

POWERLINES

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

Power Up Safely: Spring Gardening Essentials

With spring temperatures, you may be eager to dive into gardening and outdoor projects. Whether you're planting flowers, trimming hedges, or putting up a fence, staying safe around electrical equipment is crucial. Here are some practical tips to keep your spring season hazard-free.

Be Aware of Overhead Power Lines

When using ladders, long-handled tools, or setting up tall garden structures like trellises, maintain at least a 10-foot distance from overhead power lines. A simple misstep with a metal pole or ladder can lead to dangerous contact.

Be aware of Underground Power Lines

Before you put a shovel in the ground, call 811. This free nationwide service connects you to local utility companies who will mark underground lines, like gas, water, and electric, within a few days. Knowing what's below prevents accidental damage to buried lines, keeping you safe and avoiding costly repairs. Dial 811 at least 48 hours before you dig—it's a small step that makes a big difference!

Steer Clear of Transformers

Those green metal boxes in your yard? They're transformers, and they regulate electricity. Keep a safe distance—at least 10 feet—when mowing, digging, or planting nearby. Avoid letting kids play around them, and never plant around them or stack items like firewood or garden supplies against them.

Mind Wet Conditions

Spring showers can leave your yard damp, increasing the risk of electrical hazards. Avoid using electric tools like

trimmers or leaf blowers in wet grass or puddles, as water conducts electricity. Wait for surfaces to dry, and always wear rubber-soled shoes for extra protection.



“I dig here all the time.”

You might not know the area as well as you think!
Even if you've excavated an area previously, erosion, settling ground and other factors can change the depth and location of utilities over time. ALWAYS contact 811 before putting your shovel to the ground!



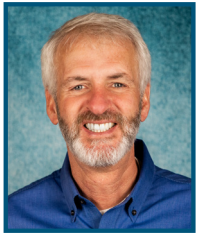
Contact 811 before you dig. 811beforeyoudig.com

Check Cords and Outdoor Outlets

Before plugging in that electric hedge trimmer or fountain pump, inspect cords for frayed insulation or exposed wires. Test outdoor outlets with a circuit tester to ensure they're working properly and protected by a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI). Damaged equipment can cause shocks or start fires, so replace anything suspect.



Thank a Lineman - The Backbone of Our Industry



Chris Stephens
CEO

At Coweta-Fayette EMC, our linemen are more than just skilled professionals—they are the backbone of our electric system and its reliability, dedicated to serving our members no matter the conditions. Many start their day before the sun rises dressed in thick flame-resistant clothing and heavy boots. Their job is dangerous, requiring exceptional training, an unwavering commitment to safety, and a deep sense of duty to the communities they power.

This year has already tested their resilience. In the first quarter alone, our service area was hit with four major storm events—two heavy wind and rainstorms in March that brought tornado warnings and widespread debris and two January snowstorms that left roads slick and conditions hazardous. Throughout these challenges, our linemen worked tirelessly, facing broken poles, downed lines, and dangerous terrain while braving the elements to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

They work among towering poles and spans of power lines. They battle weather, troubleshoot technical problems, and demonstrate a resilience and determination to keep our communities connected, businesses operational and emergency services accessible.

What makes their work even more remarkable is their “member-first” mentality. They understand that when the lights go out, it’s not just about electricity—it’s about families, businesses, and daily life being disrupted. They leave their own families behind, often for long hours or days at a time, to ensure our members have the power they depend on.

Our crews also travel across the region to help others in need. They answer the call wherever there are widespread outages and additional support is needed.

At the end of last year, they answered the call and assisted other cooperatives after Hurricane Helene ripped through Georgia and continued a path of destruction northward. In February, a group headed to Virginia to assist after a major winter storm. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of our guiding principles and that principle isn’t embodied any better than when our linemen respond to a mutual aid request.

We also want to thank you, our members, for your patience and support during these difficult times. The year-round work—maintaining system equipment, upgrading infrastructure, and managing vegetation—helped speed up restoration efforts and, in some cases, prevented outages altogether. Investments in reliability pay off, and your trust in us fuels our commitment to providing safe, affordable, and dependable electricity.

As we recognize Lineman Appreciation Day, let’s take a moment to honor these dedicated men and women who keep the power flowing, rain or shine, storm or calm. If you see a lineman, give them a wave or a word of thanks—they’ve certainly earned it.



APRIL IS DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

Know Georgia’s Move Over Law

For emergency vehicles, utility vehicles or any vehicle flashing yellow, amber, white, red or blue lights

Move Over: If it’s safe to do so, drivers must move over to the next lane, away from the stopped vehicle.

Slow Down: If a lane change is not possible or safe, drivers must slow down below the posted speed limit and be prepared to stop.

“Slow down and move over. Give them room, just like we do at the track. Let’s keep everyone safe.”

NASCAR Cup driver Bubba Wallace



Follow us for more tips from Bubba



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. Neal Shepard, Jr., Chairman • Ross Henry, Vice Chairman • Daniel C. Langford, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer
Therol Brown • James W. Fulton, III • Donald Harris • James Lee Hunter • Alice J. Mallory • Mildred A. Winkles

Coweta-Fayette EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer /M/F/Y/D