

Along the LINE

JANUARY 2020

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC



2019 First Responder Training

First Responder and Farm Safety Training

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will host our second annual First Responder and Farm Safety Training on Tuesday, January 28, at 6:00 p.m.

This training is provided at no cost by Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC understands the importance of teaching electrical safety.

The goal of our First Responders and Farm Safety Electrical Hazards Training is to help first responders and farm equipment operators work safely in emergency situations where electric utility lines are involved. Firefighters, police, EMTs and others, who are typically first on the scene in an emergency, face the greatest risk from electrical contacts and fires. It's also important that those who live and work on farms know

the risks and understand how they can unknowingly come into contact with electricity. Understanding the potential dangers and learning how to deal with them correctly makes everyone safer. The training is intended for all first responders and farm equipment operators and will cover a variety of electrical hazards that you could encounter.

Dinner will be provided. Please take advantage of this opportunity to update your department's training. RSVP to Monica Speight at (252) 641-9502 or monicas@ememc.com. Please provide an estimated number of attendees by Friday, January 3.

2020
**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Tuesday, January 1, in observance of New Years Day.

Payments after office hours and on holidays can be made at the kiosk under the drive thru canopy, by calling our automated telephone service at 1-855-356-6358, placed in the night deposit box or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay. To report a loss of power or an emergency after hours, please call 1-800-690-0657.

2020 Almanac or Calendar

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC members can request a complimentary 2020 Scenic Almanac calendar or a 2020 Farmer's Almanac on their next visit to our office. We will distribute the calendars and almanacs to walk-in members until they are gone, so stop by and get yours today.

Apply for a Touchstone Energy Basketball Camp Scholarship and Attend Camp this Summer!

Parents, do you have a middle schooler who loves basketball and wants to gain experience training alongside real college basketball players and coaches? We have great news for you!

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is now accepting applications for full scholarships to basketball camps at two North Carolina universities this summer. Young men can apply for a scholarship to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and young women can apply for a spot at the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp held at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

To apply, students must be a rising sixth, seventh or eighth grade student and a member of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. Applicants will be judged on their academics, extracurricular activities and an essay. The application period begins in January and applications must be submitted by March 31. To learn more and apply contact Monica Speight at 252-641-9502 or monicas@ememc.com



2nd Annual High School Line Academy

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's 2nd Annual High School Line Academy will be held March 30 through April 3.

The Line Academy provides high school students with a multi-faceted look at a career in electric utility line work. Students gain insight into the working conditions, education/training requirements, career outlook and compensation of an electric lineman.

Our vision is to ensure that Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is poised to bring the benefits of a work-ready workforce to our region by focusing on career fields where there are current and projected shortages of qualified workers.



This camp is open to any student in grades 9 through 12 interested in learning more about careers in the line technician field. Camp will be held one day for each school from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., depending on participation.

Lunch will be provided. This camp is provided at no cost by Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. Schools and/or students are responsible for transportation.

Sign up information and specific detailed information will be forwarded to each school.

2019: A Year in Review, and look at 2020

Life is like a series of building blocks, and each year acts as the foundation for the next as we build our future. With that in mind, I'd like to reflect on our accomplishments and challenges in 2019 and how Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is committed to improving the communities we serve moving forward into 2020 and beyond.

Concern for Community

In addition to our mission of providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to our members, we are also dedicated to the overall well-being of the communities we serve. Last year we also awarded a \$7,000 matching grant to the Edgecombe County Sheriff's office for their canine program. This year was the seventh year Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has participated in the CoBank Sharing Success grant program for nonprofits in our community.

Weather Events

In 2019 Edgecombe-Martin County EMC was fortunate to be spared any major impact from severe weather events. Hurricane Dorian made landfall on the coast of North Carolina on September 5, causing scattered outages affecting approximately 1,700 members. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC had the largest amount of outages from a wind storm on June 20, affecting approximately 2,500 members.

Empowering Through Education

Investing in our local schools is another way we remain committed to our communities. From preschools to high schools and beyond, we are working to empower youth through education. Just as in past years, our line technicians put on multiple high-voltage safety demonstrations across our service territory. The line technicians have provided demonstrations to schools, fire and police departments, agriculture

groups, and more. In addition to the high-voltage demonstrations, employees discussed opportunities in the utility industry with high school students at Career Days and STEM events throughout our region. In last month's Along the Line, you read about some of the investments Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has made through the Bright Ideas grant program to provide school teachers with resources to implement creative programs that will improve our kids' classroom experience.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC was able to award \$10,000 in Bright Ideas grants that will help seventeen classrooms in Edgecombe, Martin and Pitt counties.

Career Readiness

Labor stats indicate the demand for linemen is expected to grow by nine percent through 2022. Attracting and retaining qualified employees is critical to providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. In 2019, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC started our first annual Line Academy that provides high school students with a multi-faceted look at a career in electric utility line work.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC built a training facility for the camp where students were able to rotate through sessions and get hands-on training. Students gained insight into the working conditions, education/training requirements, career outlook, and compensation of an electric line technician. Our goal is to ensure that Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is poised to bring the benefits of a qualified workforce to our region by focusing on career fields where there are current and projected shortages of qualified workers.

Commitment to Cooperative Principles

Most of us never go more than a few hours without using electricity, whether that's at work, school, home,

or the commute in between. This past May, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC Lead Line Technician Sammy Clark was one of an elite team of 13 volunteers, representing seven of North Carolina Electric Cooperatives, to bring electricity to the tiny rural village of Laphía, Bolivia. His hard work and sacrifice to help communities and families in need exemplifies and reinforces one of our core principles, Concern for Community.

Efficiency Through Technology

As you may have read in previous newsletters, we are deep in the process of installing a new automated metering infrastructure (AMI) system. The new AMI system will automatically notify the Cooperative in the event that a member loses power, rather than members having to notify us of a power outage. This will help locate outages quickly and precisely. With more information coming from the meters and other new applications, the co-op can monitor the electrical system better and work to improve power quality issues. Also, the additional data from AMI system will allow our member services representatives to provide our members with more consumption information. Our goal is to have the metering system completely installed by the end of 2020.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has faced many challenges over our eighty-two year history. However, through the support of our membership we have faced those challenges head-on to make this cooperative is one of the best in the nation. We thank you for your support and look forward to serving you in the year ahead.

Cooperatively,

Winston Howell

Winston Howell

Resolve to be Energy Efficient in 2020

We're always trying to transform ourselves. Whether it's by eating healthier, exercising more or building up a savings account, many of us refocus on priorities and personal aspirations at the start of a new year.

As we begin 2020, consider adding a resolution to be more energy efficient. Making small changes can make a big difference in saving energy and money. The good news is Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is here to help you along the way.

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

1. Adjust your thermostat: Keeping your thermostat at 68 degrees or the lowest comfortable setting during colder months saves energy and prevents your heating system from working too hard. Installing a smart thermostat can help you make adjustments automatically.
2. Change your HVAC system's filters regularly: This improves system performance, saving both energy and money.
3. Switch to LED lights: According to energy.gov, ENERGY STAR-qualified LEDs use 75 percent less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.
4. Understand more about your home energy use: Learn more about your home energy use by taking advantage of the resources offered by Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. Log on to our Smarthub app to track your daily energy use.



Meter Deployment Schedule

The ENERCO contractors will be in uniform and their company vehicles display the company logo and Edgecombe-Martin County EMC contractors logo.

When they arrive at your home, the installers will knock at the door to let you know they are there to replace your meter. The installers will not need to enter your home, nor will they request any personal information from you for the meter replacement.

During the process, your power will be out for just a few minutes.

When the installation is complete, the contractor will leave a door hanger at your location to let you know your meter has been replaced.

During January, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will change out meters in Martin County, Lee-Leggett, Fountain Fork, Shiloh and Wilson-Robersonville substations. This will affect members on the east side of our system in the rural areas surrounding Conetoe, Old Sparta, Pinetops, Crisp, Belvoir, Macclesfield and West Edgecombe.

Along The LINE

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