

# Along the LINE

July 2022

For members of  
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

## Above-Average Activity Predicted for 2022 Hurricane Season

Researchers at North Carolina State University are predicting an above-average 2022 Atlantic hurricane season.

The researchers at North Carolina State University are predicting 17 to 21 named storms, with seven to nine of those storms developing into hurricanes, and five becoming major hurricanes in the Atlantic this season, which runs from June 1 through Nov. 30.

Although hurricane season starts June 1, the majority of storms occur between mid-August and mid-October. You should always make plans and prepare ahead of time for a major storm so you are not caught off guard. Take time to create a hurricane plan and gather the necessary supplies to keep you safe.

## 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Names

<b>Alex</b>	<b>Hermine</b>	<b>Owen</b>
<b>Bonnie</b>	<b>Ian</b>	<b>Paula</b>
<b>Colin</b>	<b>Julia</b>	<b>Richard</b>
<b>Danielle</b>	<b>Karl</b>	<b>Shary</b>
<b>Earl</b>	<b>Lisa</b>	<b>Tobias</b>
<b>Fiona</b>	<b>Martin</b>	<b>Virgine</b>
<b>Gaston</b>	<b>Nicole</b>	<b>Walter</b>



## Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC  
will be closed on  
Monday, July 4, in observance of  
Independence 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](https://ememc.com)

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

## Bryant Named the 2021 Safety Employee of the Year

Chad Bryant received the 2021 Safety Employee of the Year award at the May safety luncheon.

A good safety record is unique in any business, and we strive for this each and every day. But with the nature of the work at an electric utility, it has even more significance.

At Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, keeping our employees safe is our top priority. We pride ourselves on the safety programs that have been implemented at our co-op. Weekly employee safety meetings, a safety committee, required job briefings and continuous training aid our cooperative in promoting a culture of safety. The cooperative strives to be an industry leader in all aspects of safety.

Chad Bryant received the 2021 Safety Employee of the Year Award at the May Safety luncheon. Safety Service Awards recognizing five-year benchmarks were also awarded to the following employees: Alissa Cutler (5 years), Melinda Nimmo (20 years), Melissa Taylor (20 years), Michael Harrell (25 years), and Alan Johnson (30 years).



*Chad Bryant, 2021 Safety Employee of the Year*



*(back, left to right) Alan Johnson, Melinda Nimmo, Michael Harrell, (front, left to right) Melissa Taylor and Alissa Cutler, were recognized for safety awards for five-year benchmarks*

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## Protect Your Appliances with a Surge Protector

With summer storms just around the corner, now is the time to make sure your appliances are protected from damaging power surges.

Changes in voltage levels are caused by many different events, with lightning being the most common. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, has lightning and surge protection built into its system, which guard against most voltage surges caused by birds, animals and trees contacting power lines, accidents involving utility poles, lightning storms and other disturbances. However, many surges cannot be prevented.

Whole-house surge arrestors, installed at the meter base, are the critical first line of defense against damaging lightning and power surges entering your home through the electric meter.

A surge protector can be installed for a one-time fee of \$40 and a monthly fee of \$3.50. If you have questions about surge protection or would like to schedule an installation of a surge guard meter base device, call Monica Speight at 252-641-9502.



At Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, we are focused on supporting our members and building a brighter future for our communities. Beyond our efforts to integrate renewables while upholding the reliability and affordability of electricity, we are also supporting changing community and individual needs, like increased interest in home solar installations.

As we are receiving more questions about home solar, our energy experts are dedicated to working with members in assessing their home energy use and new energy technologies. We have also launched a solar toolkit at [ememc.com/renewable-energy-center](http://ememc.com/renewable-energy-center) with clear information about this technology.

Embarking on a home solar project can be a big investment. And like any major investment, it is important to consider a range of personal, geographic and financial factors when determining the best fit for your home and family.

One of the most important questions to ask is: What are my goals? A recent study conducted across North Carolina's electric cooperatives revealed that 56 percent of co-op members who express an interest in home solar are interested because of perceived savings on their electric bill. If savings are your aim, please contact us. Our energy experts can walk through several home energy technologies and the impact they could have on energy use. We can also perform an energy audit at your home that will yield recommendations for energy efficiency upgrades that can provide a faster return on your investment.

If your motivation stems from environmental factors or the opportunity to embrace a growing technology, check out our online toolkit. It provides information about how home solar works, and also shines a light on the most common questions we hear from members, including: Is my home in a good location for solar? How could solar impact my energy bill? How would my home solar system interconnect with the grid? What other factors should I consider?

If you have researched home solar and it seems like a fit, we encourage you to contact Edgecombe-Martin County EMC as your first step. We will provide you with important information about rates and grid interconnection agreements that you will need before entering into conversations with solar installers. While many installers are reputable and



knowledgeable, there are more than 100 electric utilities in North Carolina, and it is possible that they may miss facts and details specific to our co-op.

As our cooperative works to evolve the electricity grid, we are proud to support all energy solutions that are a fit for our members, uphold the safety and reliability of our grid and improve the diversity of our resources, while also ensuring that costs are not shifted to members without home solar panels.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is here to support you in meeting your energy goals. If you're eyeing home solar, we hope you'll connect with us soon to learn more about our interconnection process and get the accurate information you need to make an informed decision. Our team of experts are ready to help, and we look forward to continuing to work together with our members to build a brighter future for all.

Cooperatively Yours,  
*Winston Howell*  
Winston Howell



## Apply Early for Bright Ideas Education Grants for a chance to win \$100

As the old saying goes, “the early bird gets the worm.” Be one of the “early bird” K-12 teachers who submit their Bright Ideas Education Grant application by Aug. 15 to get “the worm,” or a chance to win one of five \$100 gift cards in a statewide drawing.

The final deadline to apply for a Bright Ideas grant of up to \$1,500 from Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is Sept. 15.

The Bright Ideas Education Grant program, offered by Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and North Carolina’s 26 electric cooperatives, advances excellence in education and accelerates student learning by providing funds for innovative projects.

Supported by all 26 electric cooperatives in North Carolina, Bright Ideas grants have contributed \$14.3 million to N.C. classrooms, funding a total of 13,536 projects that have benefited well over 2.8 million students statewide since 1994.

To learn more about the program and apply, visit [ncbrightideas.com](http://ncbrightideas.com).



Apply Today!  
[ncbrightideas.com](http://ncbrightideas.com)

## July 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 July, Xylem Tree experts will be trimming in the Rocky Mount substation area, which include: Tanner road abd Hwy. 97 near Rocky Mount, and surrounding areas.



### Along The LINE

[www.ememc.com](http://www.ememc.com)

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