



Coweta-Fayette



# powerlines

## KNOW WHAT'S BELOW... BE SAFE WHEN YOU DIG

Spring is here! There's never been a better time to get outside and enjoy the fresh air. Perhaps you're making plans for a new garden or a lawn makeover.

However you're planning to revamp your backyard oasis, remember to keep safety in mind for all projects—especially those that require digging near underground utility lines.

Most of us never think about the electric, gas, water and other utility lines buried below the ground, but hitting one of these lines while digging is not the reminder you'll want—trust us!

Coweta-Fayette EMC reminds all members who are planning a digging project to call 811 at least three business days before you start. Or you can submit a request online by visiting [www.call811.com/811-In-Your-State](http://www.call811.com/811-In-Your-State).

Here's how the process works:

After you call 811 or submit your request online, all affected utilities will be notified of your intent to dig. It may take the utilities a few days to get to your request, so please be patient. The affected utilities will send someone out to mark the buried lines with paint or flags. Before you break ground, confirm that all the utilities have responded to your request. If you placed your request by phone, use the process explained by your 811 call center representative. If you submitted your request online, refer to your 811 center ticket to confirm everything.

By taking this important step before you break ground on your project, you can help protect not only yourself but our community. Disrupting an underground utility line can interrupt service, cause injuries and cost money to repair, so remember to call 811 first and know what's below before you dig.



## 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



### 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

### 2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

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### 3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



### 4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



### 5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



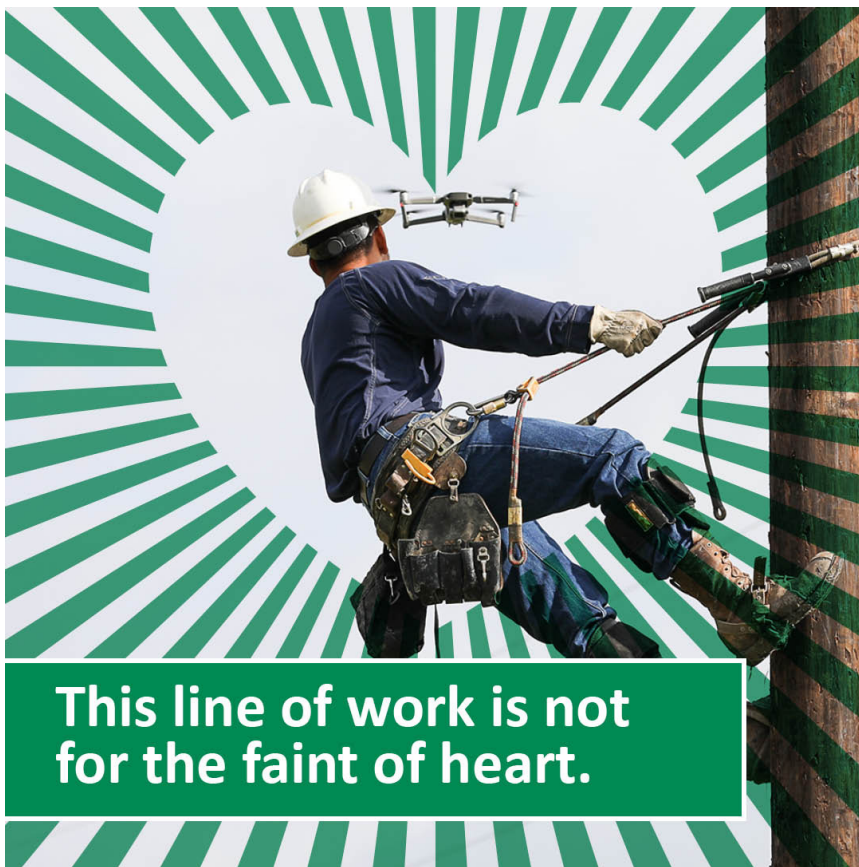
Source: [call811.com](http://call811.com)

770-502-0226  
WWW.UTILITY.ORG



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LINEMAN APPRECIATION MONTH - 2



## The President's Message

Chris Stephens  
CEO

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Coweta-Fayette EMC, I bet you would picture a lineworker. They are the most visible employees of the co-op and work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

"Lineworker" is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most are sheltering comfortably at home? This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That's why we set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at CFEMC, it's important to note that there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op. Stakers work to make sure new services are located correctly and efficiently.

Customer service representatives are always standing by to take your calls and questions. Our information technology (IT) experts are continuously monitoring our system to help safeguard sensitive data. Consumer accounting is working to ensure your bill is accurate and arrives in a timely manner. Our communications team keeps you informed on our programs and updates you through social media and our newsletter.

And these are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without the whole team, our lineworkers wouldn't be able to "bring the light" to our community.

Our dedicated lineworkers are proud to represent Coweta-Fayette EMC, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On April 12, or any time you see a lineworker, I hope you'll join me in thanking them for their exceptional service. I also hope you'll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep.

You can also show your appreciation by helping make sure they return safely home every night.

April 26-30 is WorkZoneAwarenessWeek. If you see police, firefighters, utility crews or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down or move over. We strive to put safety first in all we do and ask that you help us with this too.

**Ever wonder what it's like to be a line-man with Coweta-Fayette EMC? Check out the latest "In The Loop" episode and hear straight from them!**

**And next month, hear from some who have been a part of the International Electrification projects in Bolivia and Costa Rica.**

**We invite you to listen, subscribe & share! Simply scan the code below and get started learning about your EMC today!**



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