



Along the LINE

October 2026

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Look Up, Stay Alert and Hunt Safely

As fall arrives, many of us are spending more time outdoors—working in the yard, preparing our homes for cooler weather or heading into the woods for hunting season. No matter what your fall plans include, taking a few extra precautions around electricity can help keep you, your family and others safe.

Overhead power lines can be easy to overlook when trimming trees, using ladders or moving equipment. Always check your surroundings before raising a ladder, pole, tree-trimming equipment or other long objects. Keep yourself and your equipment at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Never attempt to trim trees that are growing into or near power lines. Leave that work to qualified professionals.

Hunters should also make power-line safety part of their routine. Before setting up a tree stand or hunting blind, carefully inspect the area for overhead lines and other electrical equipment. Choose a location well away from utility facilities and never attach a tree stand, ladder, climbing device or hunting equipment to a utility pole.

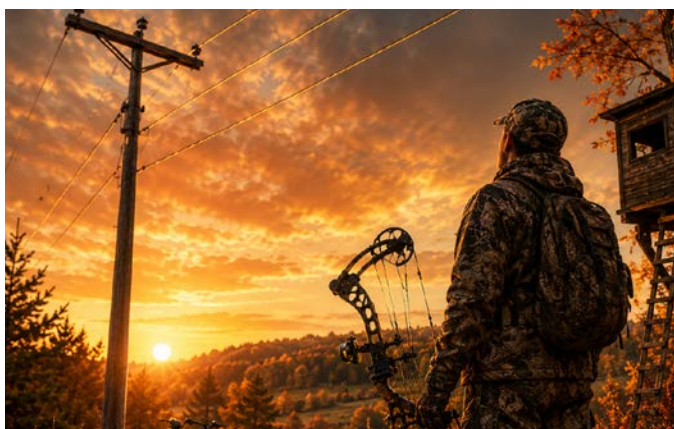
When transporting or setting up tree stands, ladders or other long equipment, look up and look around first. A tall object can come dangerously close to a power line even when the person carrying it is several feet away.

Hunters using ATVs or other vehicles should also be aware of utility poles, guy wires and electrical equipment in fields and wooded areas. Never drive over guy wires or come into contact with utility equipment. If equipment becomes stuck or contacts a power line, stay in the vehicle if it is safe to do so and call for help. If you must exit because of an immediate danger, jump clear without touching the vehicle and the ground at the same time, then move away by hopping with your feet together.

Fall is also a good time to check electrical equipment around your home. Inspect extension cords, outdoor lighting and power tools for damage before using them. Replace cords with frayed wires, cracked insulation or damaged plugs. Outdoor extension cords should be specifically rated for outdoor use and should never be used as a permanent wiring solution.

Whether you're preparing your property or preparing for hunting season, a few seconds of planning can prevent a serious electrical accident.

Remember: Always assume a power line is energized. If you see a downed line, stay far away, keep others away and call 911 and your electric cooperative to report it. Stay alert, look up and make electrical safety part of your fall routine.



Small Change. Big Difference: Operation Round Up Grants Available

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is now accepting applications for Operation Round Up grants. Through this program, participating members voluntarily round their electric bills up to the next dollar, with the extra change going toward organizations and projects that benefit our local communities.

Each member typically contributes only about \$6 per year, but when those small contributions are combined, they provide meaningful support for programs that benefit our communities.

Operation Round Up grant applications are now open, and eligible organizations serving Edgecombe-Martin County EMC members are encouraged to apply. Grants of up to \$1,000 are available for qualifying community needs, including education, emergency services and other projects that make a positive difference locally.

Funds may not be requested for taxes, payroll, political activities, lobbying or advertising. Applications are available at the EMEMC office or at **ememc.com**. Completed applications may be submitted in person, online and ememc.com/operation-round, or by mail to: EMEMC, Attn: Monica Speight, P.O. Box 188, Tarboro, NC 27886. Applications are reviewed by the EMEMC Board of Directors.

Want to participate? Email memberservices@ememc.com or call 252-823-2171 to sign up. Members may opt out at any time.

Together, our members are proving that even small amounts can create a big impact right here at home.



Member Appreciation Day is Oct. 7!

It's our way of saying thank you to the members who make Edgecombe-Martin County EMC a strong cooperative. Join us for Member Appreciation Day on Wednesday, Oct. 7, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the truck shed.

Stop by for hot dogs, homemade ice cream, fellowship and fun! Our employees will be there to visit with members, answer questions and enjoy the afternoon with you. Be sure to pick up your 2026 calendar and enter our drawing for bill credits while you're here.

Member Appreciation Day is one of our favorite opportunities to celebrate the people we work for—you! We appreciate your continued support and the trust you place in your cooperative.

Come hungry, bring a friend and help us celebrate the cooperative spirit. We look forward to seeing you Oct. 7!



More Than Electricity: The Power of Being a Member

What does it mean to be a member of an electric cooperative? It means more than receiving a monthly electric bill. It means being part of something that belongs to you — something built around people, not profits.

October is National Cooperative Month, and this year, we're looking at the cooperative difference from a different perspective: what your membership makes possible.

Every day, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC employees make decisions with one question in mind: How does this impact our members? From maintaining more than 1,500 miles of distribution lines to preparing for severe weather, improving technology, planning for future energy needs, and investing in our communities, your membership is at the center of it all.

Your Voice Matters

One of the most important differences between a cooperative and other businesses is that our members have a voice.

You have the opportunity to participate in the cooperative and help shape its future. Our board of directors is elected by the membership to represent the interests of the people we serve. Your participation — whether through voting, attending the annual meeting, communicating with us, or simply sharing your feedback — helps keep your cooperative connected to the community.

Your Membership Helps Us Look Ahead

Providing reliable electricity today requires planning for tomorrow.

We continually invest in poles, lines, substations, equipment, technology and system improvements to strengthen our electric grid and better serve our growing membership. We're also using technology to improve the member experience, from smart meters and outage management to tools that give you more information about your energy use and account.

These investments may not always be visible, but they are an important part of keeping the lights on and preparing our system for the future.

Your Cooperative Is Part of the Community

We don't just serve this community — we are part of it. Our employees live here. Our families attend local schools. We shop at local businesses, volunteer, coach, serve on community organizations and raise our families in the same communities we serve.

That local connection is why we believe our responsibility extends beyond delivering electricity. Through programs such as Bright Ideas grants, NC Youth Tour, Operation Round Up and support for local organizations and economic development efforts, we work to help our communities grow stronger.

Membership Makes a Difference

Being a member also means sharing in the cooperative's success. Because Edgecombe-Martin County EMC operates as a not-for-profit cooperative, any margins that are eligible for return to members are allocated through capital credits. Over time, those capital credits represent your financial ownership in the cooperative.

It's one more reminder that you are not simply a customer receiving a service. You are a member-owner of the organization providing it.

The Power Is in All of Us

Cooperatives were built on a simple idea: people can accomplish more when they work together.

That idea is just as relevant today as it was when electric cooperatives were formed to bring electricity to rural communities. Our challenges may look different now, but our purpose remains the same. We work together to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electric service while making the communities we call home stronger.

So this October, we're not just celebrating Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. We're celebrating the people who make the cooperative what it is — our members.

Thank you for being more than a customer. Thank you for being a member, a voice, and an important part of the Edgecombe-Martin County EMC family.

Winston Howell

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour: A Life-Changing Experience for Students

Each year, the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour opens doors for high school students to experience Washington, D.C., in a way unlike any other.

Next summer, one student sponsored by Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will join more than 1,500 peers from across the country for a week of leadership development, education, and adventure in our nation's capital.

During the tour, delegates gain a deeper understanding of the cooperative business model, American history and the role of government. Students will visit historic sites and monuments, meet with congressional leaders and see firsthand how public policy is shaped. The Youth Tour also offers unique networking opportunities, connecting participants with alumni who have gone on to serve as Capitol Hill staffers, interns, and even elected officials.

This experience is open to current high school juniors (rising seniors) who are ready to take on a leadership opportunity that can inspire their future.

For more details or to apply, please contact Monica Speight at 252-823-2171 or monicass@ememc.com.



Blane Dawes was Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's 2026 Youth Tour participant.

Along The LINE

www.ememc.com

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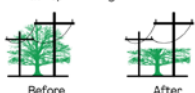
October Rights-of-Way

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 vegetation to prevent interruption of your electric service.

Throughout October, Lucas Tree Experts will utilize the sky trim, buckets and bushhogging equipment, in the Battleboro/Whitakers area and various hotspots on the system.

Examples of trimming methods

Flat Top Trimming



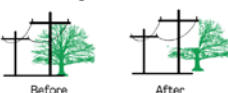
Trees are cut 15 feet below the lowest electric line.

Side Trimming



Trees are cut at least 15 feet from the center of the utility pole. As well as danger trees outside the 15 feet.

"L" Trimming



Trees are cut 15 feet from the neutral.