

POWERLINES

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

Vegetation management: Why it matters & how you can help

While we may not know the answer to the age-old question, “If a tree falls in the forest, does it make a sound?”, we do know that if a tree falls on a utility line, it will cause an outage.

A recurring challenge we face is unplanned service interruptions caused by trees and vegetation. When trees grow too close to electrical lines, poles, transformers,

or other equipment, they can cause power interruptions, and limit access to electrical equipment when it comes time for routine maintenance or inspections. Additionally, when trees are near energized conductors, they can pose safety hazards to the public and utility personnel. This is why cutting and trimming the vegetation along our right of way (ROW) is a top priority for CFEMC.

Through the years, we’ve determined that the leading causes of outages are not trees within our “maintained” ROW, but are the trees outside the ROW, referred to as “danger trees.”

Danger trees are often dead or dying trees that have either succumbed to damage from storms, pine beetles or harsh weather conditions such as drought.

Cutting and trimming danger trees has remained a concentration for our vegetation management crews as we perform our maintenance cycles. But with thousands of miles of line, it’s impossible for us to know of every tree that could potentially hit our power lines, and that’s when we need your help.

If you see a potential danger tree near a line, contact us so we can have our teams inspect the area. Additionally, if you have a tree on your property that threaten our power equipment, we will cut down the tree for you at no cost.

As we strive to continue delivering reliable power, we monitor and maintain over 6,800 miles of line from the constant reliability threat vegetation can pose. As with all of CFEMC’s maintenance plans, we continue to analyze and find ways to improve as we provide our members with safe, affordable, and reliable service.

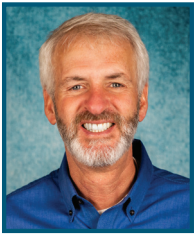
Need to report a danger tree on your property? Contact us at 770-502-0226 to have it taken down at NO COST.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.



Can you believe it's almost Spring?



Chris Stephens
CEO

Growing up my parents always talked about how time flies. Now that I'm older, I understand exactly what they mean. It feels like we were just wrapping Christmas presents and celebrating ringing in 2025 just a day or two ago.

It's that same way at Coweta-Fayette EMC. We've already been busy this year with the plans we have for your cooperative. They are moving forward, and I thought it was a good time to share some of our top priorities with you.

First, safety will always be at the top of our list – whether for you or for our dedicated employees working on the electric system every day. Each of our employees participate in a safety meeting every month to help them evaluate hazards and learn how to avoid them. I hope you see the safety information we share with you on social media and in this newsletter. We also visit schools where our linemen share with your kids the importance of being safe around electricity.

You might not have thought about it, but you also play a big role in helping us keep a safely operating system too. You can report any potential hazards you see to our office so we can have crews assess the situation and make repairs when necessary. We have over 6,800 miles of line and over 74,000 poles, that's a lot of ground to cover, so please report any hazard you see.

We are in the process of changing out outdated equipment throughout our service area. You may notice crews in your area during the next 12 months. This will ensure we are able to monitor what's happening on the system, identify any problem areas and make sure you have the reliable supply of electricity you expect in your homes and businesses.

We are also performing system improvements throughout our service territory to not only meet additional growth, but to also enhance system reliability. This will include upgrading lines and adding automation to help restore your service during outages. You may not see our crews in your immediate vicinity, but many of these projects will have an indirect impact on your service, as you may be served from one of the main lines being upgraded. These types of projects are ongoing as we assess and model our system to invest in order to improve performance.

Helping you make wise use of your electric supply is a priority too. We have launched a new *Watts Matter* series on the Coweta-Fayette EMC YouTube channel. This series of videos is designed to show you how small changes around your home can have an impact on your monthly electric bill. You'll find real-world how to videos on things like changing your HVAC filters and setting your water heater recirculator timer.

People always wonder, why would the EMC want me to use less of the product they sell? It's simple. Our goal isn't to sell more electricity – it's to serve you, our members, with reliable, affordable power. Unlike other utilities, we're not driven by profits; we're driven by doing what's best for our members and community. Helping you use energy efficiently keeps your bills lower, reduces the strain on the grid, and helps keep costs down for everyone.

Our area is continuing to grow, and that's exciting. We'll continue to look to the future and make plans that ensures we have an adequate supply of energy to meet your needs. We want to safely provide you reliable and affordable electric energy for many years to come.



**Watts
Matter**
coweta-fayette emc



Whether it's 25 or 95 degrees outside, we're ready to help you save, because Watts Matter! Subscribe to our YouTube channel for short videos that can lead to long term savings!



It's always Scammer Season!

Remember, CFEMC will never call you soliciting or demanding payment.

When in doubt, give us a shout!



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