

Along the LINE

SEPTEMBER 2023

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Integral Role of the Materials and Facilities Coordinator

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's Materials and Facilities Coordinator, Alex Tucker, plays a crucial role in supporting our members and the cooperative as a whole.

While the materials and facilities coordinator's work often goes unnoticed, he ensures the smooth operation of various tasks, including inventory management, infrastructure repair and maintenance, and prompt response during power outages.

The responsibilities of our materials and facilities coordinator encompass several important duties. He guarantees that construction crews, line technicians and contractors have all the necessary materials to complete their jobs. He also oversees the organization and tracking of materials in the pole yard and keeps the warehouse well-stocked with supplies and equipment. He handles the loading and unloading of supplies and equipment with utmost care, recognizing their value and the challenge of replacing them.

Being proactive and staying ahead of supply-chain challenges is a priority for Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. The availability of supplies and equipment is essential for our line technicians to carry out their work effectively. In order to maintain

a steady inventory, we collaborate with other North Carolina electric cooperatives through the Tarheel Electric Membership Association (TEMA). This cooperative purchasing allows us to benefit from better pricing and a wider range of products.

The exceptional service our members have come to expect is largely owed to the unwavering dedication of our Materials and Facilities Coordinator, Alex Tucker. Though the work may be done behind the scenes, its impact is felt in every home served by Edgecombe-Martin County EMC.



Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Monday, Sept. 4, in observance of Labor 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, the SmartHub app, 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.

Last Chance for Sporting Clay Fundraiser

You still have time to sign up for our 4-H Sporting Clay Fundraiser, or become a sponsor for the event.

Our second Sporting Clays 4-H Fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 8. This exciting event consists of a 50-target competition. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. Lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the tournament. Prizes will be awarded to the top three individuals and teams. Gun rental services are available, and a maximum of 30 teams will be allowed to participate. Please note that shells are not included in the registration fee, but can be purchased if needed, 7½ size shot or smaller. Eye and ear protection are required. For more information or to sign up, contact Monica Speight at 252-641-9502.



Home Electric Vehicle Wiring Guidelines

Americans are rapidly adopting plug-in electric vehicles (EVs). In fact, the Edison Electric Institute and the Institute for Electric Innovation estimate that 18.7 million EVs will be on U.S. roads by 2030.

Because 80% of EV charging happens at home, consumer demand for homes ready for or equipped with EV charging is also growing. Here are some general steps and considerations for pre-wiring a new construction home or existing home for EVs:

1. Determine the location: Identify the best location for the EV charging equipment, such as a garage or carport, taking into account accessibility, proximity to the electrical service panel, and convenience for charging.

2. Assess electrical capacity: Evaluate the electrical capacity of your home to ensure it can support the additional load of EV charging. You may need to consult with an electrician to determine if your electrical panel and service can handle the additional demand. Be sure to talk to your utility company about transformer capacity.

3. Consult local codes: Research the specific building codes, regulations, and permitting requirements in North Carolina regarding EV charger installation and electrical work. Different municipalities may have specific guidelines, so it's important to follow the local regulations.

4. Select charging equipment: Choose the appropriate EV charging equipment for your needs. There are various options available, including Level 1 chargers (120V), Level 2 chargers (240V), and even DC fast chargers. Consider the charging speed, compatibility with your EV, and future-proofing your setup.

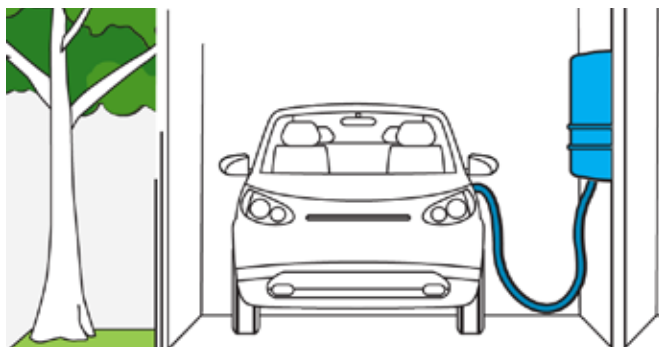
5. Plan for wiring and conduit: Determine the appropriate wiring and conduit requirements based on the chosen charging equipment and the distance from the electrical panel to the charging location. It's generally recommended to use a dedicated circuit for the EV charger and install a conduit for future-proofing and ease of maintenance.

6. Install a dedicated circuit: Install a dedicated circuit from the electrical panel to the EV charging location. This circuit should be appropriately sized to handle the charging equipment's electrical requirements and comply with local codes. Again, it's best to consult with a licensed electrician for this installation.

7. Consider load management: If you plan to have multiple EVs or expect high electrical demand in the future, you may need to consider load management systems to distribute the power effectively without overloading the electrical system.

8. Safety considerations: Ensure proper grounding and electrical safety measures are implemented during the installation. Follow all manufacturer instructions, local codes, and safety guidelines to minimize the risk of electrical hazards.

Remember, these are general guidelines, and it's crucial to consult with professionals and follow local regulations specific to your location in North Carolina to ensure a safe and compliant installation.



lines

FROM V.P. OF ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS
MIKE JOHNSON

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is dedicated to prioritizing the safety of our employees, striving to prevent injuries, and guaranteeing that every team member returns home safely. This commitment requires constant efforts to invest in the tools and equipment necessary to maintain such a high standard of safety, to abide by the comprehensive safety manual that we've developed, and to continuously provide safety training to all employees.

Safety is deeply ingrained in our co-op's culture, influencing every aspect of our work. Regardless of the task at hand, our goal is to assess how it can be performed in a safe manner. These practices apply to activities like power restoration and tasks completed in the office.

Each Tuesday, our operations department conducts a morning safety meeting, which typically covers safety procedures, equipment inspections, discussions about any near-misses and other relevant safety topics that require attention. The co-op also has a safety committee that meets quarterly and works to identify safety concerns and to recommend areas for improvement. We're always looking for innovative ways to make processes safer and more efficient. That's why our committee approach is so valuable because it involves employees working in these conditions who have firsthand experience with what's working and what's not.

Employees bear full responsibility for their safety as well as the safety of their colleagues. When working in the field, line technicians conduct pre-job tailgate meetings to clearly identify potential hazards and understand each teammates responsibility. Every team member, regardless of seniority, possesses the authority to immediately halt a job if they believe there is a potential safety hazard. Line technicians are also required to pass annual timed-tests for pole-top rescue and bucket rescue, involving the rescue of a practice dummy. These two tests guarantee that line technicians are skilled in rescuing a fellow line technician using climbing gear and a rope or by lowering and safely releasing an injured line technician from a bucket on a hydraulic lift.

Every year, all employees undergo training covering various topics including CPR, first aid, bloodborne pathogens, proper lifting techniques, office safety and more. Every three years, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC participates in an unannounced safety inspection. The Rural Electricity Safety Achievement

Program (R.E.S.A.P.) inspection, which is conducted by the N.C. Electric Membership Corporations job training and safety staff, reviews every aspect of the co-op to determine if adequate safe practices are maintained. The co-op is assessed on facilities, equipment, employee knowledge and numerous other items. This inspection was completed in June and our team performed well in all areas, meeting satisfactory standards and even surpassing expectations in many areas.

The presence of a strong safety culture within our team is evident. However, we must remain committed to ongoing improvement by individually asking ourselves how we can enhance our own abilities for the betterment of the team.

Undoubtedly, the primary driving force behind our safety-oriented approach is ensuring that the workforce returns home safely to their families each evening. However, it is important to highlight other notable advantages that accompany this approach. By reducing injuries, employees can maintain a state of physical readiness, which is essential to the power industry. A safe workplace also promotes good employee morale. Finally, working safe is good for our members. By law, the co-op must pay worker's compensation insurance based on a formula that includes accidents. The fewer the accidents, the lower the amount Edgecombe-Martin County EMC must pay into worker's compensation. Anything that helps the co-op reduce overhead can potentially help lower members' rates.

As a cooperative, the safety of our members is also very important to us. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC employees often give safety presentations and demonstrations at schools and organizations, reminding people of the simple electric safety habits that can protect themselves and their loved ones from harm. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC holds first responder and farm safety training annually on safe practices in situations involving downed power lines, accidents, or fires. If you're a member of a civic club, group, business organization, or educational institution within our service area and would like to know more about our electrical safety presentations, call Monica Speight at 252-823-2171.

Mike Johnson
Mike Johnson

Educators, Apply Now! The Bright Ideas Application Deadline is Approaching

The deadline for interested teachers to apply for a Bright Ideas grant is quickly approaching, and applicants have until Sept. 15 to submit an application.

The grants will support local teachers with creative ideas to innovate teaching and improve student success in K-12 classrooms. To find the application or learn more about the program, visit ncbrightideas.com.

A shared initiative of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and electric cooperatives statewide, Bright Ideas grants have funded over 13,500 projects with more than \$14 million awarded to teachers across North Carolina since 1994. Millions of students have benefited from the projects, technology and enhanced teaching methods made possible by Bright Ideas.

Teachers in any discipline, from

engineering to art, can apply to receive a grant of up to \$1,500.

"At Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, we believe that education is an essential part of building and bettering our community, and Bright Ideas grants enable us to help local teachers who continue to go above and beyond in the classroom," said Monica Speight, manager of communication of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC.

"The co-op expects to award approximately \$10,000 this fall in our service area, and we look forward to partnering with exceptional educators to accelerate learning this year, and for years to come."



Along The LINE

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September 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.

During September, Lucas Tree Experts will utilize the sky trim and bushhogging equipment, starting in the Fountain Fork, Oak City, and Hobgood areas, as well as addressing various hotspots on the system.

