

POWERLINES

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



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Coweta-Fayette



Eyes Up. Phones Down. Lives Depend on It

Every day, our electric cooperative crews head out to do work that keeps life moving—restoring power, maintaining lines, and responding to emergencies. During Distracted Driving and Roadside Safety Awareness Month, we're reminded that one of the greatest risks our employees face isn't always the weather or the equipment—it's traffic.

Our linemen often work just feet from passing vehicles, relying on flashing lights, cones, and drivers' attention to keep them safe. But in Georgia, distracted driving remains a serious issue. A quick glance at a phone or a device in hand can turn a routine workday into a tragedy.

Georgia's Hands-Free Law makes it illegal to hold or support a phone while driving. Violators face fines starting at \$50 and points on their license, with penalties increasing for repeat offenses within two years. Those points don't just impact insurance rates—they represent real-world danger on the road, especially in roadside work zones where utility crews are present.

Beyond fines and points, distracted driving can carry lasting consequences. A moment of inattention can lead to serious injury or worse—not only for drivers, but for the utility workers, emergency responders, and families who share the road. Every one of our crew members is someone's parent, spouse, neighbor, or friend.

Roadside safety is a shared responsibility. Slowing down, moving over, and staying hands-free aren't just legal requirements in Georgia—they're choices that save lives. This month, and every month, we ask drivers to stay alert and respect work zones.

Because keeping the lights on safely depends on all of us doing our part—especially behind the wheel.

GEORGIA HANDS-FREE & WORK ZONE LAWS



Hands Free Penalties for Violations

1 First Offense

\$50 fine and 1 point on your license

2 Second Offense

(within 24 months)
\$100 fine and 2 points

3 Third of Subsequent Offense

\$150 fine and 3 points



Work Zone Penalties for Violations

Fines range from \$100 - \$2,000 and up to 1-year in prison

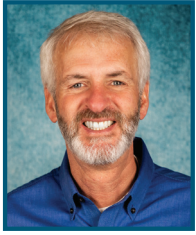
Potential for license suspension or 2-6 points added to your license



If you're experiencing issues viewing your usage in our app or on a mobile device, you can still access all of your information by logging into the desktop version of the member portal. Some meters report energy use in shorter time intervals, so when viewing your data, please select "30-minute-intervals" for the most accurate results.

If this doesn't solve your problem, or if you prefer help from a person, please call us at 770-502-0226 and ask to speak with Energy Services. One of our Energy Services team will be happy to send you the usage data you need and to answer any questions you might have.

When the Lights Go Out, Their Work Shines Brightest



Chris Stephens
CEO

April is a special time for electric cooperatives across the country. It's when we recognize Lineman Appreciation Month. It's our chance to say thank you to those who power our lives.

This year, appreciation feels a little different, because we've already seen firsthand what that dedication looks like.

Over the past few months, our service area has faced its share of challenges; from the threat of ice storms to the recent line of severe thunderstorms that brought high winds, heavy rain, and extended outages for many of our members. While most people were staying safe, warm and dry in their homes, our crews were heading straight into the storm.

That's the part most people don't see.

They don't see the long hours worked through the night. They don't see the dangerous conditions involving downed lines, debris covering roads, or rough terrain. They don't see the coordination, the planning, and the split-second decisions required to safely restore power.

But they feel the result.

When the lights come back on, the heat kicks back in, and life returns to normal, that's when their work speaks loudly.

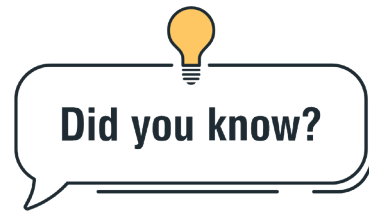
At Coweta-Fayette EMC, our linemen do more than restore power. They restore comfort. They restore safety. They restore peace of mind, and they do it with a level of professionalism and commitment deserving more than just one month of recognition.

What makes their work even more meaningful is they serve their own communities. These are your neighbors. They are people who live here, raise their families here, and take pride in keeping the lights on for the places and people they care about.

They understand that every outage is more than an inconvenience. It's a disruption to your home, your business, your routine. That's why they work with urgency and with heart.

This month, I encourage you to join us in recognizing their efforts. Because behind every restored line is a team that showed up, stepped up, and stayed until the job was done. And while April gives us a reason to pause and recognize them, the truth is their impact is felt every single day of the year.

Especially when we need them most.



Did you know?

Electric co-op line workers are specially trained to handle every part of the power delivery system, from substations to the lines that connect directly to your home.

- They work on energized lines up to tens of thousands of volts
- They are on call 24/7, 365 days a year
- They train for years through apprenticeships and ongoing safety certifications
- During major storms, they often work 16+ hour shifts until power is restored
- They partner with other co-ops across the country through mutual aid, ensuring help is always on the way when it's needed most

Storm Response— What Happens Behind the Scenes

When severe weather hits, restoring power is a coordinated effort:

1. **Damage Assessment** – Crews identify the hardest-hit areas and prioritize repairs
2. **Substation Restoration** – Getting large sections of the system back online first
3. **Main Line Repairs** – Restoring power to the greatest number of members
4. **Individual Outages** – Addressing smaller, localized issues last

It may seem like power is restored “out of order,” but this process helps bring electricity back to the most people as quickly and safely as possible.

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