

Currents

Your Link to Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative



High Voltage. . .



Emergency Preparedness

by Tom Tate
on a suggestion by
Jane Tavares

Outside Tornado Alley and hurricane zones, most of us are able to take the summer off when it comes to thinking about emergency preparedness. As it turns out, now is a great time to be sure we are ready when a disaster strikes. What better way to spend a lazy, hazy summer day than to devise plans for being sure our families, pets and livestock come through an emergency safe and sound?

Let's talk about some basics. According to the US Government (<http://www.ready.gov/america/geta-kit>), your emergency kit should have the following:

◆ **Water**, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation. Be sure you occasionally buy milk in the plastic jugs so you can have them on hand for water. Or, buy a few gallons and store them. If you don't care for the plastic taste, use them and replace with fresh.

◆ **Food**, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food (check out the food insurance alternative later in this article).

◆ **Battery-powered or hand crank**
continued on page 4

Commentary by the President & CEO



Where does my power come from?

by Jim Siglin
President & CEO

Every month you pay your power bill to Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative but have you ever wondered where that electricity comes from?

Generally, it's not produced in your neighborhood. Most electricity travels quite a distance from where it's generated across heavy-duty transmission lines to reach local distribution systems and, finally, your home. In terms of the laws of physics, the electricity that powers your home or business will come from the nearest power plant.

Along the way the electricity changes hands a few times. But co-op members are lucky because in most cases, different types of consumer-owned electric cooperatives are involved at each step to keep power flowing safely, reliably and affordably.

Different Co-ops, Same Goal

Your cooperative is one of roughly 860 electric distribution cooperatives in America. These local, member-owned, not-for-profit utilities build and maintain both overhead and underground lines and the necessary facilities to deliver power. Like most distribution co-ops, Sussex Rural does not generate electricity or directly negotiate with power providers. That role lies with generation and transmission cooperatives (G&Ts).

G&Ts are wholesale power suppliers owned and governed by electric distribution co-ops. They produce electricity directly and/or buy it in bulk from other companies, then ship the power over high-voltage transmission lines (whether owned or leased) to local distribution co-ops.

The first G&Ts were created shortly after the birth of rural electrification in the late 1930s and

SEPTEMBER 2010 • Vol. XIII, Issue IX

Your Cooperative's Offerings Page 2

Tick Races and Turtle Burgers - Only in America

Mayonnaise Page 3

Wanted/Sign Me Up Page 4

early 1940s by groups of distribution co-ops and other publicly owned utilities. The idea was simple: by forming G&Ts, distribution systems could reduce costs by collectively negotiating power supply arrangements and achieve a better price without being held captive by other power generators. Sussex Rural Electric joined the thirteen cooperatives in Pennsylvania to form Allegheny Electric Cooperative (AEC) in 1945.

Today, there are 65 of these G&Ts. A few serve more than 100 distribution cooperatives in several states while others operate in smaller areas. Seventy-eight percent of distribution co-ops receive at least some of their electricity from a G&T.

Generation

Right from the start, many G&Ts began building and operating generating stations. Currently, G&Ts generate about 5 percent of the nation's electricity and own all or part of 200 generating plants with a combined capacity of more than 51,000 MW. That's enough electricity to power approximately 10 cities the size of Las Vegas!

Overall, 45 percent of the power used by distribution co-ops nationally comes from power plants fully or partially owned by G&Ts. Coal-fired facilities account for more than half of the electricity produced by utilities nationally, followed by nuclear power and natural gas. Nineteen G&Ts feature green power generated from wind, solar, biomass and other renewable resources.

AEC delivers 713 MW (at peak load) of power to the 14 cooperatives in PA and NJ. It owns a portion of the Susquehanna Steam Generation facility (a nuclear plant), all of the Raystown Hydroelectric facility and receives a share of the hydropower generated on the St. Lawrence and Niagra Seaway and distributed by the NY State Power Authority. In total, 69% of the power delivered by AEC comes from these sources. This means that 69% of your power supply is carbon-free. The balance of the power needed by the cooperative owners of AEC comes from long term contracts made with other power suppliers.

Transmission

Once generated, electricity can't be stored efficiently. Instead, G&Ts make sure that energy reaches local distribution co-op systems over high-voltage transmission lines. The more electricity packed onto a line (by increasing the voltage), the farther it will travel. Once power

continued on page 3

OUTAGES & EMERGENCIES
— CALL —
877.504.6463

Your Cooperative's Offerings...

Standby Generators

Protect your property and your loved ones with an Cummins-Onan generator from SREC Resources. We can tailor a whole house solution to meet your needs and your budget. Our Cummins-Onan line is one of the best and most reliable in the business and our pricing is very competitive.



Have a need for a larger commercial generator? Let us give you a solution. Sizes up to 2 MW are available and rates may apply to help you save money with peak shaving.

GenerLink – Connect your Generator the Safe & Easy Way

A typical generator connection means installing a transfer switch and a sub panel. Expensive and inflexible. What if you want to power something not on the sub panel? No way that's happening.



Solve the problem with the GenerLink. This meter-based device makes connection a breeze and allows you full flexibility in what you power – up to the rated capacity of your generator. Need to run a freezer for a while and the generator is at capacity? Flip a breaker on a load you can do without for a while and connect the freezer.

Amperage	Standard	w/Surge Protection	Labor
30	\$660	\$775	\$160
40	\$780	\$870	\$160

Whole House Surge Suppression

Winter storms, lightning strikes, automobile accidents, animals, equipment failure. What do these things have in common? They all can create surges in our lines that can damage appliances and electronics in homes.

Homeowner insurance can cover these losses but why not protect yourself from such incidents to begin with? A whole house surge protector when used with strip devices and proper home grounding gives you the best possible protection.



Easy to install, the TESCO surge protector mounts right behind your meter and provides the first line of defense against surges entering your home by the electric line. Limit your risk today!

Marathon Electric Water Heaters

One of the largest users of energy in your home is your water heater. When that heater is part of your fur-

nace it means you run your furnace in warm months just for hot water.

Save money and rest your furnace with a Marathon water heater. Up to 94% efficient and guaranteed for life against leaks. The perfect tank for our area and the last water heater you'll ever need.



Load Control Program

While on the topic of water heaters, consider adding a load control device to that new Marathon. We install the device before the Marathon leaves our warehouse. Once connected, you receive a one time bill credit and join over 1500 members who help us control our energy costs.

These devices have been on our system for over 20 years. When demand for electricity is high, we control power to the water heater and avoid the purchase of expensive energy. You benefit by lower rates all year.

Already have an electric water heater? Let us install a device and you'll receive a small bill credit for your participation. And, if you have a central air conditioner, we can offer an ongoing credit for your participation.

We designed the program so you never notice it working and there is no cost to you to join.

Save with

Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Heat

You read this correctly – save with electric heat. Not too long ago that statement would have generated snickers if not outright laughter. Today, with fossil fuel prices showing wide fluctuation and high prices, electricity is once again the way to heat your home.

ETS works this way. Bricks contained in well insulated housings are heating during off-peak hours when we can sell our electricity for a much lower rate. When our cost of power increases at times of peak demand, we turn off the power to the heating elements and small fans and pumps circulate air or water over the hot bricks.



You heat your home for less and enjoy greater comfort than with traditional systems.

In use in our area for more than 20 years, the time is right to rethink electric heat.

We'll size the system according to the heating needs of your home and arrange for professional installation. Or, you can don your contractor cap and we'll provide you with the details needed to complete the project.

Outdoor Lights

There is one thing to be said about life in a rural environment, it's dark at night. This is preferred by most but there are those who like to see what is going on around their house at night or want a safer driveway or parking area. Then there are those who just like to light up their home for all to see. Whether for landscaping or security reasons, we



offer lights to meet your needs: area, landscape and architectural. For a set monthly fee, we install and maintain the lights. You get the illumination, we take care of the rest.

Worried that these lights waste energy? We are looking at high efficiency alternatives. Ask us for more detail.



e-Bill and Bank Drafts

Why pay bills the old-fashioned way? You know, write a check, stuff an envelope, get it to the post office and wait. Let us simplify your life in at least this area – use our on-line bill payment options. The process is easy, wend your way to our website and under the "Your Bill" heading click to get started.

You can select from the option of having the bill drafted monthly from your checking account, just like insurance and other services do. Or you can elect to receive a notification and then make your payment.

Already using your bank to pay our bill? Please consider switching. Bank systems actually increase our cost of processing payments, something our system does not.

Ready to get started?

Please use the form to request more information. Fill it out and mail it in. Or, use one of these methods for faster service:

Generators & GenerLink

Phone: 973.875.1365 • Fax: 973.875.2394

e-Mail: creese@sussexrec.com

TESCO Surge, Marathon,

ETS & Load Control

Phone: 973.875.5101 • Fax: 973.875.4114

e-Mail: ttate@sussexrec.com

Outdoor Lights

Phone: 973.875.5101 • Fax: 973.875.4114

e-Mail: dwilliams@sussexrec.com

e-Bill & Bank Draft

Phone: 973.875.5101 • Fax: 973.875.4114

e-Mail: dwilliams@sussexrec.com

Use this handy form to get more information...

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Tel.: _____ Best time to call: _____

e-mail: _____

Contact us today for more information

Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative • 64 Route 639 • P.O. Box 346 • Sussex, NJ 07461
973.875.5101 or go to our website: <http://www.sussexrec.com>

I Would Like More Information On:

(check all that apply)

Standby Generators

GenerLink – Connect your Generator the Safe & Easy Way

Whole House Surge Suppression

Marathon Electric Water Heaters

Load Control Program

Save with Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Heat

Outdoor Lights

e-Bill and Bank Drafts

Tick Races and Turtle Burgers - ONLY IN AMERICA

by Tom Tate

Ah, the festivals of summer-parades, picnics, cooking out, local fetes and events. Norman Rockwell captured the 20th century image of Americana quite well - at least in my opinion. Seems like nearly every community has some sort of celebration they roll out in the summer to take advantage of the nice weather and to get people together to reinforce a sense of community.

Well, this reporter has come across two items that are, how should I say this, unique. The first hails from the great state of Wisconsin. That would be the tick races. Yes, tick races. When I lived in North Carolina, I became aware of a small town named Tick Bite but am pretty sure they didn't race the little buggers. So, what is a tick race and why would they have such an event? The same question can be asked of the Annual Running of the Bulls in Pamplona, SP. As my son opines, there was alcohol involved. According to the legend, a fellow was sitting in a bar (confirms the alcohol theory) and discovered that he had a passenger - a wood tick. He took it off and placed it on the bar. As he watched it scurry around the bar, he thought he should race it. Thus the event was born.

Here's the drill. Contestants can bring

their own ticks, buy them from tick breeders or collect them by walking through the fields and woods near the race. Isn't that special? The ticks are painted to distinguish the teams and set on a course to race. Basically, it's a circle. First tick across the outer line moves to the next round. The loser? Well, the mayor gavel it into oblivion. No one seems to care about its ignominious end. Read the whole story here: <http://www.classicwisconsin.com/features/cooties.html> or just search for tick races online.

So, your curiosity satisfied over tick races, just what are these turtle burgers I mentioned? Are they tasty? Well, Karen, a dear friend from Claverack REC, sent me a recipe and photo of this culinary masterpiece of backyard grilling and being the kind of guy I am, I had to share it further. For those who are concerned, let me state right now that the turtle burger contains no turtle meat, or as they say on television and the silver screen, "No animals (turtles) were harmed in the making of this movie (burger)."

Disclaimers now in place, making a turtle burger is very easy following these instructions:

Handmade ground beef patties, topped with sharp cheddar cheese, wrapped in a bacon weave, then the next step, add hotdogs as the heads, legs with slits for toes and tail.



Next step. Place on an oven rack, covered loosely with foil and bake for 20-30 minutes at 400 degrees. A little crispy, not too crunchy...just how a turtle should be, no?

Did you notice the bacon weave? I must add this to the bacon product list. Other names have come to mind for this entrée: cholesterol bomb, cardiac confection, suicide sandwich. You'll not find this on any healthy food list but go for the gusto and limit your intake to one at a sitting. In case you are wondering, this burger originated in Louisiana where someone had far too much time on his/her hands. For one, I am glad they did. Please pass the hot sauce.

Where Do We Get Our Power...

continued from page 1

reaches its destination, distribution co-ops use transformers at substations to reduce the voltage before sending it over their lines to your home or business.

G&Ts own and maintain a national network of 66,584 miles of transmission line to deliver power to local distribution co-ops enough to go around the world more than two and a half times! Even so, the majority of G&Ts and distribution cooperatives rely on other utility power lines to complete the power delivery. For most cooperatives, Sussex Rural included, this means they are physically connected to the transmission system of another company and are subject to the quality of that utility's delivery system. Our G&T serves a total of 230,277 meters in NJ and PA (over 12,000 of these are in our cooperative). It owns 85 miles of transmission line and delivers the energy it generates and procures at more than 200 points in NJ and PA.

For more information about our power supply and G&T, check out these links: <http://www.sussexrec.com/energy.html> and <http://prea.com/Content/default.asp>.



Mayonnaise

by Tom Tate on a dare from Paul Ogrinz



Leave that potato salad in the hot sun and you'll be sorry! Yup, that mayonnaise will go bad in a flash and inflict all sorts of bodily harm on you. Cue the obnoxiously loud buzzer here as this is not true. At least, not according to The Association for Dressings & Sauces. Yes, you read correctly, there is such an association. Who'd have thunk it?

According to the fine folks at TAFD&S, it is the ingredients combined with the mayo or unsanitary preparation that cause the unpleasant (and sometimes dangerous) foodborne illnesses. Mayonnaise contains vinegar, salt and lemon juice that inhibit bacteria growth. Plus, it uses pasteurized eggs that are free of salmonella or other nasty bugs. So to avoid any issues, prepare the other ingredients carefully and cleanly and all should be well.

Where did the fears of mayonnaise originate? According to the source, they started in the days before commercial mayo was widely available. Homemade mayonnaise did not

contain enough vinegar or lemon juice to kill bacteria and the eggs available to the home-maker were not pasteurized. Therefore the end product could support the growth and transmission of bacteria that are harmful earning the noble condiment, mayonnaise, a sullied reputation.

So, don't fret over that mayonnaise-based salad or side dish after all. And if you leave the mayo out while you are at the park enjoying the potato salad, don't pitch it when you come home. Most mayonnaise can stay unrefrigerated for up to two weeks (it varies by brand). The only problem is that it may become runny and lose its taste. For the gourmet cooks out there who make their own mayo, all bets are off (see the preceding paragraph). Homemade tastes better but doesn't have the survivability of store-bought.

Now you know. Find out all the details at www.dressings-sauces.org.

Emergency...

continued from page 1

radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both. Check out <http://www.ccrane.com> for a nice selection.

- ◆ **Flashlight and extra batteries.** I recommend a LED model as they draw so little power you can use it for longer periods before the batteries die.
- ◆ **First aid kit.**
- ◆ **Whistle** to signal for help. If you are, or know, a referee, you've got this covered!
- ◆ **Dust mask** to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place.
- ◆ **Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties** for personal sanitation.
- ◆ **Wrench or pliers** to turn off utilities.
- ◆ **Can opener** for food (if your kit contains canned food). How about a **Swiss Army Knife** instead? Get the right one and you can eliminate the opener and the pliers above! Maybe even the flashlight and whistle since Victorinox has models with these features.
- ◆ **Local maps.** Attention gadgeteers - you can

now justify the need for a nice GIS system on the basis of emergency preparedness.

◆ **Cell phone** with chargers, inverter or solar charger. Be sure the phone is charged before the storm hits.

Does anyone in your immediate family have a health condition that could be life threatening if power goes out for an extended period of time? Since we cannot guarantee when we'll be able to restore power in a major outage, it is your responsibility to be sure your health is protected. What can you do to prepare? How about installing a generator for emergency power to refrigerators and medical equipment; an extra supply of medication(s); contact information for doctors and local emergency service providers; contact information for relatives; a cell phone (fully charged) for contacting family, friends and emergency personnel with all essential numbers programmed into the cell phone.

How about something to eat? I enjoy going to the grocery store



on the heels of a major storm warning. People flock there and wipe out all the bread and milk. Let me say that this is true everywhere I have lived in these grand United States. But the selection of bread and milk gives me pause. How about something a little more palatable? Besides, if the refrigerator doesn't work, the milk won't last. And, if you have to evacuate your home, bulky foodstuffs are difficult to collect and transport. Consider non-perishable milk and canned or boxed goods instead. Or, check out www.foodinsurance.com. For \$200.00, you can buy a two-week, grab-and-go (their marketing line) backpack full of food. It has a shelf life of about 10 years and is touted as being very tasty. Plus their site has all sorts of excellent resources for emergency preparedness.

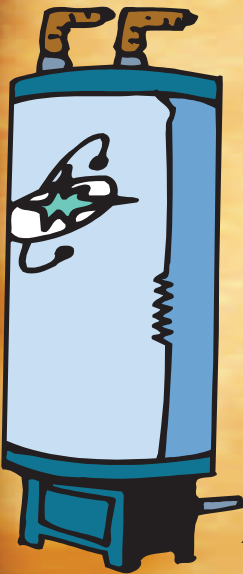
Looking after your property is important too. Since we are more prone to winter emergencies, you need to be able to prevent freeze damage to your home. Know where the main water shut off is in your home and make sure you can get to it easily, especially in the dark. In an extended power outage, turn off the water and drain the lines in the house by opening faucets and flushing toilets. Also know where your main electrical breaker is. Like the water shut off, it needs to be easily accessible. Turn it off if you are leaving the house. If you are staying there, turn off major sections of the house.

Pets and livestock are going to need care. Have food for your pets. Make sure livestock can access their feed and water. There is a nice article on our website under Outages about animal care and offers additional tips.

As the Boy Scout in me says, "Be prepared!"

WANTED!

FOR LOAD CONTROL ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS \$25 REWARD



ADDING YOUR ELECTRIC WATER HEATER TO OUR LOAD CONTROL PROGRAM WILL EARN YOU THE REWARD PLUS INCREASE OUR ANNUAL SAVINGS. CONTACT US FOR DETAILS OR USE THE FORM BELOW TO ENROLL.

SIGN ME Up...

- I am interested in the Sussex Rural Electric load control program. Please contact me to schedule the installation.
- I already have a load control unit. Please contact me to schedule the upgrade.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Best time to call: _____

Remember, you will receive a one time \$25 bill credit for your participation.

Currents

is published monthly by



**Sussex
Rural Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections

64 Route 639 • P.O. Box 346 • Sussex, NJ 07461

973.875.5101 / Fax: 973.875.4114

Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday

Website: www.sussexrec.com

E-mail: info@sussexrec.com

President & CEO

James M. Siglin

Board of Directors

Jack S. Haggerty Jr. Chairman

William Kovach Vice Chairman

Raymond Cordts Sec./Treasurer

Thomas Madsen

Barbara Miller

F. Parker Space

Thomas Webb

Stephen Zsenai

Ronald Dupont



**SREC
RESOURCES, Inc.**

NJ LIC. ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR # 6262A
973-875-1365

OUTAGES: 877.504.6463