

# POWERlines

## Home Safety Checklist

If you look around your home and count each item that uses electricity, chances are you'll have hundreds of items on that list—chargers, lightbulbs, power strips, space heaters, fans, televisions, power tools and so many more items. But what about the gadgets that protect your family from electrical fires and electric shock, or your belongings from damage?

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, "about 26,000 household electrical fires occur every year." Wouldn't you want to take every precaution in protecting your home, your family, and your belongings?

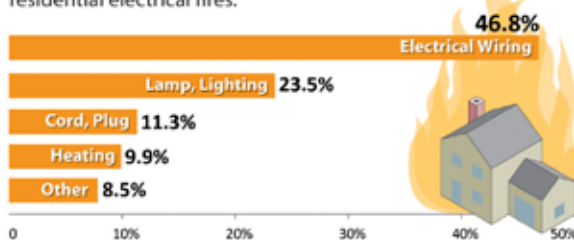
Some standard home safety devices include:

- Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)
- Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs)
- Tamper Resistant Receptacles (TRRs)
- Monitoring Devices: Smoke Alarms, Heat and Carbon Monoxide Detectors
- Surge Protectors
- Uninterruptible Power Supply



### Electrical Fire Culprits

About 26,000 household electrical fires occur in the U.S. every year. Following are the top five pieces of equipment that ignite residential electrical fires.



Source: U.S. Fire Administration National Fire Incident Reporting System; Residential Building Electrical Fires Volume 8, Issue 2; 2010 USFA Fire Estimate Summary

### GFCIs

If you've gone into your bathroom or kitchen and looked at the outlets with red and black buttons that say "test" and "reset," then you're already aware of GFCIs. GFCIs became standard in the 1980s. They monitor any current imbalance between the two prongs in the outlet. If there is an imbalance, the device trips, keeping you from being electrocuted.

### AFCIs

Although GFCIs have been standard for over 30 years, AFCIs were adopted into the National Electrical Code (NEC) in 2014. These devices are found in main breaker panels and prevent fires caused by electrical arcs. An electrical arc is when current flows between conductors in an air gap. For example, if a wire is broken, current may still flow, allowing your floors, walls, or other flammable materials to be exposed to electrical arcs. With AFCIs, the breaker will detect the frequency at which arcs usually occur and de-energize the circuit in a matter of milliseconds.

### TRRs

In 2008, having TRRs became an NEC mandate for homes. TRRs look like normal outlets, except they come equipped with spring loaded shutters to keep children from sticking objects into sockets. Many parents of young children already use safety covers for outlets, but children can remove the covers. Like the name suggests, TRRs are tamper resistant and fully child proofed.

*continued inside*



## The President's Message

Chris Stephens  
President

Safety is always on our mind at Coweta-Fayette EMC, but May is the National Electric Safety Month and provides me a great opportunity to share a bit about what we are doing.

At Coweta-Fayette EMC, we take safety seriously. In fact, safety is more than just a priority, it is a core value. When most people think about electric utilities and safety, they think of the electric lineman with good reason. Electric line work is one of the top 10 most dangerous professions. We all know that they are exposed to high voltage lines, the potential of falling from high atop a pole or just being injured from working in extreme conditions and inclement weather. What many don't realize is that during normal conditions, our linemen most often work on energized lines to prevent interruption of service to our members. Damage to their safety equipment like their insulated gloves could lead to electrocution or serious burns when they contact the energized lines. But it is not just our linemen that are exposed to hazards, so are all our employees. Like any normal place of business, our employees are exposed to the potential for slip, trips and falls, collisions with obstacles, fire and even environmental toxins like cleaning agents just to name a few.

At Coweta-Fayette EMC, to help stay on top of our safety awareness, we have a Safety Coordinator, Safety Committee, Safety Steering Committee and Continuous Improvement Teams. Each has specific responsibilities that feed on another to help develop and maintain a positive safety culture. In addition, we participate in a statewide Safety Accreditation Program, where a team of safety coordinators from other

utilities spend two days going through documents, visiting with our crews and employees asking them numerous safety related questions, and inspecting our



equipment and tools. They grade us based on a standard. This past month, I am pleased to say we scored 1559 points out of 1560. This success is not possible without a committed group of employees and staff. I must give a special recognition to our Safety Coordinator, Rusty Rainey, for his leadership in helping us obtain such great results.

My philosophy is we can fix anything but an injury or fatality. Safety must be paramount. Safety is something we must always stress. In order to sustain improvements and achieve lasting results, employees must make safety a core value, not just a priority. It is not as if accidents won't occur, but it is what is learned from them and the dedication to continuous training and instruction that a culture is developed. The safety culture desired consists of shared beliefs, practices and attitudes throughout the cooperative. Whether it is an accident in the office or in the field where our employees are exposed to significant hazards, it is my personal challenge to see that each employee goes home to their families and loved ones every day. I am grateful that we have a staff and group of employees that share this same philosophy.

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## Home Safety *continued from cover*

### Monitoring Devices: Smoke Alarms, Heat and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

You may have some of the devices above, but do you have enough smoke alarms? Since fires spread rapidly, two or three may not be enough to alert the whole home.

The National Fire Protection Association recommends smoke alarms be installed inside every bedroom, outside sleeping areas, and on every level of the home. Additionally, the NFPA recommends both ionization (best for flame

detection) and photoelectric (best for smoke detection) alarms, or an ionization-photoelectric alarm, to be used.

Heat detectors are most useful for kitchens, where smoke from food may alert smoke alarms. Also, carbon monoxide detectors alert you of this toxic gas that could come from heaters and other fuel-burning appliances. Carbon monoxide is colorless, tasteless, and odorless, so having a detector is a must.

Make sure you test your monitoring devices monthly.

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# EV's Make Economic and Environmental Sense

Earlier this year, Elon Musk launched his Tesla Roadster into space, heading toward Mars. Sitting in the Tesla's driver's seat was a dummy named "Starman" outfitted in a space suit.

While most people don't have the money or the means to launch a car into space, getting your hands on an electric vehicle, also called "EV," is feasible and good for the environment. It might also save you money in the long-run.

The first electric vehicle dates to the 19th century. You might be asking why the idea took so long to catch on. Concerns come in a variety of reasons: EVs have limited range; they take a long time to charge compared to only minutes spent at the gas pump; and cost more than most standard gas-powered vehicles. Many also doubt lithium ion battery safety. With these concerns, why are they now rising in popularity? It's not just because Tesla has a team of expert marketers backing the company.

Jurisdiction	Title	Type
Federal	Qualified Plug-In Electric Vehicle (PHEV) Tax Credit	Incentives
Federal	Qualified Two-Wheeled Plug-In Electric Drive Motor Vehicle Tax Credit	Incentives
Federal	Low and Zero Emission Public Transportation Research, Demonstration, and Deployment Funding	Incentives
Federal	Clean Cities	Programs
Georgia	High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) and High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lane Exemption	State Incentives
Georgia	Commercial Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) Tax Credit	State Incentives
Georgia	Plug-In Electric Vehicle Charging Rate Incentive	Utility/Private Incentives
Georgia	Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) Rebate	Utility/Private Incentives

EVs are starting to catch on because:

- stable and low electrical prices compared to gasoline
- concern for air quality and carbon emissions
- availability of electrical chargers at home and in public
- better (and safer) batteries with higher range
- federal and state rebates

Still, price tags for EVs are on average bigger than standard gas vehicles. However, federal and state tax incentives help to close this gap. Take a look at the U.S. Department of Energy's chart to see your tax incentive and rebate options:

Coweta-Fayette EMC also offers incentives for EV owners. CFEMC can switch EV owners to a time-of-day rate, which allows owners to charge their cars cheaply during off-peak hours. This rate is especially useful for people who use minimal electricity during on-peak hours, as well as people with programmable thermostats. CFEMC also



offers a \$100 rebate for Charge Point at-home EV charging stations.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, fueling an electric vehicle cuts costs in half compared to vehicles that run on gasoline. The Department of Energy calculated the average family spends one fifth of its total budget on transportation costs. Imagine what each family could do with the excess money saved by using an EV.

"Our reason for existence is stable and low-cost electricity," said Jimmy Adams, CFEMC Vice President of Energy Services and Relyco. "So if you're going to buy an EV, buy on economics. Electricity is much cheaper than gas."

## They're Economical and Good for the Environment, but Are They Safe?

We're sure you remember hearing about exploding cell phones and hoverboards erupting into flames. These fires were caused by short-circuited and overheated lithium ion batteries in the products – the same type of battery in EVs.

Lithium ion batteries pack more of a punch than standard batteries. They're also smaller. For these reasons, lithium ion batteries are ideal for the auto manufacturing industry.

The U.S. Department of Energy put safety doubts to bed, saying EVs undergo testing for "EV-specific standards for limiting chemical spillage from batteries, securing batteries during a crash, and isolating the chassis from the high-voltage system to prevent electric shock."

Every day, people drive cars with internal combustion engines that run on flammable liquids without giving an extra thought to fire risks. That's because each car undergoes rigorous safety testing before leaving the assembly line. The same goes for EVs. They're just as safe to drive and charge at your home.

Even the charging stations are safe and easy to install. When you buy your Charge Point charging station through Relyco, you get a one-year warranty on the product. If your charging station fails, the Charge Point Assure warranty has you covered. Relyco will make sure you get the parts and repairs you need.



After purchasing a Charge Point at-home charging station, either you or an electrician can install the device. "Charge Point is plug-and-play," said Relyco Manager Jimmy Adams. Installation is simple, but you may need to call an electrician to install the proper wiring – the same wiring needed for clothes dryers.

Charge Points need little maintenance or up-keep. If you choose to clean your charging station, a damp cloth will do. Just make sure to de-energize the unit first.

Overall, EVs require less maintenance than gas vehicles. Fewer brake pad changes. No oil changes. No transmission fluid. No spark plugs. No emissions inspections. They are economical, clean, and safe. If you haven't already, consider getting your hands on an EV.

For pictures, videos, and information on the international work from linemen around the country, visit [www.nrecainternational.coop](http://www.nrecainternational.coop).

## Summer Rates

**Residential**  
**Summer (June 1 - October 31)**

Service Charge \$20.00/mo.  
 First 750 kWh/mo. 7.80¢/kWh  
 Over 750 kWh/mo. 10.65¢/kWh  
 Electric Water Heater Credit (June 1 - October 31)  
 \$2.00/mo. (One EWH credit per household)

**Residential Load Management**  
**Annual Credit**

\$10.00 credit applied to the member's bill in October for allowing the EMC to cycle the air conditioner and/or water heater during the months of June - September.

# Technical Scholarships Awarded

To help students in our service area acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to compete in an ever-evolving workplace, the Coweta-Fayette Trust, Inc. Board of Directors recently awarded \$13,000 to deserving technical school attendees for 2018.

Thirteen students enrolled at both Southern Crescent Technical College (Griffin Tech) and West Georgia Technical College were selected to receive individual \$1,000 scholarships for tuition, books or course-specific tools and equipment.

This funding, made possible by CowetaFayette EMC's Operation Round Up Program, was awarded to top academic performers seeking financial assistance.

The winners of this year's scholarships were selected by the Southern Crescent Technical College Foundation Board and the West Georgia Technical College Foundation Board based on a combination of need and academic performance.



**Lora Beck**  
West Georgia Tech

Coweta

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