

MAY 2024

Coweta-Fayette **EMC**

POWERLINES

Operation Round Up grant enhances community search and rescue efforts

A NEWSLETTER FROM COWETA-FAYETTE EMC



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Coweta-Fayette EMC's Operation Round Up (ORU) Foundation awarded a grant to the Coweta County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) to assist with the enhancement of search and rescue efforts.

The grant provided the acquisition of a Mavic 3 Thermal Drone for the Coweta County SWAT/Special Response Team to assist in locating missing or lost persons, as well as fleeing suspects.

The device represents a vital addition to local law enforcement, as it is equipped with thermal optics that can detect persons through heat signatures; an announcement speaker with voice customization that can be used for direct communication with subjects; and a gimbal search spotlight, which will enable effective search and rescue efforts both during the day and at night.

The team will be able to utilize the search and rescue capabilities of the thermal drone in a variety of emergency situations, and it will be operated by FAA certified remote pilots from Coweta County 911/EMA, Coweta County Fire Rescue, Coweta County Sheriff's Office, Coweta County GIS Department, and Coweta County Facilities. The addition of this device will enhance search and rescue resources for CCSO, as well as other local agencies and emergency services personnel.

According to CCSO, drones have had a major impact in assisting with traffic crash reconstruction, reconnaissance before tactical deployments, SWAT overwatch, hostage situations, forensic investigations, patrol-deployed operations, searches for lost persons, and first response.

"As drones continue to evolve, law enforcement agencies around the world are using them in more ways to save lives and enhance the safety of officers," said Bryan Minix, SWAT/ATRV Operator with the Coweta County Sheriff's Office. "This drone will provide an invaluable resource to local law enforcement, allowing us to locate missing persons, mitigate incidents and provide support during K9 operations, and it will be available 24/7 for response," said Minix.

The Coweta-Fayette Trust Board approved and awarded this grant to the Coweta County Sheriff's Office in February 2024, emphasizing ORU's commitment to empower local law enforcement agencies with the tools and resources necessary to enhance public safety and community well-being.

Operation Round Up could not be successful without the willingness of our members/owners that participate. Sign up for Operation Round Up by visiting <https://utility.org/operation-round-up-purpose/>.



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NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

DON'T OVERLOAD ELECTRICAL OUTLETS!



Overloaded outlets can create fire hazards. If you're overloading electrical outlets at home, it's probably time to call a licensed electrician to install additional outlets.

IF YOU'RE PLANNING HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, MAKE SURE YOUR OUTLETS ARE UP TO CODE. GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS (GFCIS), ARC FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS (AFCIS), AND TAMPER RESISTANT RECEPTACLES (TRRS) INCREASE THE SAFETY OF YOUR HOME.

TEST SMOKE & CO2 ALARMS MONTHLY!

When was the last time you tested the smoke and CO2 alarms in your home? Conduct regular tests to ensure your smoke and CO2 alarms are working properly.



A BRIGHT IDEA FOR HOME SAFETY!



Make sure all light bulbs in your home are properly rated for the unit or fixture. Light bulbs should not exceed the recommended wattage for the lighting unit or fixture.

PRO TIP: BEFORE YOU MAKE THE SWITCH TO AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV), MAKE SURE YOUR HOME CAN SAFELY HANDLE YOUR EV CHARGING NEEDS. #PLUGINTOSAFETY



The President's Message



Chris Stephens, CEO

As CFEMC's CEO, the safety of our employees and members is one of my top priorities. That's why throughout the year you'll see us at community and school events discussing emergency situations such as what to do if a car accident involves a utility pole and making sure parents and children understand the dangers of playing or digging around pad-mounted transformers.

Electricity is indispensable in our lives, powering everything from our kitchen appliances to our modern gadgets. Since May is Electrical Safety Month, here are some essential tips to help ensure your safety:

Check Your Cords: Regularly inspect electrical cords for signs of wear and replace any that are damaged to prevent shocks.

Prevent Circuit Overload: Each circuit in your home can handle only a certain amount of electricity. Avoid using multiple high-wattage devices on the same circuit to prevent hazards.

Know Your Breakers: Label your circuit breakers to quickly identify which circuits power different areas of your home. Older homes, especially, may need a professional's help to accommodate new, high-powered appliances safely.

Smart Use of Extension Cords: Avoid connecting multiple extension cords, which can overheat and cause fires. Extension cords are a temporary solution. For a permanent fix, consider installing additional outlets.

As more of you become electric vehicle (EV) owners, here's some safety advice just for you:

Charging Safety: Always use the manufacturer-provided charger for your EV, and ensure it's plugged into an outlet that meets the power requirements. Avoid using standard extension cords as they may not handle the load and could become a fire risk.

Installation of Charging Stations: For home charging stations, it's crucial to have them installed by a licensed electrician. Proper installation ensures that your home's electrical system can handle the additional load without compromising safety.

Regular Maintenance: Just like any electrical system, your EV charging station should be regularly checked for any signs of damage or wear. Routine checks can prevent electrical hazards and ensure the equipment's longevity.

I encourage you to talk with your children about electrical safety around the home and the added considerations when around electric vehicles.

At CFEMC, we are committed to a continuous and safe energy supply to our community, all day, every day. For more safety tips and updates, please visit our safety page at <https://utility.org/electric-safety/>.

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