

## Who Do I Call? Power Goes Out on Bald Head Island

Thunderstorms are a frequent occurrence this time of year. Cumulus clouds (which look like a stack of cotton balls) are formed from condensed water vapor. As heat is released during this condensation process, it helps the thunderstorm grow. Condensation in the upper cloud level forms as water droplets and/or ice and, at some point, falls to the ground as rain.

Lightning is the giant "spark" between negative- and positive-charged particles within a cloud. Though there are approximately 5-10 times as many cloud-to-cloud lightning strikes to cloud-to-ground strikes, the lightning that does hit the ground can have many effects, such as knocking out the power that fuels your home.

If your power is out, Duke Energy is your source of information, not the Village of BHI. Call 1-800-769-3766. Duke Energy has additional resources online at *www.duke-energy.com/outages*. You can view current outages to see how widespread the area is, and you can report an outage yourself. Reporting an outage helps give Duke Energy additional information for addressing the situation. In order to report an outage online or on their app, Duke Energy requires your location and the phone number for your account. Once you're signed in, Duke Energy gives you the option of receiving text messages for progress updates and when power is restored.

Be prepared in case power is out for any length of time. Stock your home with emergency candles, water, fully charged portable chargers for electronics and other necessary items. The BHA website (*BaldHeadAssociation. com*) has additional resources for preparing for a disaster. Click on "Life on BHI," then select "Emergency Weather Information" and "Hurricane Resources."

If you're a fan of nature, explore the fascinating sport/hobby of weather-watching, including watching and learning about various types of clouds as they form and change. It is truly fascinating!