



Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

MAY 2018

The Official Newsletter of Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation

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



NEVER use water to extinguish an electrical fire. Use a fire extinguisher or baking soda instead.

May is National Electrical Safety Month

 **plug into safety**



Remember to unplug the toaster before you pry out that stuck piece of toast!

Always unplug small appliances before cleaning them.



Is your home properly protected by Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters?

GFCI outlets should be used in all kitchens, bathrooms, garages and outdoor outlets.



DO NOT use an extension cord or power strip with heaters and fans. This could cause the cord to overheat and result in a fire.

Plug Into Safety

In May, electric cooperatives across the country promote safety awareness to coincide with National Electrical Safety Month. Every year, thousands of accidents occur due to shock hazards, and Altamaha EMC is committed to educating the public about potential electrical dangers in the home.

In 2016, 475,500 structure fires (including residential fires) were reported in the U.S., causing 2,950 deaths, 12,775 injuries and \$7.9 billion in property damage. According to the National Fire Protection Association, a residential fire was reported every 90 seconds. Many home fires occur when electrical equipment is outdated or improperly used.

“It is critical the public understands their home’s electrical system and the safety concerns associated with the latest residential technologies before bringing them into their homes,” explains Jay Pittman, Safety Coordinator for Altamaha EMC. “With newer technologies, such as solar panels, electric vehicles and more electrical gadgets in the home, people need to ensure they have an electrical system that’s compatible with the increased load.”

Through electrical safety awareness and education, we can all play a part in preventing electrical hazards and injuries in the future. Together, let’s plug into safety!

Avoid the Big Green Box

Pad-mounted transformers make up a huge portion of Altamaha EMC's system. These are the big green metal boxes used for underground service to homes and businesses. They contain vital electrical equipment used to change high voltage to levels used in homes and businesses for electronics, appliances and lighting. While overhead power lines are mounted on utility poles and substations are protected by security fences, pad-mounted transformers, switch boxes and pedestals are at ground level.

Warn children never to sit on or play around pad-mounted transformers. Let them know of the dangers associated with coming in contact with this equipment. We once had a report of children sitting on top of a transformer while waiting for the school bus in the mornings. After we talked with the parents and informed them of the danger, the children knew to keep clear of the transformer for their own safety.

In many newer subdivisions and residential developments, overhead lines are no longer an option. Burying power lines also reduces potential system damage from high winds and severe storms. While consumers seldom see technicians working on the transformers unless there are power outages, they are regularly inspected by co-op crews riding through neighborhoods.

"We can see fault indicators from the road," said George McLendon, Altamaha EMC Assistant Manager. "One of the biggest concerns is safe access when repairs or component adjustments must be made to pad-mounted transformers. That's why it's important that landscaping and other barriers be kept clear of co-op equipment." Co-op technicians need at least 10-foot clearance at the opening side of a pad-mounted transformer. Approximately four feet of open space is preferable at the rear and on the sides of the metal housing. That distance allows for tool use, including hot sticks—typically eight feet in length, used to work with energized equipment. It also ensures that one

or two technicians working on a transformer have space to maneuver should they have to back away if problems occur.

"We once had a member use a transformer box as a work bench platform, and obviously we had to have him remove it," said McLendon. "We always try to explain the risks, and most members are more than willing to cooperate once they understand."

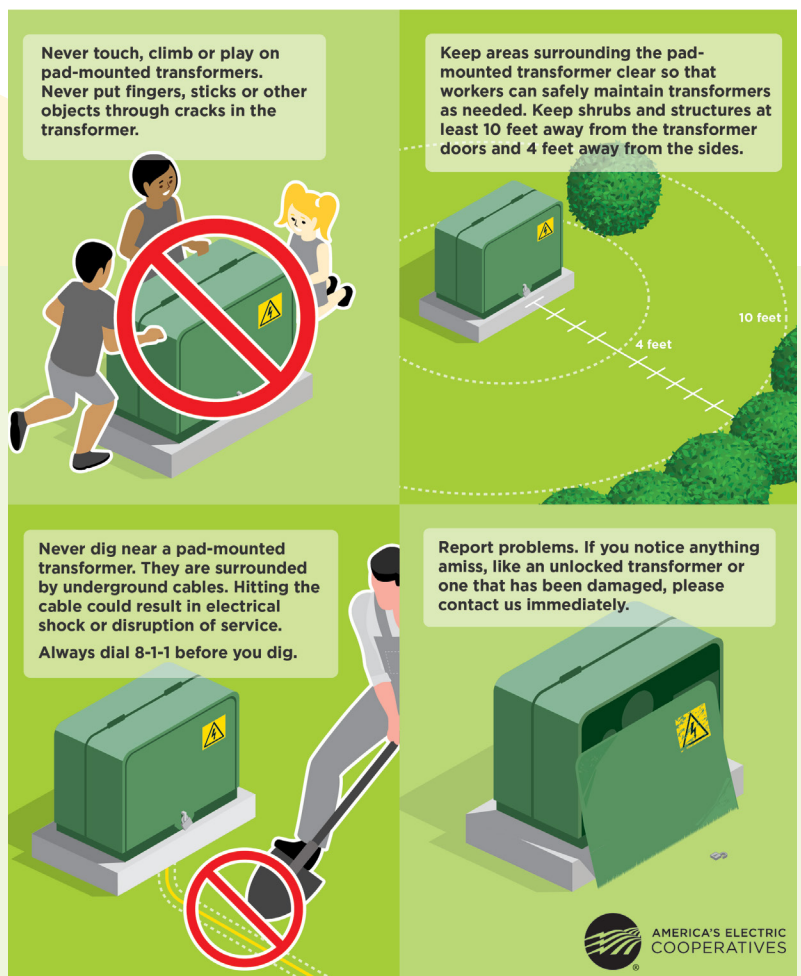
Pad-mounted transformers are connected to primary high voltage lines, and secondary lines can extend in several directions to distribute power to homes and businesses. That's why it's important to call 811 before planting shrubs or trees, setting fence posts, installing

sprinkler systems and digging where it might damage underground lines. 811 will perform a site assessment and mark all underground wires before giving you permission to proceed with projects that might disrupt utility service.

While pad-mounted transformers in developed, suburban or urban areas are regularly inspected for damage from vehicles, many utilities use marking sticks or pennants to alert tractor, snow plow or heavy equipment operators of their locations. Altamaha EMC encourages public works and transportation departments to keep their equipment, supplies and road debris at least 15 feet away from pad-mounted transformers.

Avoid the Big Green Box

Please stay away from pad-mounted transformers (the big green box). While safe, they are not meant for touching, climbing or playing. Pad-mounted transformers carry high voltages of electricity that serve many homes in our communities.



Environmentally beneficial electrification

How using electricity can benefit the environment

If you are like many Americans, when given the choice, you would prefer your energy come from renewable sources such as solar or wind power rather than fossil fuels. As electric utilities shift to more options that include renewable energy sources and make existing generation technologies cleaner, electricity uses less fossil fuel per kilowatt-hour of energy produced. This idea of “environmentally beneficial electrification” means that innovations in energy technology are creating new ways to use electricity instead of on-site fossil fuels such as propane, natural gas and fuel oil.

In addition to the utility industry, environmental groups such as the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) recognize the value of this concept. Sheryl Carter, Co-Director, NRDC Energy Program, commented that, “Beneficial electrification will continue to play a big role in accelerating this transition in an effective and economic way, to the benefit of consumers, energy resilience and the environment.”

Electric appliances can become greener over time.

As a practical matter, beneficial electrification means that electric appliances, like your water heater, clothes dryer and oven have the potential to become greener over time. When your electric co-op takes advantage of advances in technology and the market at the generation point, it means those efficiencies are inherently passed along to you, the co-op member.

Because large appliances have a typical lifespan of 15 to 20 years, it means that you are able to benefit from the flexibility of the grid in addition to the increased efficiency of the particular appliance. In other words, the high-efficiency electric oven you have today could be powered by renewable sources three years from now. This would not be the case with gas appliances where you are essentially locked into the technology of that gas appliance for the 15 to 20 year lifespan. As your co-op is able to tap into more

water heaters and other appliances, beneficial electrification is a means to reducing greenhouse gases and helping the environment.

At the national level, electric co-ops across the country are purchasing and generating more renewable resources, bringing wind, solar and geothermal energy into the electric power system, which means electricity is becoming greener. As the overall energy sector continues to evolve, Altamaha

EMC is striving to take advantage of the advances in technology and the opportunities of the market as they become available. This means we can leverage the flexibility of the grid to offer a wider range of renewable power choices as we continue to deliver safe, reliable and affordable power to our community.

Look for ways to choose beneficial electrification in the future. As NRDC’s Carter further observed, “The successful transition to a clean energy future will require

substantial reliance on efficient electric technologies like electric vehicles and advanced electric water heating, including heat pump or grid-interactive resistance water heaters, powered by an increasingly cleaner and more flexible electric system.”

Contact the energy experts at Altamaha EMC to discuss available renewable energy options and to learn about the latest ways to save energy.

Environmentally Beneficial Electrification

Innovations in energy technologies are creating new ways to use electricity rather than on-site fossil fuels, like propane, natural gas and gasoline.



This concept is known as **beneficial electrification** and suggests that the use of more all-electric appliances and equipment, like water heaters, weed trimmers and electric vehicles, provides consumers with greener products and benefits the environment.

renewable options in the future, the only way you would be able to benefit from this trend is through an electric appliance.

Small steps to reducing carbon footprint

For consumers and homeowners looking for more environmentally-friendly energy options, choosing electric appliances over those powered by fossil fuels is an easy solution. Whether through electric lawn mowers, blowers and weed whackers (plug-in or rechargeable) or through electric

HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICE

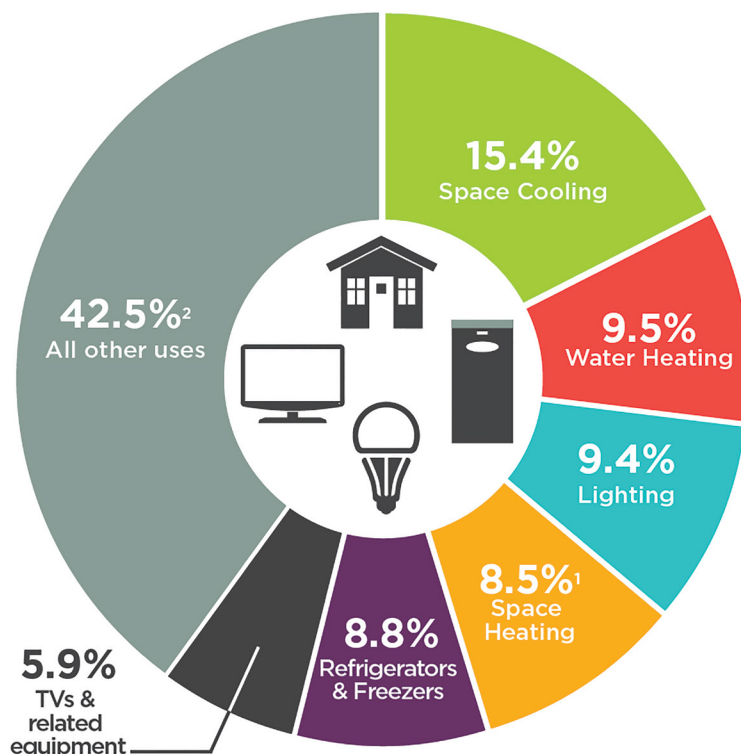
The offices of Altamaha EMC will be closed Monday, May 28th in observance of Memorial Day.

We will reopen at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, May 29th. In the event of a power outage or other emergency, please call 912-526-8181.

How Americans Use Electricity

Electricity is an essential part of modern life. Last year, the use of electricity in the U.S. was 13 times greater than electricity use in 1950.

The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows the combined use of clothes washers and dryers, computers, dishwashers, small appliances and other electrical equipment accounts for 40 percent of electricity consumption in American homes.



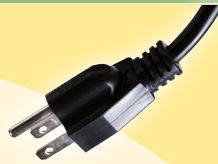
AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Source: EIA, Annual Energy Outlook 2018.

¹Includes consumption for heat and operating furnace fans and boiler pumps. ²Includes miscellaneous appliances, clothes washers and dryers, computers and related equipment, stoves, dishwashers, heating elements, and motors.



Member **RECIPES**



Caramel Apple Dump Cake

2 cans apple pie filling
1 box yellow cake mix
2 sticks butter, melted
1/2 cup caramel sauce
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 cup chopped pecans
Vanilla ice cream (optional)

Pour apple pie filling into a greased 9 x 13 baking dish. Spread evenly in pan. Drizzle with caramel sauce (you can use more than 1/2 cup depending on your taste). Sprinkle with cinnamon. Pour dry cake mix directly on top of pie filling and spread evenly but **DO NOT** stir. Top with melted butter and pecans. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 – 50 minutes until top is golden brown and filling is bubbling around the edges. Serve with vanilla ice cream if desired.

-From the kitchen of Iveth Minor

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.