

Hurricane Irene causes major damage on Hatteras Island

Hurricane Irene came ashore on the N.C. coast on Saturday, August 27, leaving a wake of destruction before leaving the following morning. Hatteras Island lost transmission around 8 a.m. on Saturday, with all 7,581 Cape Hatteras EC meters without power. With the area still experiencing hurricane force winds, sound side flooding and heavy rain on Saturday evening, co-op crews prepared to begin restoration efforts on Sunday morning.

By Wednesday evening, August 31, emergency generators powered all of the villages on Hatteras Island. At press time for this October issue, CHEC had temporarily restored the 115kv transmission line that was severely damaged at several spots north of Rodanthe, transitioning all residents off of the emergency generators and onto mainland power.

Carolina Country coverage on Hurricane Irene starts on page 8.

The Highway 12 breaches at Mirlo Beach.



CHEC participates in American Heroes Day

On August 4, the Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station held the sixth annual "American Heroes Day" and the 1911 Life-Saving Station Centennial celebration. Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative proudly served as a sponsor of the event and had a bucket truck on display during the festivities.

The event served as a fundraising effort for the nonprofit Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station Historic Site and Museum, which generates its own funding through admission tickets, gift shop sales and events like this. Equally important were the smiles, laughter, conversations, learning and appreciation that happened on the seven-acre site all day long.

Throughout the day, CHEC Linemen Jonathan Vernesoni and Michael Gray gave rides in the CHEC truck bucket, showed attendees the inside of the vehicle and demonstrated linemen equipment.

Along with the bucket truck, local squads and stations displayed



CHEC Lineman Jonathan Vernesoni helps young rider into CHEC bucket.

ambulances, fire trucks, police vehicles, Coast Guard equipment and water rescue vessels. In the afternoon, the U.S. Coast Guard and Chicamacomico Water Rescue unit performed live drills and water rescue demos on the beach in front of the station. To end the afternoon, the USCG performed a search-and-rescue demo with a

Jayhawk Helicopter and a 47-foot lifeboat.

CHEC proudly supports the Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station Historic Site and Museum and our American Heroes. To learn more about Chicamacomico, visit www.chicamacomico.net or call (252) 987-1552.

October is Co-op Month

Each October, cooperatives across the country celebrate the role, accomplishments and contributions of these democratically controlled, member-owned businesses. More than 130 million Americans find solutions to many of their everyday needs through different cooperatives, providing common goods and services.

Electric cooperatives were established to provide electricity to rural America and now make up the largest electric utility network in the nation. North Carolina's electric cooperatives, including CHEC, are located in the communities they serve and have a special interest in seeing these communities succeed. One way to ensure success is by delivering safe, reliable and affordable power.

Co-ops rank high in customer satisfaction

According to data from the American Consumer Satisfaction Index (ACSI), electric cooperative consumer-

members are significantly more satisfied with their co-op energy provider than consumers who receive power from either investor-owned or municipally owned utilities.

The 2011 survey is the first in which the well-regarded ACSI included cooperative electric utilities as a separate category. The survey included a random sampling of co-op consumer-members from across the country.

The 723 Touchstone Energy Cooperatives scored higher than any other utility sector with an ACSI score of 83. Cape Hatteras EC is a Touchstone Energy Cooperative.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives are committed to the communities they serve. Visit www.chec.coop/services and familiarize yourself with CHEC's value-added services available for all members. Questions? Call 252-995-5616.

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Halloween decor safety tips



Halloween is the most festively frightening night of the year. Don't make it fraught with danger. Here are some safety reminders to follow when decorating the home:

- ▼ Make sure decorative lighting is well ventilated, protected from weather and a safe distance from anything flammable like dry leaves and shrubs. Do not coil power cords or extension cords while in use.
- ▼ Check that all outdoor electrical lights and decorations are plugged into an outlet protected with a ground fault circuit interrupter. If the outlets aren't equipped with GFCIs, have an electrician install them or buy a GFCI adapter plug.

- ▼ Do not overload outlets with too many extension cords and strands of lights.
- ▼ Keep the cords off the walkways and porch where trick-or-treaters will walk.
- ▼ Leave the porch light on for trick-or-treaters and remember to turn off all lighting and decorations at the end of the night.

Stop by our office at 47109 Light Plant Road in Buxton to pick up a **FREE trick-or-treat bag** for your little trick or treat. The bag is large enough to hold lots of treats inside and has lots of great safety tips printed on the outside. Happy Halloween!

Cape Hatteras Highlights

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