

# Florence Energy News

## BE PREPARED BEFORE THE ICE STORM STRIKES

Heavy accumulations of ice can bring down trees and topple utility poles. Ice can disrupt power for days while utility companies repair extensive damage. Listed below are tips that can help you be prepared if an ice storm strikes.



## AT HOME AND WORK

Primary concerns are the potential loss of heat, power, telephone service, and a shortage of supplies if storm conditions continue for more than a day.

Have available:

- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- Battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and portable radio to receive emergency information.
- Extra food and water. High energy food, such as dried fruit or candy, and food requiring no cooking or refrigeration is best.
- Extra medicine and baby items.
- First-aid supplies.
- Fully charged cell phone.
- Heating fuel. Fuel carriers may not reach you for days after a severe winter storm.
- Emergency heating source, such as a fireplace, wood stove, space heater, etc.
- Fire extinguisher and smoke detector. Test units regularly to ensure they are working properly.

## IN CARS AND TRUCKS

Plan your travel and check the latest weather reports to avoid the storm! Fully check and winterize your vehicle before the winter season begins.

Carry a WINTER STORM SURVIVAL KIT:

- Blankets/sleeping bags
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Knife
- High-calorie, non-perishable food
- Extra clothing to keep dry
- A large empty can and plastic cover with tissues and paper towels for sanitary purposes
- A smaller can and water-proof matches to melt snow for drinking water
- Sack of sand (or cat litter)
- Shovel
- Windshield scraper and brush
- Tool kit
- Tow rope
- Booster cables
- Water container
- Compass and road maps
- Cell phone



Keep your gas tank near full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.

Avoid traveling alone.

Let someone know your timetable and primary and alternate routes.

*Information from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

## CITY OF FLORENCE RECYCLING BINS

The City of Florence is celebrating its 20th year of recycling thanks to the many dedicated participants. In an effort to make it easier, the Florence Recycling Department has obtained **18-gallon** bins to place recyclables in for collection. The bins are being sold at for cost of **\$6.00**.

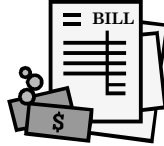


While not a requirement, these containers should be a neat way to place your recyclables curbside. One side is stamped with the City Seal and the other lists what we accept. Please call the Florence Recycling Department at **760-6466** or **760-6495** to obtain a bin.

Also, as a reminder, even non-city residents can recycle by bringing their recyclables to the **Florence Recycle Center at 1200 Terrace Street**, which is just off Veterans Drive near the railroad tracks. Hoppers are located outside the building and are available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

## LARGEST ELECTRICITY BILL IN LAUDERDALE COUNTY

Have you wondered who has the highest electricity bill in Lauderdale County? Do you think it might be one of the large stores? They always keep their stores well lit and the temperatures comfortable for their customers. It would be a pretty good guess, but it is not even close. Do you think it could be one of the area's large industries? Their buildings are so large they must use a lot of electricity. It is a better guess, but still not even close. Sometimes do you feel like it is you? It may seem that way to you, but you are not even in the running.



The largest electricity bill in Lauderdale County is paid each month by Florence Utilities. Like other utilities in the Tennessee Valley, we are an electricity distributor. We do not produce electricity. Every kilowatt of power we sell to our customers is purchased from TVA. Each month we have to pay our power bill, just like our customers do.

Our power bill varies from month to month based upon the amount of power we buy, just like our customers' bills. During the last 12 months, our electricity bill ranged from a low of almost \$5.4 million for April to a high of over \$8.2 million for August. Our October's bill was over \$6.7 million. Paying bills which fluctuate like this is difficult for us too.

After learning this, you may be wondering where the money comes from to pay the bill. No tax dollars are used by the department. The Electricity Department operations are paid solely from funds it generates. This is why we really appreciate our customers who pay by their due date.

## Energy Saving Tips

1. Use ceiling fans in the winter to distribute heat around a room.
2. Close off unused rooms to conserve heat within your house.
3. Keep vents and chimneys clean and in good working order.
4. Insulate your water heater.
5. Prevent heat loss with storm windows and doors.
6. Clean or replace furnace filters regularly and have the entire system checked annually by a professional.
7. On sunny days, open draperies and blinds to let the sun's warmth into your home.

## ATTENTION

FLORENCE UTILITIES  
WILL BE CLOSED  
THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS

JANUARY 1	NEW YEAR'S DAY
JANUARY 21	MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

# Florence ENERGY

NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM FLORENCE UTILITIES

The Holiday Season is behind us, and a brand New Year is ahead. At Florence Utilities, we look forward to serving you throughout the new year, and we are committed to providing you with reliable service.

With the right weather conditions, winter storms can form and cause many hazards. Preparedness tips have been listed inside that should be followed by everyone. Please take a few minutes to look over these tips and plan to take action now so that if a storm hits, you will be ready.

Also, have you wondered who has the highest electricity bill in Lauderdale County? The largest electricity bill in Lauderdale County is paid each month by Florence Utilities. Like other utilities in the Tennessee Valley, we are an electricity distributor. We do not produce electricity. Every kilowatt of power we sell to our customers is purchased from TVA. Each month we have to pay our power bill, just like our customers do. So we appreciate it when our customers pay on time.

From all of us at Florence Utilities, may you have a wonderful and prosperous New Year.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

[www.florenceutilities.com](http://www.florenceutilities.com)

