

Your Energy Connection

Rocky Mount Public Utilities' Monthly Newsletter



February 2016

PREPARE NOW FOR SEVERE WEATHER

Severe weather can happen at any time and can include hazardous conditions caused by damaging winds, tornadoes, large hail, flooding, freezing rain, sleet, and snow.

National Severe Weather Preparedness Week is March 6-12, 2016. This is a nationwide effort to encourage individuals, families, businesses and communities to know their risk of severe weather, take action, and be an example.

The first step to becoming weather-ready is to understand the type of hazardous weather that affects you and your family where you live and work. Next, take steps to make sure you and your family are prepared in the event of severe weather:

- Develop a family communications plan so you will know how to contact one another. Make sure everyone carries a copy in his or her backpack, purse, or wallet. If you complete your plan online at ready.gov/make-a-plan, you can print it onto a wallet-sized card. You should also post a copy in a central location in your home, such as your refrigerator or family bulletin board.
- Put an emergency kit together. The kit should include basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency, such as:
 - » At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food and water (one gallon per person per day)
 - » First aid kit and medications
 - » Flashlight and radio with extra batteries
 - » Infant formula and diapers
 - » Pet food
- Keep important papers and valuables in a safe place.
- Make sure you can receive emergency messages. Sign up for the Code Red Emergency Notification system by calling (252) 972-1376 or visiting www.rockymountfire.org.
- Stay connected through social media. Follow us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/RockyMountPublicUtilities](https://www.facebook.com/RockyMountPublicUtilities), Twitter @[rmtpu](https://twitter.com/rmtpu), or Nextdoor, the free and private social network for neighborhoods. Please do not use social media to report utility emergencies, such as power outages. Always call (252) 467-4800 to report any electric, gas, water or sewer emergencies.

To download an emergency supply list or for more information on how to prepare for severe weather, visit www.ready.gov.



LIGHTNING MYTHS AND FACTS

Your best protection against lightning is to go inside as soon as you hear thunder. Protect your home and family by learning the facts:

MYTH: If it's not raining or cloudy, you're safe from lightning.

FACT: If you can hear thunder, lightning is nearby. Lightning often strikes over 10 miles from the center of a thunderstorm.

MYTH: A lightning strike victim carries a charge and should not be touched.

FACT: Lightning travels at about 220,000,000 mph and will have exited the body by the time you approach. Check for a pulse and render first aid if possible. Call 911 immediately.

MYTH: In the event of a lightning strike, the rubber in a car's tires protects the occupants from being harmed.

FACT: If struck, it is the metal frame of the car that provides protection. The charge travels through the frame and into the ground without harming occupants if they avoid touching anything that conducts a charge.

For more information, visit www.esfi.org.

SAVE MONEY WITH LOAD MANAGEMENT



By using Load Management switches, RMPU is able to reduce our wholesale power costs. These savings are passed on to you in the form of a monthly credit on your electric bill. There is no cost to you for the switches or installation. Plus, earn UP TO \$129 PER YEAR in credits!

- Water Heater: \$2 credit per month
- Heat Strips: \$15 credit during three months of winter (January, February, March)
- Central Air Conditioner: \$20 credit during three months of summer (July, August, September)

Participation in the program is voluntary, and customers may choose which switches to have installed. Credits are issued during specific periods of time; however, appliances may be controlled in other months.

Sign up today! Call (252) 467-4803 or enroll online by visiting www.rockymountnc.gov/utilities/loadmanagement.html.

NEW RECYCLING COLLECTION SCHEDULE

All residential recycling customers now receive bi-weekly collection (every other week). Customers have been assigned to one of two routes (red route or green route). Although scheduled every other week, collection takes place on the same day as the customer's garbage collection. To download the 2016 brochure and collection schedule, visit www.rockymountnc.gov/publicworks. For more information, call (252) 467-4800.

WEATHERIZATION REBATES AVAILABLE



Through the Energy Share program, customers can receive a cash rebate of up to \$500 for work related to attic weatherization and/or up to \$500 for a replacement HVAC system.

RMPU electric and/or natural gas customers may apply, including homeowners and renters. There are no income regulations, but funds are limited. For information about Energy Share or to apply, call (252) 972-1102 or visit www.rockymountnc.gov/energyshare.html.

TRIVIA – ANSWER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!

TRIVIA QUESTION: *What number should you call at least three days before digging to have underground utilities located?*

Submit answers to trivia@rockymountnc.gov by Friday, March 4. Five randomly chosen customers with the correct answer will receive a free jar opener. Please include your name and address in the email.

January trivia question: "What RMPU number should you call to report outages, downed power lines or trees on power lines?" Answer: (252) 467-4800

LOCAL RECYCLING EVENTS

Keep America Beautiful of Nash and Edgecombe counties and the City of Rocky Mount are giving residents two FREE opportunities to dispose of household waste safely and responsibly.

Nash County Recycles Day

Saturday, March 12

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Nash County courthouse parking lot
(234 W. Washington St., Nashville, NC)

Edgecombe County Recycles Day

Saturday, April 23

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Ace Hardware parking lot
(1713 N. Main St., Tarboro, NC)

Featuring:

- Community paper shredding
- Electronics collection
- Fluorescent lighting recycling
- Prescription drug take-back program
(*Paint, engine oil and liquid household waste will not be accepted.*)

For more information, call (252) 467-4960 or visit <http://kab.rockymountnc.gov>.

Monetary donations will be accepted for Keep America Beautiful of Nash & Edgecombe Counties to help offset the cost of this shredding event. Participation is free to the public, however businesses will be charged for shredding per Shred-It of North Carolina's policy.

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

