

Along the LINE

MAY 2022

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Sporting Clay 4-H Fundraiser

Save the date for our sporting clays 4-H fundraiser,
Friday, September 16, 2022.

This is a 50-target event.
Registration will begin at 9 a.m.
Lunch will be provided at the
conclusion of the tournament.
There will be prizes for 1st
through 3rd place for individuals
and teams. Gun rental is available. A maximum of 30 teams will be allowed.
Shells are not included in registration fee, but will be available for purchase if
needed. 7½ size shot or smaller. Eye and ear protection is required.



Edgecombe-Martin County EMC Sporting Clay Fundraiser

WHEN: Friday, September 16, 2022

WHERE: Rose Hill Sporting Preserve, 3815 Rose Hill Lane,
Nashville, NC 27856

BENEFITS: Edgecombe & Martin County 4-H

PRICE: \$400 for a 4 person team. \$125.00 for individuals

TO REGISTER: Contact Monica Speight at 252-641-9502



Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC
will be closed on
Monday, May 30,
in observance of Memorial 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 by
logging on to ememc.com.

To report an
emergency after hours, please
call 1-800-690-0657.

May is Electrical Safety Month

Electricity lights homes and businesses, provides warmth and keeps appliances and equipment running smoothly. During Electrical Safety Month, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and Safe Electricity provide these electrical safety tips to avoid hazards both inside and outdoors.

Staying safe on the road

- Downed power lines can happen because of wind, storms, animals or an auto accident/collision.
- If you see a downed power line, call 9-1-1 to report it and stay in your car. You cannot tell by looking or listening if the power line is deenergized. Wait in your vehicle until an electric utility crew member says it is safe.
- Do not drive over a downed power line. Doing so could cause a domino effect and bring down other lines, poles and equipment.
- The only time you should exit is if your vehicle or cab is on fire. If this is the case, make a solid jump from the car or cab without touching it, landing with both feet together. Then, hop away with your feet together.
- interrupter (GFCI) protected.
- Before digging, call 8-1-1 or your state's underground locating service. Buried lines such as electric, gas, water, sewer and other lines bring services indoors. Besides the dangers of coming in contact with a gas or electric line, fines due to damage are the responsibility of the homeowner or landowner.
- When you see lightning, take shelter inside the house, shop or a hard-topped vehicle for protection. Stay away from items that conduct electricity, such as metal fences. If you are swimming or in a hot tub, get out. Water is an electrical conductor that is dangerous during a storm.

Staying safe outside

- When working outside, be aware of overhead and underground power lines.
- Keep at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Keep any items you are carrying or using, such as long poles or other extended equipment, 10 feet away from power lines at all times. Carry an extension ladder or other far-reaching tools or equipment horizontally.
- Make sure that all outside outlets are ground-fault circuit
- With so many people working from home, the workplace and where you live can be one and the same. This means more devices are plugged into outlets or circuits that may not be able to handle the load.
- Have a qualified electrician/ licensed contractor check for hazards if you notice the following: dimming lights, a sizzling or buzzing sound, the smell of warm plastic, a switch plate that feels warm or looks scorched, sparks when plugging in or unplugging items or circuits that trip often.
- When working with electrical



equipment inside the house or shop, be aware that electrical equipment can spark when flammable vapors, gases or dust are present.

- Do not overstretch a cord or use frayed or damaged cords.
- During storms, lightning can enter homes through corded phones, televisions, radios or computers. Lightning can also travel through plumbing, so do not take a bath, shower or wash dishes when you see lightning strikes. If possible, unplug appliances and electronics before the storm, including cell phones that are charging via electricity. Surges caused by lightning can damage electronics and appliances.

Shooting at utility facilities, wires, poles and insulators is dangerous and against the law in North Carolina. Never attempt to shoot through wires or at anything on the wires or poles. Gunshot damage to electrical equipment can cause an electrical arc or cause wires to fall, with a high risk of serious injury or death.

In rural areas across the state, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and other not-for-profit cooperatives spend thousands of dollars per year repairing equipment and power lines that a bullet has struck. Repairs can be very costly, and we strive to keep operating expenses down for all members.

This doesn't even include the inconvenience, damages and hazards to members down the line who require power for medical equipment or other needs while a line technician has to ride the lines out to locate the problem during a power outage.

With dove season shortly approaching, we encourage hunters to follow hunting safety and sportsmanship guidelines, especially around power equipment. Hunters and other gun owners should not shoot near or toward power lines, power poles and substations. A stray bullet can cause damage to equipment, could be deadly to the shooter and potentially interrupt electric service to large areas.

Sometimes the damage isn't noticed for several weeks or months and is only discovered when an unexplained outage occurs.

Landowners are also encouraged to take note of who is hunting on their property and remind them to be aware of power lines.

The majority of hunters practice safe hunting and understand the potential risks when discharging a firearm. We encourage experienced hunters who are familiar with the area to identify the locations of utility



Conductor damage due to gun shots out of JC Hall substation

properties and equipment to young or new hunters in their group and remind them to avoid shooting toward these facilities.

Protecting our power lines not only keeps you safe but avoids unplanned outages and expensive repairs. It's just one more way we keep costs down for our members. But if damage occurs, the responsible party can be held liable for repair costs.

Cooperatively,

Mike Johnson

Mike Johnson

May Rights-of-Way Schedule

In order to provide safe, reliable electrical service, we maintain the rights-of-way under and around our power lines. We do this through rights-of-way and vegetation management. This requires pruning, removing, and cutting brush to prevent vegetation from interrupting your electric service. Throughout May, Xylem Tree experts will be trimming in the Speight Chapel road near Gethsemane locations.

Thank You For Attending Our Annual Meeting

Thank you to all that came out for our 85th Annual Meeting. Our Annual Meeting was held from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 24, at our headquarters facility.

This year's annual meeting was held outside, drive-thru style. Members interacted with employees on a different level than in the typical work environment as they went through the three stations at the drive-thru. BBQ plates and drinks were provided to all in attendance, and attendance gifts were issued to each registered member. Registered members were entered in a drawing for 10 \$100 bill credits with the drawing held on Friday, March 25. The business meeting took place outdoors on the warehouse dock with parking available, the meeting was broadcast via FM radio and on Facebook Live.

While the event was different from our traditional annual meetings, it was great to see so many Edgecombe-Martin County EMC members in attendance. Thank you to our awesome members for your involvement and your continued support.



HVAC Service Reminder

The air conditioner is always the hardest working appliance during the summer months. For day-to-day comfort, we rely on our cooling system, be it at home or at the office. For that reason, it's imperative to have your HVAC system serviced before it starts getting too warm and humid.

Most members can expect to see their bills increase during the summer months as their air conditioners run longer and harder to cool the home

to their desired temperature. Experts recommend that you keep your thermostat set at 78 degrees when your HVAC system is set to cool in order to keep energy consumption as low as possible.

You should also inspect and replace your return filters monthly if needed. Failing to change your air filters can cause your air conditioner to run longer and become less efficient. An efficient air conditioner means more money in your pocket due to lower electric bills.



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