

POWERLINES

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CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS

Scams Are Getting Smarter, So Can You!

Scammers have always relied on creating fear, urgency and confusion. But today, new technology can make those scams even more convincing.

Artificial intelligence can be used to create realistic emails, text messages, images and even voices that sound like someone you know. That means the old signs of a scam, like obvious spelling mistakes or awkward wording, may not always be there.

Don't Trust It Just Because It Looks Real

A scam message today may be well-written. A caller ID can be spoofed. A voice can be imitated. A website can look nearly identical to the real thing.

Instead of asking, "Does this look legitimate?" ask: "Can I verify that it is legitimate?" That small change in thinking can make a big difference.

This Cybersecurity Awareness Month, remember three simple words:



STOP

Don't let urgency make the decision for you.



CHECK

Question unexpected links, requests and messages.



VERIFY

Use a website, app or phone number you already trust.

UNEXPECTED MESSAGE

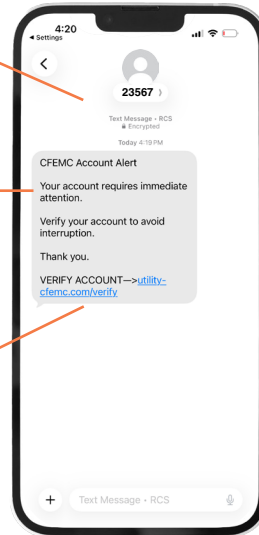
Were you expecting to hear from us?

URGENT REQUEST

Scammers want you to act before you think.

LINK INCLUDED

Don't use it. Go directly to a trusted source.



LOOKS REAL. IS IT?

Scammers are getting better at looking legitimate. You can get better at verifying them.



Think you could spot today's scams? Learn how to protect yourself.



When in doubt, stop before you click, pay or share. A few extra seconds to verify could save you from a costly mistake.

BEWARE THE ENERGY VAMPIRES

They may be small, but they **still suck**.

Even when turned off, many electronics continue to draw power. Help keep energy vampires from haunting your electric bill.



TVS & STREAMING DEVICES



GAME CONSOLES



PHONE CHARGERS



PRINTERS & MORE

UNPLUG THE VAMPIRES!

QUICK TIPS TO FIGHT BACK:



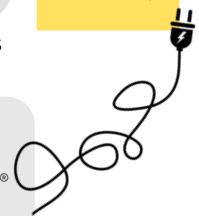
Unplug when not in use.



Use smart power strips.



Look for ENERGY STAR® products.



Built on Cooperation, Committed to Security

October gives us two important opportunities to reflect on who we are as a cooperative and how we serve you every day. As we celebrate National Cooperative Month and National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, both observances highlight something that has always been central to Coweta-Fayette EMC's mission: protecting and strengthening the communities we serve.

When you hear the word cooperative, what comes to mind?

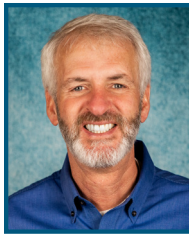
As your local electric cooperative, we hope you think of Coweta-Fayette EMC. Unlike many businesses that answer to outside investors or shareholders, cooperatives are built for their members. Our purpose is not simply to earn a profit. We exist to provide value, meet local needs, and improve the quality of life in the communities we call home.

Our story began in 1947 when a group of neighbors worked together to bring electricity to an area that other utilities would not serve. Distribution lines were purchased from two other EMCs, and Coweta-Fayette EMC was born. While much has changed over the decades, our purpose remains the same. We are still here to provide safe, reliable power and to make decisions with our members and communities in mind.

Because we are locally owned, we have the flexibility to focus on what matters most to the people we serve. Every electric cooperative is unique because every community is unique. The needs of our communities differ from those of other co-ops, and because we're local, it allows us to adapt and respond accordingly.

One of the seven cooperative principles is Cooperation Among Cooperatives, and we recently had the opportunity to bring that principle to life. We were honored to host a team of engineering and operations professionals from our sister cooperative, Coopeguanacaste, in Costa Rica. During their visit, our teams exchanged ideas and shared best practices related to advanced metering, system automation, and the successful implementation of the battery storage facility at the Michael C. Whiteside Solar Plant.

Partnerships like these strengthen the entire cooperative network. By sharing knowledge and learning from one another, cooperatives around the world can continue finding innovative ways to serve their members while maintaining reliable, affordable electric service.



Chris Stephens
CEO

October is also National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and protecting our members extends beyond poles, wires, and substations.

Cybersecurity plays a critical role in delivering safe and reliable electricity. While much of our focus is on protecting the physical infrastructure that powers homes and businesses, we are equally committed to safeguarding the systems and information that help us serve you.

Threats in the digital world continue to evolve, which is why cybersecurity is not something we think about only once a year. It is an ongoing responsibility. Our team continuously works to strengthen security measures, monitor systems, and follow industry best practices designed to protect both operational technology and sensitive information.

Cybersecurity is a shared responsibility. Just as we work to protect our systems, we encourage members to take steps to safeguard their personal information online. Using strong passwords, enabling multi-factor authentication, recognizing phishing attempts, and keeping software updated are simple but effective ways to reduce risk.

As we recognize both Cooperative Month and Cybersecurity Awareness Month, I am reminded that the strength of our cooperative has always come from people working together. Whether it is neighbors bringing electricity to rural communities nearly 80 years ago, cooperatives sharing innovations across borders, or all of us doing our part to stay safe in an increasingly connected world, cooperation remains at the heart of everything we do.

Thank you for your continued trust in Coweta-Fayette EMC. We are proud to serve you and remain committed to powering our communities safely, reliably, and securely for generations to come.



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