



Beaches Energy Services applauds artists living and working in our unique community. In 2012, each issue of *Tidings* will feature artwork chosen for its ability to depict "The Art of Conservation" and our quality of life here at the beaches. July's featured work is an oil painting on panel, entitled "Lifeguard Station" by local artist, Russell Wilson. To view more of his work, visit [www.RussWilsonStudios.com](http://www.RussWilsonStudios.com). Read more about the entire Collection by visiting [www.beachesenergy.com](http://www.beachesenergy.com).

## TIDINGS

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SERVICES

*Ride the Green Wave*

## Practicing the Art of Ensuring Safety

As summer heats up and severe thunderstorms affect our area, Beaches Energy Services reminds everyone to be prepared for outages and the possibility of inclement weather. *Living daily with awareness and an appreciation of our unique environment is an art.* In the aftermath of a damaging storm, always avoid power lines and submerged areas. We are eager to share safety information to help keep your family safe whenever severe weather occurs.

## Tidings Tips: Alternative Ways to Light Up the Dark

When power outages happen after dark, everyone needs emergency lighting. During the extreme storm season, keep your emergency lighting in a predetermined place so you can find it in the dark. Here are some alternative lighting methods:



- Your cell phone emits a glow to safely light your way to find other light sources that last for a longer time or emit more light.
- Battery operated flameless candles are an inexpensive and safe option.
- LED flashlights emit a strong beam of light that lasts for a long time. They come in a range of types and sizes. There are also flashlights that are powered by a crankshaft, never needing batteries.
- Solar outdoor path lights can simply recharge themselves outside during the day and come indoors for light at night.
- Glow IIght Sticks operate for a limited time using a closed chemical reaction. They are safe, relatively inexpensive and a quick way to temporarily light your way.

Always use extreme caution with light sources from flames, keep materials away from the flame and never leave a flaming source of light going when you leave a room.

## Know what's below. Call 8-1-1 before you dig.



Excavation work, including digging (even in the yard), is the most common cause of natural gas emergencies. Before excavation of any kind – even small projects like planting trees or shrubs, state law require that you **call 811** so all utility lines can be professionally marked

prior to digging. If you hit an under-ground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs. It's the law. For more information, visit [www.callsunshine.com](http://www.callsunshine.com).

## What Our Customers Tell Us

“ Thank you Beaches Energy for getting our electricity back on during tropical storm Beryl. ‘You guys rock’. ”

Sandy Wilson

“ We'd like to thank Beaches Energy Services for keeping us lit all night despite tropical storm Beryl. ”

Holiday Inn Express

### Electric price for 1,000 kilowatt-hours

	June	July
Base charge, residential	\$4.50	\$4.50
KWH base charge	\$75.57	\$75.57
Power cost adjustment	\$46.84	\$44.84
Total	\$126.91	\$124.91

## Remain Safe After the Storm

Florida residents can be assured of storms ranging from severe thunderstorms with dangerous lightning to severely damaging hurricanes and tornadoes, requiring evacuation. Once threatening weather has passed, here are some tips on the steps to take when your power has gone out, or if you are returning to your home after having to evacuate. For power outages, call our 24-hour emergency number at **904-247-6171**.



- **Always** assume all cables and wires are energized and stay away.
- **Keep away** from flooded and debris-laden areas because they may hide downed power lines.
- If you leave your home, turn off appliances that may have been operating when the power went out, or turn off your main breaker.
- Avoid driving in damaged areas, as you can interfere with rescue operations and threaten your own safety.
- Always operate generators outside and connect appliances or equipment directly to it.

### Should your home appear to be water damaged:

- **Always** look for downed power lines when leaving or approaching your home. Never touch a downed line and call Beaches Energy to report downed lines at: **904-247-6171**.

Always pay attention to all electrical wires and equipment. If you have any doubts about your home's electrical system or are unsure of how to proceed, call a professional, licensed electrician.

## Be Safe Around Natural Gas

Natural gas pipelines carry one of the world's most efficient and environmentally friendly fuels to Florida residents to meet their energy needs. Beaches Energy is committed to keeping our customers safe. We closely follow state and federal regulations and perform extensive quality control checks. We also make it a priority to educate customers about recognizing and preventing natural gas leaks.



**Be aware of the signs of a gas leak, such as the distinctive, rotten egg-like smell of natural gas. You should take action anytime you detect even a small amount of this odor in the air.**

Though natural gas pipeline incidents are uncommon, you should know other telltale signs. Near a gas line, watch for blowing dirt, bubbling water, dry spots in moist areas or dead plants surrounded by live, green plants. Listen for a hissing sound.

### Suspect a leak? Take action!

- **Leave.** If you ever suspect a natural gas leak, LEAVE IMMEDIATELY. Do not try to find or stop the leak.
- **Do not touch anything electrical before you leave and do not use a phone. Do not smoke, turn appliances or lights on or off, or operate any vehicle or equipment that could create a spark.**
- **Call.** Once you are out of the suspected area, immediately **CALL 9-1-1**.