



Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

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



Right-of-Way Maintenance Improves Service Reliability

Keeping the lights on and providing safe service are two of Altamaha EMC's most important goals. Managing vegetation growth around power lines is a critical component to reliable service. Limbs brushing power lines will cause blinks or temporary outages. Failure to maintain our right-of-way will dramatically increase the number and duration of power outages, and vegetation touching a power line poses a potentially fatal risk to the public. Altamaha EMC maintains a 30 foot wide right-of-way using mowing, trimming, and spraying to control vegetation, particularly fast growing trees, which can grow up into power lines.

Beginning in May, Altamaha EMC will begin our 2021 herbicide application. Helena, our spraying contractor, will apply herbicide to keep trees, brush and foliage from interfering with the delivery of your electric service. Overgrown trees and other vegetation within 15 feet of overhead power lines are trimmed year-round. Only nonrestrictive, non residual chemicals are used. Landscaped areas such as lawns, streams or ponds will not be sprayed. Spraying will continue through September.

Because it is less invasive, spraying is utilized where possible using a blend of selective herbicides. Although these herbicides target trees and underbrush, yellowing of grass underneath may occur. The chemicals used in the spraying of right-of-way are a blend of herbicides commonly used by utilities in residential, commercial and agricultural applications. They have been used successfully by utilities for decades and have been thoroughly tested and approved for use by the EPA.

Here are some answers to questions about right-of-way maintenance:

How often do you trim vegetation?

Altamaha EMC has a 30 foot right-of-way on high-voltage (primary) power lines. Our right-of-way contract crews trim trees around primary power lines every 5-7 years. Our goal is to reach every line on our system - about 3,300 miles - and then start again.

Is an overgrown right-of-way really unsafe?

Accidents happen quickly. The weight of a child climbing on a tree limb that has grown into a power line can quickly cause it to become energized, posing a threat to the child. Adults can also be at risk when trying to do yard work in the trees that are close to a power line.

Does clearing right-of-way increase reliability?

Trees, or tree limbs, falling into power lines can knock out power to hundreds of members in a short amount of time. Trees can cause power lines to snap and can bring down power poles with their weight,

causing lengthy power outages. While not all outages can be prevented, we can easily minimize damage and outage time by keeping right-of-way clear. By increasing our efforts, we will be able to reduce outages in the future.

Why do you trim trees on my property?

While most vegetation maintenance is performed along primary power lines,

which typically run along major roadways, at times it is necessary to trim on a member's property. We have an obligation to our members to keep the power on and provide a safe electric system. Tree limbs growing into power lines, or dead trees that could easily fall on lines, could cause power outages and fires.

Where should I plant trees?

By planting bushes and trees at least 25 feet from the power line, you can help us hold costs down and increase your power reliability.

I have underground service. Can I landscape around the transformer in my yard?

Just as our overhead lines need clearance, so do our underground transformers. Keep shrubs at least 10 feet from the sides and backs of our equipment. Don't plant anything directly in front of the underground transformer. Doing so hampers our crews making outage repairs if they have to first trim shrubs to gain access to our equipment.

Anyone having concerns about trimming or spraying of right-of-way is encouraged to contact Altamaha EMC at 912-526-8181.



Spring storms can bring down power lines

It's not every day that a power line in your neighborhood falls to the ground. Most of us have very little experience when it comes to dealing with one when it does.

The best thing to do if you see a fallen electrical line is stay far away from it. A downed line can energize the ground as far away as 35 feet—and even farther when the ground is wet. So never drive over one, pick it up or move it. Instead, call 911 and keep others away until the professionals arrive.

Any downed line could be live, which means it's dangerous. Steer clear of it—and teach your children to do the same.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY

While Working From Home



Do you have a **home office** or **work from home**? Follow these **electrical safety tips** to keep you and your home safe from electrical hazards.



1

Avoid **overloading outlets**.

2

Unplug appliances when not in use to save energy and minimize the risk of shock and fire.

3

Regularly inspect electrical cords and extension cords for damage.

4

Extension cords should only be used on a **temporary basis**.

5

Never plug a space heater or fan into an **extension cord** or **power strip**.

6

Never run cords under **rugs / carpets, doors, or windows**.

7

Plug in smartly. Make sure cords do not become tripping hazards.

8

Keep papers and other potential combustibles at least **three feet away** from space heaters and other heat sources.

9

Make sure you use **proper wattage** for lamps / lighting.

10

Make sure your home has **smoke alarms**. Test them monthly, change batteries yearly, and replace the unit every 10 years.

Wherever you work, it's always important to be **safe**.

Practice *Safety* When DIY-ing

These days many of us are spending more time at home and finding new, creative ways to enhance our living space. Tackling do-it-yourself (DIY) projects for the home can be fun and cost-effective, so why not roll up those sleeves and get started! Whether you're painting the front door with a fresh hue or finally upgrading those patio lights, successfully completing a DIY home project is incredibly satisfying. But many of these projects do not come without risks. Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind as you get to work.

- **Start by selecting a designated work area.** The amount of space you'll need will depend on the size and scope of your project, but make sure you have adequate lighting and ventilation (if necessary). Required tools and equipment should be located in your workspace and organized for easy access.

- **Personal protective equipment (PPE) is your friend.** We know you're a pro but investing a few bucks in PPE is essential for most home projects. Stock up on safety goggles, dust masks, ear plugs (or noise reduction ear protectors), gloves and any other kind of protection you'll need for your project. Remember to wear appropriate clothing and shoes. (Ditch the sandals for this!)

- **Work slowly and clean as you go.** When you rush through a DIY project, you'll likely end up with less desirable results than you intended, or worse, you could make a costly or dangerous mistake. Take your time and remember that you are in control of the project. You should also clean as you go to ensure a safer workspace. Pick up any scrap materials, tools that aren't in use and any tripping hazards.

- **Be cautious with power tools.** Annually, 8% of electrocutions in the U.S. are attributed to improper use of power tools. The Electrical Safety Foundation International offers the following safety tips:

- Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) with every power tool to protect against electrical shock.
- Never use power tools near live electrical wires or water pipes.
- Use extreme caution when cutting or drilling into walls where electrical wires or water pipes could be accidentally touched or penetrated.
- If a power tool trips a safety device while in use, take the tool to a manufacturer-authorized repair center for service.
- Do not use power tools without the proper guards.
- When using a wet-dry vacuum cleaner or a pressure washer, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions to avoid electrical shock.

Remember, you should only tackle DIY home projects within your skill and comfort level. For projects that require extensive electrical work, we strongly recommend you hire a licensed, qualified electrician for assistance.

To learn more about electrical safety, visit our website at www.altamahaemc.com.



Home Electrical Safety

Always Look Up Always

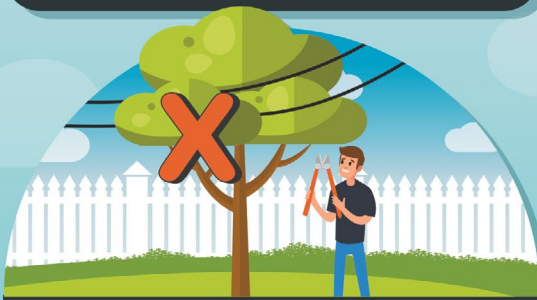
Before starting **any** project, **be alert of where the power lines are located**, and know how high they are hanging. Whether you're working on the roof, trimming trees, or painting your siding, it's your job to be aware and to **alert others about nearby power lines**.



1. Locate **all** overhead power lines.



2. Stay at least **10 feet** away from all overhead power lines.



3. **Do not touch** anything in contact with power line.



4. Carry ladders and equipment **horizontally**.



5. Stay at least **35 feet** away from downed power lines and call 911.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause your air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Source: www.energy.gov



ALTAMAHA

Electric Membership Corporation

Community Owned • Community Built • Community Builder



Member RECIPES

Slow Cooker Pulled Pork

Ingredients

1 onion, finely chopped
3/4 cup ketchup
3 tbsp. tomato paste
1/4 cup apple cider vinegar
1 tsp. paprika
1 tsp. garlic powder
1 tsp. mustard powder
1 tsp. cumin
1 (3- to 4-lb.) pork shoulder, trimmed of excess fat
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper

Combine onion, ketchup, tomato paste, apple cider vinegar and spices in the bowl of a slow cooker. Season pork shoulder all over with salt and pepper then add to slow cooker, covering it with ketchup mixture. Cover and cook until very tender - the meat should fall apart easily with a fork. Cook on HIGH for 5 to 6 hours or on LOW for 8 to 10 hours. Remove pork from slow cooker and transfer to a bowl. Shred with two forks and toss with juices from the slow cooker. Serve on buns. Cole slaw is an excellent side item as a compliment.

- From the kitchen of Mary Lou Meeks

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.