

Your Energy Connection

Rocky Mount Public Utilities' Monthly Newsletter



December 2016



WINTER WEATHER AHEAD

The onset of the winter season brings the possibility of extremely cold temperatures and winter storms. Use the following safety precautions to help keep your family safe and warm.

Prepare Your Home

If you plan to use a fireplace, wood stove or kerosene heater, install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors near the areas to be heated. Test them monthly, and replace the batteries twice a year. Also, have your chimney or flue inspected each year.

Keep emergency supplies on hand, such as batteries, flashlights, a battery-operated radio, an emergency generator, a first aid kit, a non-electric can opener and extra blankets.

Prepare a Winter Survival Kit that includes several days' supply of non-perishable food and water, baby food and formula, pet supplies, medications and personal care items.

Prepare Your Car

During the winter, keep the gas tank near full to help avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.

Prepare a Winter Survival Kit for your car that includes items such as: blankets, a first aid kit, a windshield scraper, a flashlight with extra batteries, water, food, a can opener, a tool kit and a bag of sand or cat litter (to pour on ice or snow for traction).

For more information about preparing for severe weather, visit www.rockymountnc.gov/utilities.

SAVE ENERGY AND STAY SAFE THIS WINTER

Home Heating

- Keep drapes, curtains, shades and blinds open during the day to take advantage of the heat from the sun (especially on south-facing windows).
- Set the thermostat to 68°F or the lowest comfortable setting.
- Close the damper when the fireplace is not in use.
- Replace air filters monthly.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around windows, doors and openings to the outside to prevent air infiltration.

Space Heaters

- Space heaters should only be used to heat a small space, not the entire home as they can result in higher electric bills.
- Never cover space heaters or place them on top of furniture or near water. Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that could catch fire, such as drapes, furniture, bedding, and walls.
- Avoid using extension cords with space heaters.

Appliances

- Set the water heater thermostat to 120°F for maximum efficiency and comfort.
- Wash clothes in cold water, and wash and dry only full loads. Clean the lint screen in the dryer after every load.
- The recommended temperature setting for refrigerators and freezers is 37-40°F for the fresh food compartment and 5°F for the freezer. Separate freezers for long-term storage should be kept at 0°F.

WEATHERIZATION REBATES AVAILABLE THROUGH ENERGY SHARE



Energy Share is a weatherization rebate program available for all current city of Rocky Mount residential utility customers where the energy source of the home's heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment is city electric or natural gas service. Energy Share is available for homeowners and renters, and customers

may receive benefits for five properties per year. Through Energy Share, customers can receive a cash rebate of up to \$500 for attic insulation, up to \$1,000 for a replacement HVAC system, and/or up to \$250 for duct work. There are no income regulations with this program, but funds are limited. For more information, visit the Planning & Development department page at www.rockymountnc.gov or call (252) 972-1102.

SAFETY TIPS FOR USING GENERATORS

Your portable generator can be a lifesaver during emergencies. To prevent injury to your family and utility workers, however, generators must be used safely and according to the manufacturer's instructions.

- Prevent backfeed and electric shock by only using a generator wired by a qualified electrician.
- Plug electric appliances directly into the generator using manufacturer's supplied cords or undamaged, grounded, heavy-duty extension cords.
- Use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Keep the generator dry, and shut it down before refueling.
- Inspect the portable generator for damaged or loose fuel lines.
- Do not attach a generator directly to the electrical system of a structure unless the generator has a properly installed transfer switch.
- Do not use a generator indoors.
- Only use generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from doors, windows, vents and other openings. This will prevent exhaust fumes from entering the home. Also, install carbon monoxide detectors (either battery-operated or plug-in with battery backup) inside the home.

TRIVIA – ANSWER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!

TRIVIA QUESTION: What city of Rocky Mount program helps low income elderly, disabled or recently laid off customers with paying heating expenses?

Submit answers to trivia@rockymountnc.gov or by calling (252) 972-1269 by Friday, January 13. Include your name and address. Five randomly chosen customers with the correct answer will receive a comfort grip cup sleeve.

November trivia question: "To ensure yard and bulk waste is collected, what number should customers call two business days before their garbage collection day?"

Answer: (252) 467-4800 (option 7)



CONTEST WINNERS

Thank you to everyone who entered the Watt's Cooking Recipe Contest held during the month of October to celebrate Public Power and Public Natural Gas Week. All the recipe entries were judged by Frank Bookhardt, continuing education chef at Nash Community College, based on their creativity and content. Congratulations to the following winners!

- **1st Place: Slow Cooker Black Bean and Quinoa Chili with Butternut Squash**
Entered by Susan Watson
- **2nd Place: French Roast Beef**
Entered by RuthAnn Kleinfelt
- **3rd Place: Kick it up! Taco Soup**
Entered by Patricia Archer

Visit www.rockymountnc.gov/utilities to see all the recipes entered in the 2016 Watt's Cooking Recipe Contest.

CONTACT US

Customer Service(252) 972-1250
Bill payment1-866-288-7608
Start/stop services(252) 972-1250
Utility emergencies(252) 467-4800

CUSTOMER SERVICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.;
Friday: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

www.rockymountnc.gov/utilities

