



WE'RE SERVICE PROUD

How to reach
Southern Pine Electric Power Association

For quicker service when you call Southern Pine to report a power outage or just to check on your bill, call the district office that serves you and have your account number ready. Use the phone numbers below or look for the number of your district office on your Southern Pine bill.

District Offices

- **Taylorsville:** (601) 785-6511 or 800-231-5240; Hattiesburg: (601) 264-0185
- **Newton:** (601) 683-2200 or 800-698-9573
- **New Hebron:** (601) 694-2711 or 800-698-9571
- **Brandon:** (601) 824-7070 or 800-698-9574

Power outage tips

Hurricane season begins June 1. Preparing for storm-related power outages can ease the inconvenience they cause. These tips can help:

- **Light.** Have an alternative source of light. The safest alternative lighting is flashlights and fluorescent lamps with extra batteries.
- **Food.** Stock food and related items that will keep and won't require cooking, such as peanut butter, canned fruit, powdered milk and canned meats.
- **Water.** If you know a storm is headed your way, store extra water in bath tubs and even washing machine tubs and sinks. Only the drinking water need be in clean jugs.
- **Fuel.** Fill up your vehicles' fuel tanks before the storm makes landfall. Power outages shut down gasoline pumps.
- **Information.** Have a portable radio with fresh batteries so you can tune to local radio stations and Mississippi Public Broadcasting for news and updates on conditions.
- **Standby generators.** Rural residents with food freezers should consider having a small generator. All poultry and livestock producers depending on electricity to feed animals should have generators. Call your Southern Pine district office to learn how to safely install your generator.

Middleton served with dedication

Wayne Middleton retires this month after 30 years of devoted service to Southern Pine Electric Power Association and its membership.

Middleton began his career at Southern Pine in December 1977 as a tree trimmer on a right-of-way crew. He spent the first few days on the job clearing fallen trees and limbs from power lines during an ice storm. It was hard work, Middleton said, but it didn't dampen his enthusiasm for his new job.

He later became an aerial-bucket truck driver for a line crew, then a helper on a staking crew. He prepared for the job by successfully completing a staking training program at Hinds Community College.

In 2005 Middleton was promoted to foreman of a staking crew working out of the association's Taylorsville District office.

Southern Pine's seven staking crews, working with staff engineers, plan routes for power line construction (both overhead and underground) when members request new electric service to homes, farms, businesses and industry. They also re-route existing lines to make way for road construction or line upgrades.

A Southern Pine staking crew stakes an average of 16.3 miles of power line each year.

Staking crews take their name from the wooden stakes, topped with bright orange tape, which they drive into the ground to mark locations of utility poles for the line construction crews.

Staking crews now use hand-held computers to electronically mark and record pole locations with the help of Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite navigation. This data is used to update Southern Pine's mapping system in an efficient and timely manner.

Middleton joked that, having worked 30 years in the field, he never needed a system map. "I learned where every breaker and transformer is in the Taylorsville District," he said with a laugh.

As foreman, Middleton's chief concern was the safety of his men. "My job was to watch them, to keep them



Wayne Middleton

from getting into the power line," he said.

Middleton's task was to determine the safest, most efficient way to meet Southern Pine members' electric service needs. "For example, I always tried to plan the location of lines to help protect it from damage during ice storms," he explained.

Middleton and his wife, Jean, live in Center Ridge, where he grew up. He has three daughters, Darlene McMullan, Doreen Grice and Deneice Adcock, and three grandchildren, Kristen Adcock, Connor Adcock and Will Grice.

Southern Pine appreciates Middleton's dedicated service and wishes him and his family many years of happiness in his retirement.

Plan to use a portable generator? Read this before you connect

- A generator connected directly to a home's wiring can endanger line workers by energizing power lines. Prevent serious injury or death by having a transfer switch installed by a qualified electrician before you connect your generator.
- Do not operate your generator while standing in wet conditions. This could cause electrical shock to anyone who comes in contact. Make sure the generator is grounded so it does not become electrically charged.
- Place the generator outdoors—not in a garage, carport or storage room—to avoid dangerous exhaust fumes.
- Have a charged fire extinguisher nearby as a precaution.

Slash energy use with more efficient lighting

The incandescent light bulb has served Americans well since the late 1800s. But we think it's time for a better bulb—the compact fluorescent lamp (CFL).

The problem with incandescents is energy waste: about 95 percent of the energy consumed by an incandescent bulb is converted to heat; only 5 percent makes light!

"A CFL is three to six times more energy efficient than an incandescent bulb. That's enough to make a significant difference in your energy costs," said Mike Bryant, marketing representative at Southern Pine Electric Power Association.

"CFLs cost a few dollars more than incandescents but they can pay for themselves in one to two years—or less—when you put them in areas where lights are on for long periods of time, like a living

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—Mike Bryant



Larry Blakeney (left), Southern Pine Electric Power Association safety coordinator, and Mike Bryant, Southern Pine marketing representative, demonstrate the efficiency of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) at the Poultry Expo held last month in Laurel. The demonstrator uses an electric meter to show the difference in energy use between an incandescent bulb and a CFL. The incandescent bulb

caused the meter to run noticeably faster, indicating far greater energy consumption than that of the CFL. Replacing 72 incandescent bulbs with CFLs in one poultry house would yield \$2,419 in annual energy savings. Dimmable CFLs are available but low-level dimming can reduce bulb life significantly. Product development is under way to solve the problem.

room," Bryant added.

The key is choosing a CFL that meets the government's Energy Star requirements for energy efficiency. (Look for the Energy Star logo on the package.) Compared to an incandescent bulb, an Energy Star-qualified CFL:

- Uses at least two-thirds *less* energy, saving \$30 or more in energy costs over the bulb's lifetime
- Lasts up to 10 times *longer* (especially important for hard-to-reach fixtures)
- Produces 70 percent *less* heat (a real plus in summer).

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, if every American home replaced just one light bulb with an Energy Star-qualified CFL, enough energy would be saved to light more than 2.5 million homes for a year and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of nearly 800,000 cars.

Screw-in CFLs can fit most any fixture and come in wattages from five to 40 watts. They replace incandescents roughly three times their wattage. A 20-watt CFL, for example, can replace a 60-watt incandescent bulb for about the same light output.

The light produced by a CFL can be warm or cool, as indicated on the package label. Choose a warm light for bedroom

and living room lighting; choose a cool light for task lighting or work areas.

"Some folks have resisted buying CFLs in the past because of the color of the light they give off," said Larry Blakeney, Southern Pine's safety coordinator. "But manufacturers are doing a better job now of bringing the color quality closer to that of incandescent bulbs."

Check the package for any restrictions in use; matching the CFL to the light fixture will ensure the lamp's long life. If a light fixture is connected to a dimmer or three-way switch, select a CFL that is labeled for this use. For recessed fixtures, it's better to use a reflector CFL, versus a standard-shaped bulb. Some CFLs are labeled for outdoor use.

Southern Pine Electric Power Association recommends making the switch to CFLs as an easy, low-cost way to reduce energy use in the home, farm, office and business.

For more information on CFLs and other ways to save energy, contact Southern Pine's Marketing Department at (601) 785-6511.



Annual energy savings example

Replace one 100-watt incandescent bulb with one 27-watt compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) in a fixture that remains on 12 hours per day.

Energy savings = 73 watts

Annual energy cost savings =

\$33.60

(73 x 12 hours per day x 365 days/1,000 = 320 kilowatt-hours saved x 10.5 cents per kilowatt-hour = \$33.60)



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative