



Singing River Electric Power Association

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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For more information call 601-947-4211/ 228-497-1313 x 2251 or visit our website at www.singingriver.com

SRE participates in statewide weather drill



Singing River Electric general manager/CEO Lee Hedegaard and assistant manager Mike Smith plan a crew roster as part of an annual severe weather drill involving electric cooperatives from across the state. This year's drill focused on preparation for thunderstorms and tornadoes. Other drills in past years have focused on preparation for hurricanes and ice storm.

July/August are active months in Mississippi for lightning strikes

Singing River Electric Power Association members are very familiar with thunderstorms and lightning that accompanies them.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Mississippi averages 50-70 days of thunderstorms each year, with parts of south Mississippi reporting 70 or more.

South Mississippi weather provides all the ingredients needed to fuel thunderstorms and lightning: moisture, warm air, sea breezes and warm fronts.

"July and August are usually the busiest months when it comes to thunderstorm-related power outages," said Singing River Electric system engineer Tom Davis. "Lightning is a factor in

storms because it can cause a surge not just where a direct hit occurred but also in the surrounding area."

When lightning strikes, it has the potential to send powerful surges through electrical and communication lines in your home or business, damaging or even destroying electronic items.

A two level approach is best to reduce the exposure of sensitive electronics to a lightning strike. Singing River Electric offers meter base and point-of-use surge suppressors.

A meter-based protector diverts to ground some of the energy from a surge before it enters inside wiring.

Point-of-use surge protection helps limit over-voltage conditions to sensitive equipment like stereos, computers and televisions.

Visit www.singingriver.com/services.html



Back to the Basics: Conserve101



Stop Blowing Your Money

Following simple tips around your home can help keep your energy costs down. From changing your air filters regularly to programming your thermostat, we make saving energy a breeze. Conserving today means saving tomorrow.

Fact: Central heating and cooling systems can account for more than half of your overall power costs.



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Weatherization Works!

What is the weatherization assistance program?

Weatherization is the nation's largest residential energy efficiency program. Home weatherization reduces energy costs for low-income citizens by improving the efficiency of their homes.

The program specifically focuses on assisting low-income, elderly and disabled citizens of Mississippi.

High energy costs are an excessive burden on these residents, and weatherization helps to alleviate this burden and improve their standard of living.

How does weatherization work?

Weatherization coordinators from Community Action agencies conduct energy audits on single-family and mobile homes. Diagnostic equipment is used to identify air infiltration, pressure imbalances and areas of heat or air loss.

Coordinators also evaluate related health and safety conditions, such as carbon monoxide hazards, gas leaks or moisture problems. Weatherization crews install the most cost-effective energy-efficiency measures, based on the results of the energy audit.

Throughout the process, weatherization coordinators keep homeowners informed about improvements being made, future maintenance and ways to further reduce energy use.

What services are included?

Services might include but are not limited to:

- Air sealing;
- Cleaning, testing, repairs or replacement of heating and/or cooling units and space heaters;
- Dense pack wall insulation;
- Attic insulation;
- Minor repairs, as needed, to ensure maximum efficiency from the weatherization services performed.

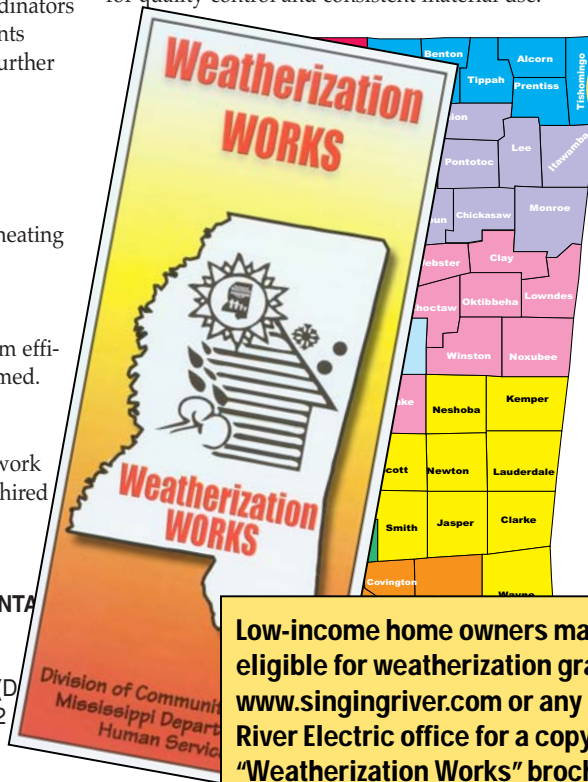
Who does the work?

Local service providers supply high-quality work performed by skilled personnel. Providers use hired local private contractors.



Are high-quality materials used?

Every provider is required to purchase and use only materials that meet the high standards set by the state and federal governments. Furthermore, all providers have staff who are able to test materials for quality and safety. DCS offers training to providers for quality control and consistent material use.



Weatherization Subgrantees

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Low-income home owners may be eligible for weatherization grants - visit www.singingriver.com or any Singing River Electric office for a copy of the "Weatherization Works" brochure.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Mississippi Department of Human Services
Division of Community Services (D)
Toll-free number: 1-800-421-0762
www.mdhs.state.ms.us

This information is provided as a public service announcement.