get home.

Like all big purchases, it is something that requires both research and planning. Do the research to ensure your electric vehicle has the appropriate charging option.

OPERATION ROUND UP DEADLINE LOOMS

South River EMC's Operation Round Up program is accepting applications for funding.

The Operation Round Up program is funded by you, our members, and helps local schools and non-profit organizations.

In March, the Community Assistance Corporation awarded \$42,474 in grants to local organizations. Those include the following:

- Plain View Community Center: \$5,000;
- Five and Two Food Pantry: \$10,000;
- Spivey's Corner Volunteer Fire & Rescue: \$4,800;

- Gray's Creek Ruritan Club: \$5,000;
- Hargrove Elementary: \$7,674;
- Hobbton High School: \$10,000.

Since 2008, the Operation Round Up program has awarded \$2.42 million in grants, all thanks to members rounding up each month.

For more information about current and past recipients, visit sremc.com/operation-round, or watch The Communicator.

To speak with someone about Operation Round Up, call 910.892.8071 or email sremc@sremc.com.



Spivey's Corner Volunteer Fire & Rescue

Making improvements, can help improve comfort and costs.



The Appliances We Buy

While an Energy Star certified appliance purchase does have the power to help you save, it is also how you use the appliance that helps you realize the savings.

You could purchase an Energy Star certified washing machine, but you will realize even greater savings by using cold water and only washing once you have a full load.

Purchasing an Energy Star certified refrigerator can save nine percent – this adds up and your family can save even more by limiting the time the door is open.

Energy Star certified dehumidifiers use 15 percent less energy to remove as much as moisture as a similarly sized conventional unit, so that is yet another

savings opportunity to explore, if needed.

South River EMC offers a rebate on the following Energy Star certified appliances: clothes washer and dryer, refrigerator and dehumidifier.

For details on the rebate, visit [sremc.com/energy-star-appliances](https://www.sremc.com/energy-star-appliances) or call 910.892.8071 x 2153.

Fight The Draft

Do you ever feel like your home is drafty? Even the newest homes have air infiltration, or loss of conditioned air outside and vice versa, and it is normal.

The more infiltration though, the more uncomfortable you might find your home to be, and the more costly it will be to heat and cool.

By making improvements you improve not just on comfort, but cost as well.

Drafts typically cause you to adjust the thermostat, making your unit run longer, which adds up. Weatherizing and caulking both help prevent air infiltration, improving comfort and reducing energy losses.

Meanwhile, insulation, which prevents heat transfer, also impacts comfort and cost. If attic insulation is patchy, it allows heat in your home to escape, or heat outside to enter. This loss of conditioned air, is inefficient

and causes comfort issues. By improving insulation levels, heated and cooled air stays in your home – keeping you more comfortable.

South River EMC offers rebates on efficiency improvements, and it's worth a look, since it could also help improve your comfort at home.

For details, visit [sremc.com/insulation-weatherization](https://www.sremc.com/insulation-weatherization) or call 910.892.8071 x 2222.

What Are Your Water Heating Options?

Water heating is the second largest energy use in your home, which is why picking the right water heater is so important.

There is your standard electric water heater, which is a unit that heats water periodically to keep it warm for use, it is typically not the most efficient.

Solar water heating, which uses the sun to heat water, is most cost effective with the right solar resource and good water use. An electric back-up is typically required.

Heat pump water heating is efficient, but requires space and an installer who knows what they are doing. It uses 2-3 times

less energy than the standard water heater and works like a refrigerator in reverse, pulling heat in, instead of out.

For details on the rebates offered by South River EMC visit sremc.com/energy-efficient-water-heating or call 910.892.8071 x 2153.

Items For Consideration In Heating And Cooling

As we move into warmer temperatures, it's important to look over your heating and cooling system. With the average lifespan of such a unit being 10 years, they can also last less time, and you should always be aware

Heat pumps are more efficient for homes in warmer climates, and the seasonal energy efficiency ratio, or SEER, rating measures their cooling efficiency. When in the market for a new heat pump, remember, there are options on types of systems, efficiencies, and sizes.

System types include: the air-source, your typical; the ductless mini-split, popular for additions unconnected to current heating and cooling systems; and the geothermal, a great fit for new construction.

Efficiency plays a role in purchasing because it affects your energy costs. The higher the SEER rating, the more efficient a unit is at cooling during hot summer days. South River EMC offers rebates on units rated at least 17 SEER or above, depending on system type.

Lastly, size. You want a system that meets your needs, without wasting money. Too small a system cannot keep up with the demand and will wear out; meanwhile, too large a system shortens the run cycle of the unit, affecting the lifespan of it. Ensure you are looking at units correctly sized for your home.

If it's time for a new unit, information on rebates offered by South River EMC can be found at sremc.com/energy-star-heating-cooling or by calling 910.892.8071 x 2222.



Making sure your water heater is set to 120 degrees helps save.

What To Know When Replacing A Pool Pump

Maybe it's time for a new pump, or maybe you need a pump for a new pool. Whatever the case, you want to choose the best pump for your pool and your budget, it's a long-term investment in your pool's health. The key is knowing what your pool needs, and what features to look for when shopping.

What does a pool pump do?

It's the heart of your pool's plumbing system. Without it, you wouldn't have pool circulation, and water won't flow through your filtration system to be properly cleaned. And that means, a dirty pool full of stagnant water.

Pool pump types:

Since they were first invented, pool pumps have come a long way, and have evolved from just one to three types on the market.

Single-speed pumps

The single-speed refers to the fact that the motor spins at only one speed according to the horsepower of the motor.

Two-speed pumps

As the name implies, these pumps have two speeds: low and high. The high speed equates to that of a single-speed pump. The lower speed uses less energy, but may not be as efficient at water turnover.

Variable-speed Pumps

More expensive than single- or dual-speed pumps. Instead of an induction motor like the other types, a variable speed pool pump uses a magnet motor. A magnet motor creates less friction than an induction motor, which equals higher efficiency. Variable-speed pumps also consume less power and turn water over faster. Running at lower revolutions per minute than single- and two-speed pumps, they're also quieter.

Pool pump features to look for:

You may know which type you want, but before you make the final decision, be sure you're choosing a pool pump with the right features for your setup.

Horsepower

The more powerful your pool pump is—meaning, the more horsepower it has—the faster it will turn the water over, so you can run it less often for less time. This also depends on the size of your filter and the filtration system's pipes. Don't waste energy and money; choose a pump that won't overwhelm the filtration system, but still has enough horsepower to turn over your pool's volume at an adequate rate.

Pump motor voltage

Your pool pump can either be plugged into, or hardwired into your electrical system. Then,

you'll need to determine whether the pump runs on 110 or 220 volts. Most above grounds require a 110-volt pump. But you'll need to determine what voltage you're working with if you have an inground pool.

How to choose the right size pool pump

To remain clean and clear, the water in your pool must be filtered at least once a day. Your pump must be large enough to turn over your pool's full volume at least once a day. To calculate your pump's turnover rate, you first need to calculate your pool's volume.

Once you have your pool's volume, divide it by eight to determine the number of gallons per hour (GPH) that need pumped through the filter.

Instead of GPH, most pool pumps go by gallons per minute. To get that figure, divide the GPH by 60 to calculate how many gallons per minute (GPM) need to be pumped for full turnover.

Once you have all the numbers, you can find the size of pump that will accommodate the GPM required for your pool.

South River EMC offers a rebate on higher efficiency pool pumps, for details visit sremc.com/pool-pumps.

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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