



Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

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



Safety Starts With You

Tips for spotting potential electrical hazards in your home

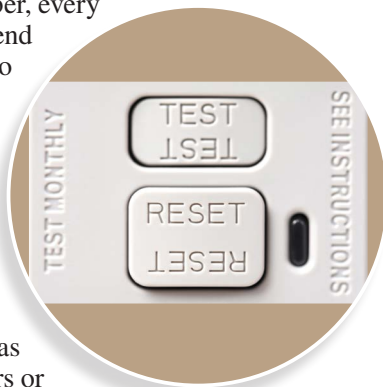
Electricity plays many roles in our lives, from powering baby monitors, cell phones and lighting, to running HVAC systems and appliances. No wonder we get so comfortable with its instant availability that when we flip a switch, we expect most systems or devices to do the job.

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and here at Altamaha EMC we think it's a great time to look around your home and check for potential safety hazards. Remember, every electrical device has a purpose and a service lifespan. While we can extend their operations with maintenance and care, none of them are designed to last or work forever. When electricity is involved, failures can present electrical hazards that might be avoided with periodic inspections.

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters

Outdoor outlets or those in potentially damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom or laundry room often include GFCI features. They are designed to sense abnormal current flows, breaking the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years, but in areas prone to electrical storms or power surges, they can wear out in five years or less. Check them frequently by pressing the red test button. Make sure you hit the black reset button when you are done. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.



Loose or Damaged Outlets or Switches

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these warning signs, it may be time to contact an electrician.



Surge Protectors

Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment like televisions, home entertainment systems

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**May is Electrical
Safety Month.**
Safety Starts with You.

#ElectricalSafetyMonth



*The Official Newsletter
of Altamaha Electric
Membership Corporation*

Safety *Continued from Front*

and computer components from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules, and surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can effectively absorb. That means if your surge protector is rated at 1,000 joules, it should be replaced when it hits or passes that limit. When the limit is reached, protection stops, and you're left with a basic power strip.

Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they've stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replacement may be the best option.

Extension Cords

If you use extension cords regularly to connect devices and equipment to your wall outlets, you may live in an underwired home. With a growing number of electrical devices connecting your family to the electricity you get from Altamaha EMC, having enough outlets in just the right spots can be challenging. Remember, extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional or periodic use.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. If it shows any signs of frayed, cracked or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, a grounded cord will not provide the protection designed into its performance. Always make sure extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the United States, causing more than \$1.3 billion in annual property damage.

Swimming Pool Location

A refreshing swim on a hot Georgia day is a great way to stay cool, but location of the pools can be a safety issue. Pools (in-ground and above-ground) should never be placed under power lines. A good rule of thumb is to make sure all pools, spas and hot tubs are placed at least 30 feet from overhead power lines.

Electricity is an essential necessity for modern living, and Altamaha EMC is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power to all our members. We hope you'll keep these electrical safety tips in mind so that you can note any potential hazards before damage occurs.



Never use electrical cords that feel warm to the touch or are damaged in any way.

Safety starts with you.

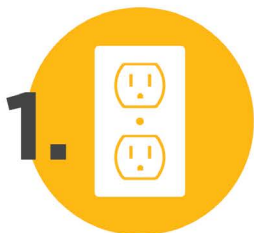
MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH



4 COMMON CULPRITS OF ELECTRICAL FIRES

Outdated wiring and overloaded circuits are the most common causes of electrical fires.

Check the following areas of your home to ensure your home's electrical safety is up to par.



1. Electrical outlets: Faulty electrical outlets are a leading cause of home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them that you can't see. Any loose, damaged or warm-to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.



2. Electrical wiring: Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires. Frequently tripped breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are clear warning signs. If your home is more than 20 years old, it may not be able to handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, leave this one to the pros and contact a qualified electrician.



3. Overloaded cords and outlets: Extension cords are not permanent solutions. If your big-screen TV, home theater system and other electronics are plugged into one extension cord, it's time to call an electrician and install additional outlets.



4. Old appliances: Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets. A qualified electrician can help with installation.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When the weather is nice, put your grill to use! During summer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.



Easy Ways to Pay Your Altamaha EMC Electric Bill



MOBILE APP

Download through the Apple App Store or Google Play



WEB

Visit **altamahaemc.com**, then choose "Pay Bill" from the menu bar at the top of the homepage.



DRAFT

Have your bill drafted each month from your **bank account** or **credit/debit card**. Call our office today to sign up.



KIOSK

Kiosk payment machines are located at all of our office locations. Kiosks are available **24 hours a day**.



PHONE

Call us at **912-526-8181** or **1-800-822-4563**

PAY IN PERSON



The **Lyons, Soperton** and **Swainsboro** offices

are open from 8-5 Mon-Fri. The **Dublin** office is open from 9-4 Mon-Fri. *All locations have a drive-in window.* The drive-in window at the Lyons office only is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

NIGHT DROP



Place a check or money order, along with your payment stub, in the **night drop box** at any Altamaha EMC office. No cash please.



MAIL

Your monthly bill contains an envelope that you can use to **mail your payment** to us.

Levelized Billing - Prevent extreme fluctuations in your monthly bill by signing up for our levelized billing program. Call us today for more details.

HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICE

All offices of Altamaha EMC will be closed Monday, May 25th in observance of Memorial Day.

The drive-in window at the Lyons office only will remain open for the convenience of our members.

In the event of a power outage or other emergency, standby personnel will be on duty. You can report power outages by calling us at 912-526-8181 or 1-800-822-4563.

BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our consumer-members.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Keep crews and members of our community safe
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

Vegetation management improves service reliability for you - our members!



ALTAMAHA

Electric Membership Corporation

Community Owned • Community Built • Community Builder



Member RECIPES

Taco Spaghetti

8 oz. spaghetti
1-1/4 lbs. ground beef or ground turkey
1 package taco seasoning
2/3 cup water
1 can cream of chicken soup
1 can Rotel diced tomatoes and
green chiles, undrained
1 (8 oz.) package Velveeta cheese, cubed
1-1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly spray a 9" x 9" pan with cooking spray. Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain and set aside. In a large skillet, brown ground beef. Drain fat and return meat to skillet. Add taco seasoning and water. Stir to combine. Cook for 5 minutes. Stir in soup, Velveeta and Rotel tomatoes. Reduce heat to low and cook until cheese melts, stirring constantly. Stir in spaghetti and pour into prepared dish. Top with cheddar cheese. Bake for 30 minutes or until heated through.

-From the kitchen of Charlotte Driggers

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.