



Coweta-Fayette



powerlines

REBUILDING TOGETHER - A TIMELINE

Alerts sounded around 11:45 PM and just a few minutes after midnight on Friday, March 26, an EF4 tornado, with winds estimated at over 170 mph, tore through Heard, Coweta and Fayette County leaving a path of devastation and forever changing the landscape of the area.

By 1:00 AM, CFEMC crews were on the ground surveying damage and making plans for the massive restoration effort. Over 6,000 members were without power and we had already found 30 broken poles. By the end of the storm, there were 134 broken poles carrying both transmission and distribution lines, to be repaired before service could be restored to the members of CFEMC who could still receive power.

By 8:30

AM on March 26, it was apparent West Coweta suffered the most damage, especially in the Smokey Road, Old Corinth, Belk Road and LaGrange Street areas. However, power had been restored to all but approximately 1,200 members.



Malia Truitt
We are without power but we saw 10+ crews out on our street. It brought tears to my eyes. Thank y'all!

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Genora Brinkley Reyes and Mark Reyes
Thank you to all of the EMC workers! All of you behind the scenes as well as the linemen. We really appreciate ALL of y'all!!!

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The massive amount of debris made roads hard to travel and slowed restoration efforts. Our mutual aid agreements were activated and before long, there were over 70 right-of-way crews clearing the way for the more than 200 linemen in the field working to restore power in these hard hit areas. Special thanks to **Asplundh, Thompson Construction, Palmetto Line Clearing, Mastec, GreyStone Power, Snapping Shoals EMC, Southern Rivers Energy, Flint Energies, Diverse Power, and Carroll EMC** for assisting in this effort.

At 9:00 PM, March 26, CFEMC estimated only 600 members remained without power, all of these were in the hard-hit Smokey Road area. Crews continued working overnight and by 8:00 AM on Saturday, March 27, that number was down to 320. As the day moved forward over 70 poles had been replaced, however new broken ones were being identified each time our crews moved into new areas. As night fell, CFEMC and our sister EMC's had restored power to over 95% of our members.

Sunday, March 28, dawned with the news thunderstorms were expected. Our crews finally were able to enter the Smokey Acres subdivision. Approximately 30 more poles were identified as

broken and needing to be replaced. As the afternoon approached a thunderstorm rolled in and added to the pole count. Crews had to hand dig holes for pole replacements since they were working around buried gas lines in the area. Despite the weather, by 8:00 PM crews had all but about 40 homes restored. Those homes were isolated in an area near Unity Church, Lagrange Street and Meadowbrook Lane.

On Monday, March 29, by mid-afternoon crews had restored power to all homes that could receive power.

We at CFEMC want our members to know we sympathize with those of you who have experienced loss during this time. You are part of the EMC family and we know recovery will take time. We want to thank each of you who shared your experience with us, dropped a comment on our social media pages, or just said a kind word to our crews working in the field. We live and work here too and we will be beside you rebuilding #CowetaStrong once again.



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SAFETY ESSENTIALS FOR YOUR HOME

They say home is where the heart is. It is certainly where families spend a great deal of their time—from eating, to watching television, to sleeping. Home is where we can relax. With May being Electric Safety Month, we think it's worth taking a short break from enjoying the comforts of home to make sure it remains a safe one for your family.

Coweta-Fayette EMC encourages you to take the time to ensure your family is safe from electrical dangers.

"Once electricity gets to your home, you need to pick up the safety ball and run with it," says Rusty Rainey, safety coordinator for CFEMC. "Take steps in your home to minimize the risk of an electrical fire or injury."

Here's a quick checklist from our friends at Safe Electricity you can use to help you keep your home safe from electrical fire and shock hazards:

- Check outlets for loose-fitting plugs. Replace missing or broken wall plates so wiring and components are not exposed. If you have young children at home, install tamper resistant outlets (TROs) or cover unused outlets with plastic safety caps.

- Never force plugs into outlets. Do not remove the grounding pin (third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two-prong outlet. Avoid overloading outlets with adapters and too many appliances.

- Make sure cords are not frayed or cracked, placed under carpets or rugs, or located in high traffic areas. Do not nail or staple them to walls, floors, or other objects.

- Use extension cords only on a temporary basis—not as permanent household wiring. Make sure they have safety closures to protect children from shock and mouth burns.

- Check wattage to ensure light bulbs match the fixture requirements. Replace bulbs that have higher wattage ratings than recommended. Screw them in securely so they do not overheat.

- Make sure outlets in the kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, basement, garage, outdoors, or any area with water are equipped with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs). Test them monthly to ensure they are working properly.

- Make sure fuses are properly sized for the circuit they are protecting. If you do not know the correct rating, have an electrician identify and label the correct size to be used. Always replace a fuse with the same size you are removing.

- If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker, or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced. Look for cracks or damage in wiring and connectors. Use surge protectors to protect electronics.

- Check periodically for loose wall receptacles, wires, or loose lighting fixtures. Listen for popping or sizzling sounds behind walls. Immediately shut off, then professionally replace light switches that are hot to the touch as well as lights that spark or flicker.

- As you continue to upgrade your home with more lighting, appliances, and electronics, your home's service capacity may become overburdened. If fuses blow or trip frequently, have a professional determine the appropriate service requirements for your home.

For more information on electrical safety around the home, visit SafeElectricity.org.



The President's Message

Chris Stephens
CEO

This month is National Electric Safety Month. Safety is on my mind every day. My goal is to make sure each employee working at CFEMC goes home the same way they showed up when their shift started.

I want to commend our employees for their recent score on our safety accreditation. They received a 98% which is truly remarkable and I couldn't be prouder.

We've also faced some adversity lately in the form of an EF4 tornado that impacted so many of you, our members, and your families. With so many broken poles, snapped trees, tangled wire, and fields of debris, I'm proud to say our employees worked safely, without incident, and were able to have power restored to everyone who could receive it within just a couple of days. You can read more about their efforts on the front of this newsletter.

Your safety is also important to me. Each year, thousands of people in the US are critically injured due to electrocution, electrical fires or other electric related accidents in their home.

This year brings even more chances for accidents to occur. More people have been inspired to tackle DIY projects in and around their homes due to travel restrictions from COVID and might be tempted to try a wiring project themselves. I urge you to contact a licensed electrician instead.

Many do not have the training or experience needed to safely perform electrical work. This increases their chance of injury and even electrocution. Working with electricity requires planning and experience. Cutting corners can lead to costly mistakes and possibly serious injury to yourself or others.

Our website contains a lot of safety information and we're adding more all the time. Please visit www.utility.org for helpful information.

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.

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