



# Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

MAY 2016

*The Official Newsletter of Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation*

**Serving: Toombs, Montgomery, Emanuel, Treutlen, Laurens, Johnson and Tattnall**

## Summer Safety Tips

**M**ay is National Electrical Safety Month. While safety should be top priority year-round, this is a good time to remind our members of the following tips:

### **Water and electricity don't mix**

Summer is the season for swimming and boating, and awareness of electrical hazards around water can prevent deaths and injuries. Water and electricity don't mix.

- Use covers on outdoor power outlets, especially near swimming pools. Keep cords and electrical devices away from the water, and never handle electrical items before you've dried off.

- Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries. These devices interrupt the flow of power when they sense a surge. Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and are available at prices ranging from \$12 to \$30.

### **Lightning and storms**

Lightning strikes are fatal in 10 percent of victims, and 70 percent suffer serious long-term effects, according to the National Weather Service. Because lightning can travel sideways for up to 10 miles, blue skies are not a sign of safety. If you hear thunder, take cover.

- If weather conditions indicate a storm, stay inside—away from doors

and windows—or seek shelter in a low-lying area away from trees and any metal, including sheds, clotheslines, poles, and fences. If you're near water, stay as far away as possible.

- If you're in a group, spread out—don't stand close together.
- Indoors, unplug electronics before the storm arrives, and don't use corded phones.

- Avoid plumbing—sinks, bathtubs, faucets.

- Don't forget about your pets. Doghouses are not safe from lightning, and chained animals are easy targets.

- If your home is flooded during a storm, don't turn on appliances or electronics until given the okay by an electrician. If there's standing water, don't go inside. The water could be energized.

### **Working with large appliances**

If your air conditioner goes out, keep a few things in mind before you start poking around. Large appliances, such as air conditioners, are responsible for almost 20 percent of consumer-product electrocutions each year.

- Understand your electrical system—know which fuse or circuit breaker controls each switch, light, and outlet.

- Make sure circuits are turned off before starting work and take measures to ensure they're not turned back on while working.

- Use a circuit tester—always test before you touch.

### **Call before You Dig**

Whether it's a deck addition or a landscap-

ing masterpiece, summer weather is a great time for outdoor improvement plans. If your planned projects include digging, like planting a tree or bringing in a backhoe for trench work, you'll have to wait a few more days so the job can be done safely. Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water, and electric lines, can be a shovel thrust away from turning a summer project into a disaster.

To find out where utility lines run on your property, dial 811 a few days prior to digging. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified. In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes, and cables with flags or marking paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although light gardening typically doesn't call for deep digging, other seemingly simple tasks like planting shrubs or installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines. A severed line can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers, and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: the 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted, and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information about local services, visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com).



## ARC-FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS (AFCIs)

# PREVENT ELECTRICAL FIRES

### What is an **Arc-Fault**?

An arc-fault is a dangerous electrical problem **caused by damaged, overheated, or stressed electrical wiring or devices**. Arc-faults can occur when older wires become frayed or cracked, when a nail or screw damages a wire behind a wall, or when outlets or circuits are compromised.



### Why do I need **Arc-Fault Protection**?

The National Fire Protection Association reported **47,700 home fires** involved some type of electrical failure or malfunction in 2011. The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates **more than 50% of electrical fires that occur every year can be prevented by Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs)**.

Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters are available as:

#### Branch/Feeder AFCI Breaker

- First generation AFCI breaker protection. AFCI protection originally required by the 1999 NEC
- Moderate fire prevention
- Trips when a parallel arc between hot and neutral conductors is detected

#### Combination Type AFCI Breaker

- Branch/Feeder AFCI breakers were phased out as of January 2008 and replaced with Combination Type AFCIs
- Enhanced fire protection
- Provides the **same protection as Branch/Feeder AFCIs and detects lower level series arcing** in both branch circuits and power cords

#### AFCI Receptacle

- Provides protection from arc-faults beyond branch circuit wiring extending to appliances and cords plugged into the receptacle
- Enhanced Fire Protection
- Protects all downstream wire and appliances from both parallel and series arcs, and also protects from series arcs upstream in the wiring between the source of the circuit and the first outlet on the circuit.



AFCI breakers and receptacles should be tested **monthly**.



All electrical systems should have an electrical inspection if the home is older than **40 years** or has had a major addition, renovation, or large appliance added.



AFCIs should be installed by a **qualified electrician**.

#### Parallel Arc:

Arc between **hot and neutral conductor** or between the **hot and ground conductor**



#### Series Arc:

Arc along the **same conductor** or at **connections**

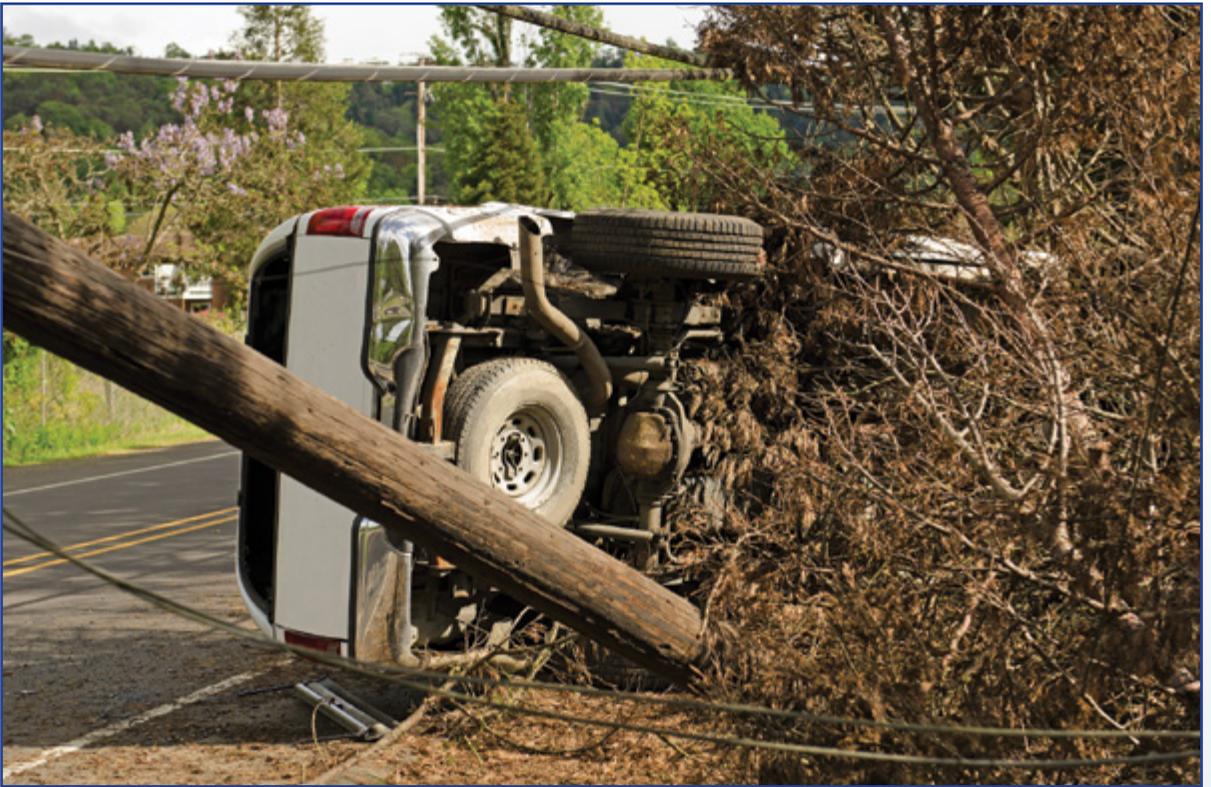
**MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH**



[www.facebook.com/ESFI.org](https://www.facebook.com/ESFI.org)

[www.twitter.com/ESFI.org](https://www.twitter.com/ESFI.org)

[www.youtube.com/ESFI.org](https://www.youtube.com/ESFI.org)



## Automobile Accidents and Power Lines

If your vehicle crashed into a utility pole, what would you do? When people are involved in a car accident, electricity is usually the last thing on their minds. We are usually more concerned about whether anyone was injured or how badly the vehicle is damaged. We can forget that by exiting the vehicle, we are risking exposure to thousands of volts of electricity from downed power lines.

If you are in an accident with a utility pole, your vehicle may be charged with electricity. If this is the case and you step out of the car, you will become the electricity's path to the ground and could be electrocuted. Loose wires and other equipment may be in contact with your car or near it—creating a risk for electrocution if you leave the vehicle.

While downed lines can sometimes reveal they are live by arcing and sparking with electricity, this is not always the case. Power lines do not always show signs that they are live, but they are just as lethal.

After an accident, stay in the car, and tell others to do the same. If you come upon an accident involving power lines, do not approach the accident scene. Call 911 to notify emergency personnel and utility services. Do not leave your vehicle until a utility professional has told you it is safe to do so.

It's important to warn those who come upon an accident to stay away, as approaching an accident scene involving power lines can be deadly. That was the case when a Good Samaritan approached a wrecked car near Jacksonville, FL, and was electrocuted when he stepped over a downed wire. The 52 year old man attempted to assist a motorist whose car swerved to avoid hitting a deer and collided with a utility pole holding an electric line. The motorist was seeking help to be freed from the car when the tragedy occurred. Another tragic death occurred in Alexis, IL when a woman tried to help two teenagers who were injured in a collision with a utility pole. As the woman ran to aid one of the teens thrown from the vehicle, she touched a fallen power line and was instantly electrocuted.

The safest place to be is almost always inside the car. The only circumstance when you should exit the vehicle is if it is on fire—and those instances are rare. If you must exit the vehicle, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Continue to “bunny hop” with your feet together to safety. Doing this will ensure that you are at only one point of contact and will not have different strengths of electric current running from one foot to another, which can be deadly.

# Safety is the Difference

Children are **curious**. They crawl, they feel, they touch, they explore. But sometimes **curiosity can lead to danger**, such as when children tamper with an electrical receptacle. Fortunately there's now a receptacle that can **safeguard this everyday source of danger**. Learn more about **Tamper Resistant Receptacles (TRRs)** and their life-saving potential.

ESFI Upgrade to Tamper Resistant Receptacles, it could save a life.

[www.facebook.com/ESFI.org](https://www.facebook.com/ESFI.org)

[www.twitter.com/ESFIdotorg](https://www.twitter.com/ESFIdotorg)

[www.youtube.com/ESFIdotorg](https://www.youtube.com/ESFIdotorg)

Source: \* Study conducted by Temple University Electrinetics Research  
\*\* Study conducted by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

- 100%** 100% of all 2-4 year olds were able to remove one type of plastic outlet cap within 10 seconds.\*
- The 2008 National Electrical Code (NEC) requires all new and renovated homes to have TRRs.
- The average American home is 41 years old. Homes upgraded before the 2008 NEC may not have TRR protection.
- The shutter system in TRRs allows only plugs to be inserted while preventing access to foreign objects.
- In a 10 year study, 24,000 children (7 a day) were treated in emergency rooms for receptacle-related injuries.\*\*
- TRRs cost as little as **25¢** more than a standard outlet.
- Hamplins, keys and fingers are the **top three** items inserted into outlets by a child.



## May is National Electrical Safety Month

Help prevent home fires! Smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home – and tested every month.



#electricalsafetymonth

## HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICE

The offices of Altamaha EMC will be closed Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial Day.

We will reopen at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, May 31st.



# Member RECIPES



## Pineapple Stuff

### Ingredients

1 box yellow cake mix  
1 (20 oz) can crushed pineapple  
4 tbsp. butter, chopped

### Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Pour can of pineapple, including juice, into a 9 x 13 baking dish and spread evenly. Top with dry cake mix. Evenly disperse un-melted butter on top of the dry cake mix. Place in the oven for 10 minutes. Take cake out of oven and stir ingredients together. Place back in the oven and cook for an additional 10-15 minutes or until done. Top with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream.

*-From the kitchen of  
Brooke Dauphin*

Each month, our newsletter features recipes submitted by our members. If you have a favorite recipe and would like to share it with other readers in the Altamaha EMC service area, send a copy, complete with name, address and daytime phone number to: Tammye Vaughn, Altamaha EMC, P.O. Box 346, Lyons, GA 30436. Each month, a recipe will be selected for publication. The member who submitted the featured recipe will be given a \$10 credit on their next Altamaha EMC bill. Due to limited space, not all recipes received will be featured. Recipes printed in *Plugged In* are not independently tested; therefore, we must depend on the accuracy of those members who send recipes to us.