

MAY 2023

POWERLINES

CFEMC hosts safety demonstration activity for local homeschool students

A NEWSLETTER FROM COWETA-FAYETTE EMC



As part of our commitment to safety awareness, Coweta-Fayette EMC (CFEMC) partnered with Carroll EMC to host a fun-filled safety demonstration activity for Shoal Creek Classical Conversions homeschool group in Coweta County.

Held on March 23 at CFEMC's Palmetto headquarters, students ages pre-k to 12th grade learned about the importance of remaining safe around electricity through observing a hotline safety trailer demonstration and a bucket truck/safety gear demonstration.



Pictured above: Shoal Creek Classical Conversions homeschool students with CFEMC General Foreman Darrell Sewell and Crew Chief Matt Stitcher: Carroll EMC conducts an educational hotline safety demonstration using a hotdog. **Pictured right:** Students learn about the role of a lineman during a bucket truck demonstration with CFEMC Crew Chief Matt Stitcher and Apprentice Lineman Conner Hoff.

WHAT IS INSIDE:

SAFETY DEMONSTRATION	01
HOME ELECTRICAL SAFETY	02
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	02

The “hot dog” of a presentation educated students on the hazards of power lines and electrical equipment attached to those lines. While observing, they learned about the role of a lineman, the safety equipment used daily on the job, and what they can do to stay safe at home, at play, on the road and at school.

“With thousands of miles of electric lines covering eight counties, we make it a priority to educate the youth in our community about safety issues concerning power lines,” said CFEMC Safety Coordinator Greg Perry.

More information about electrical safety demonstrations can be found by visiting our website at www.utility.org.



Follow Us

CONTACT US: 770-502-0226 WWW.UTILITY.ORG

May is National Electrical Safety Month.

Four Ways to Boost Electrical Safety for a safe, happy home.

DON'T

place flammable items, like potholders, napkins or dish towels near the stove while cooking.



DO

keep electrical devices away from water to prevent electric shock.



DO

ensure you're using the correct wattage in all light fixtures.



DON'T

overload electrical outlets with more devices than the circuit can handle.



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The President's Message



Chris Stephens, CEO

Service. Mission. Country.

You likely identified immediately (and correctly) that these three words describe our nation's veterans. They also succinctly describe the cooperative spirit.

While veterans are innately motivated to serve, in a similar vein, electric co-ops are guided by foundational principles that put their community first. After all, electric co-ops were founded to bring electricity to rural areas where there was none. In doing so, we power local economies and help them to thrive. I believe this close connection to an essential mission is why there are so many veterans in the utility industry and why they are such a great fit for electric co-ops.

Today's veterans are highly skilled because everyone who joins the military is either trained in a tech career field or exposed to advanced technology during their years of service. Many veterans have skills in advanced disciplines such as engineering, electronics, or mechanics, which are all beneficial for the utility industry. Here at Coweta-Fayette EMC, we are proud to employ 9 veterans and are grateful for their service to our country, and we're especially grateful for their contributions to the co-op and to our community.

Leadership and Teambuilding Skills

Our veteran colleagues joined the co-op equipped with training in leadership and teamwork. That's because while on active duty within their units, servicemen work closely together because they know their lives depend on each other's actions. This fosters a high level of self-discipline, sense of personal responsibility and passion for excellence.

The utility industry is increasingly complex and undergoing a profound transformation. While there is the traditional engineering and vegetation management aspect of the utility industry, it now also encompasses technology, cybersecurity, the electrification of the transportation sector and other areas of the economy. Veterans are adept at responding to changing conditions and learning and adapting to new technologies, which is essential in our evolving industry.

Mission-oriented Outlook

Working for an electric co-op is more than a job. There is a clear mission in the work-- to help our members and the community. When you work so closely with the community, you can't help but feel a sense of commitment and responsibility to our members. It's similar to the sense of duty and responsibility that veterans experience in the military. They feel deep, personal responsibility and commitment to their co-op team members and to the members we serve. Veterans are trustworthy, goal-oriented and want to do right for their co-op and their community.

May is Military Appreciation Month and at Coweta-Fayette EMC, we are grateful to have veterans within our ranks and we are proud to serve them and their families within our community. But beyond our gratitude, we demonstrate our deep appreciation through our actions and ongoing commitment to veterans and their families.

Throughout the year, we also partner with a number of local charitable and business organizations that support veterans and their families. We do this because just like our employees, we know there are so many veterans who make the Coweta-Fayette service area their home and we value the contributions you make to our communities.

At the national level, electric co-ops support the "Vets Power Us" program, which is aimed at employing and honoring veterans and their families. This effort involves partnering with other electric co-ops across the country along with the Department of Labor, the Department of Defense, the Veterans Administration, and others to hire veterans in the energy industry.

I hope you'll join me, not only in May, but every day, in recognizing the sacrifices veterans have made to our great country--and the many contributions they continue to make in our wonderful community.