



Along the LINE

JANUARY 2025

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Honoring Cynthia Norville: 22 Years of Dedicated Service

After 22 incredible years of service, Cynthia Norville will officially retire on Jan. 3, leaving a lasting legacy at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC.

As our dedicated secretary/receptionist, Cynthia has been the friendly voice greeting members and the go-to resource for countless tasks. If you've ever called the co-op, chances are you've spoken with her and experienced her warmth and professionalism, firsthand.

Over the years, Cynthia has worn many hats, handling a variety of responsibilities with grace and efficiency. She scheduled and prepared informational packets for training workshops, seminars, and conferences, made travel arrangements for employees and directors, maintained training records, processed the daily mail, ensured office and cleaning supplies were always stocked, and much more. She had an ability to manage so many tasks while always keeping a smile on her face.

While we will miss Cynthia deeply, we celebrate her well-deserved retirement and wish her all the best in this exciting new chapter. Thank you, Cynthia, for your dedication, hard work, and the many ways you've enriched our co-op family over the past 22 years. You've made an indelible mark, and your Edgecombe-Martin family will always hold you in the highest regard.



Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Years Day.

Payments after office hours and on holidays can be made at the kiosk under the drive-thru canopy, by calling our automated telephone service at

1-844-967-2463 placed in the night deposit box, Smarthub, or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay.

To report an emergency after hours, please call 1-800-690-0657.



Annual Meeting Date

The 2025 Annual Meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, March 27. More details to come in the February newsletter and on our Facebook page.

Make Energy Efficiency Your Resolution

As we head into the new year, why not add energy efficiency to your list of resolutions? Small changes in your daily routine can save energy, reduce your bills, and make your home more efficient.

Simple habits like taking shorter showers and using cold water for laundry can make a big difference.

Switching to LED lights, which use up to 90% less energy, and sealing air leaks around windows with caulk or weather stripping are easy ways to save. Adjusting your ceiling fan's direction for the season and keeping

HVAC filters clean can also help your system run more efficiently.

Remember to turn off electronics when not in use and consider smart power strips to reduce energy consumption. These small changes add up, making a noticeable difference in your energy usage and costs.

First Responder and Farm Safety Training 2025

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will host our annual First Responder and Farm Safety Training on Tuesday, Feb. 25, starting at 6 p.m. This event aims to enhance safety awareness and provide critical knowledge to those most likely to encounter electrical hazards—our first responders and local farmers.

Empowering First Responders

First responders, including firefighters, law enforcement officers and EMTs, are often the first on the scene during emergencies involving electrical incidents. This training equips them with essential skills to safely manage hazards such as downed power lines, electrical fires and energized equipment. By understanding these risks, responders can better protect themselves and the communities they serve.

Focusing on Farm Safety

Farmers face unique challenges operating large equipment near power lines and underground utilities. In 2024 alone, we experienced six farm-related electrical accidents that caused power outages and posed serious risks of injury or death. These incidents underscore the importance of greater awareness and education. This year's training will teach farmers how to identify electrical hazards and respond effectively to prevent future accidents. Farming is vital to our community, and ensuring safety in the field is as critical as protecting emergency responders.

A Comprehensive Approach to Safety

In previous years, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC conducted safety demonstrations at individual fire departments. Now, we've consolidated these efforts into a single annual event to provide comprehensive training for both first responders and farmers. This shared setting



fosters collaboration and a community-wide commitment to safety. This year's training will include discussions on common electrical hazards, interactive high-voltage demonstrations, and practical strategies to prevent accidents. Dinner will be provided and the event is completely free, courtesy of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. Certificates for training hours will also be available.

We encourage all first responders, farmers and anyone working near electrical equipment to join us for this important event. Help us spread the word to your local fire departments and farming families. To RSVP or for more information, contact Monica Speight at 252-641-9502 or monicas@ememc.com. Please confirm the number of attendees by Friday, Feb. 14.

Together, let's work to ensure the safety of those who protect and sustain our community.

As we reflect on the progress we've made over the past year, we continue to focus on enhancing our system and ensuring we provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service to our members. One of the key areas of development has been our distribution automation projects.

In the early stages, we worked on building a system that operated without communication—devices were programmed to function independently. As we progressed, we shifted to a more integrated approach, where downline devices could communicate with one another to make decisions.

Today, we are implementing a cutting-edge solution that adds another layer of sophistication: a separate device that continuously monitors our equipment, allowing for real-time decision-making, Fault Location, Isolation and Service Restoration (FLISR). This modern solution redefines the simplicity and reliability of our distribution automation. Featuring an intuitive user interface, FLISR offers enhanced transparency and ease of use, helping us minimize outages and effectively manage wide-area distribution. By rapidly detecting permanent faults, FLISR significantly reduces member outage times by continuously monitoring breakers, reclosers, and switches. This allows the system to take over after protection mechanisms have been triggered, further improving reliability and service to our members.

In parallel, we've been working to modernize various substations, including the replacement of outdated reclosers with state-of-the-art G&W Electric Viper reclosers. These upgrades not only replace aging equipment but also ensure that our line technicians will benefit from enhanced safety features when working on the system.

A key project that began last year and is set for completion in the second quarter of this year is the upgrade of our longest span of copper wire on Highway 111. This initiative will significantly improve the efficiency and reliability of our system in that area.

Looking ahead, we have developed a comprehensive work plan for the next four years, which includes several important projects aimed at enhancing service delivery. These projects will address infrastructure upgrades, system automation, and ongoing reliability improvements across our service area.

One of the major initiatives for the coming year is the rebuilding of our Mayo Dunbar substation. Due to its current location, which is prone to flooding, we will relocate the substation to higher ground behind its existing location. This move will not only enhance the reliability of our power delivery but also protect critical infrastructure from potential flood damage.

As we continue to invest in infrastructure and adopt new technologies, we remain committed to providing our members with safe, reliable, and affordable electric service. We look forward to the opportunities that 2025 will bring as we continue to grow and evolve in the face of new challenges.

Cooperatively,

Ethan Thomas

Ethan Thomas



Agriculture Tax Exemption Forms

We understand the importance of the farming industry and its impact on the rural communities we serve.

If your agricultural business has been granted a Certified Tax Exemption by the North Carolina Department of Revenue, you may be eligible for a valuable benefit—sales-tax exemption on electricity used for farming and manufacturing purposes.

The sales-tax exemption applies specifically to electricity used directly in agricultural production. This encompasses a wide array of activities, from powering irrigation systems to lighting for greenhouse cultivation. By leveraging this exemption, your farm can enjoy cost savings that contribute to the overall financial health of your operation.

If you haven't already obtained your tax exemption forms, we encourage you to explore the application process with the NC Department of Revenue. This unique identifier not

only facilitates sales-tax exemption on electricity, but also streamlines various other agricultural benefits.

To qualify, your business must meet the criteria set by the Department of Revenue. Typically, this involves engaging in activities classified as agricultural production and demonstrating compliance with relevant regulations. Once approved, you'll be on your way to reaping the rewards of tax savings.

For those who already have a tax-exempt form on file, remember to update it annually to ensure your benefits continue without interruption. Note that a separate form must be on file for each account to qualify for tax exemption. If your tax exemption status changes, notify us promptly so we can assist you in updating your records and maintaining compliance.



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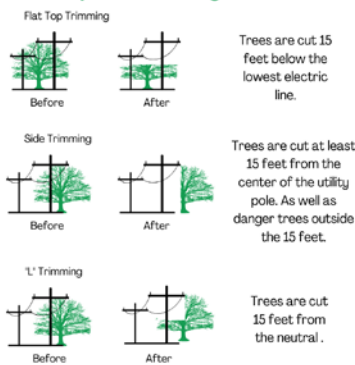
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Office Hours: 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (M–F)

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Examples of trimming methods



January Rights-of-Way

As we step into 2025, we're moving into new areas to ensure your electric service remains safe, affordable and reliable. This year, our teams will focus on maintaining rights-of-way around power lines served by the Shiloh, Kingsboro and Benson-Battleboro substations.

Maintaining rights-of-way is critical for preventing vegetation from interrupting service.

Our vegetation management efforts include pruning, brush cutting and removing trees and other growth that could pose a risk to the system. These proactive measures help minimize outages and improve overall reliability for our members.

In January, Burford's Tree will begin work on circuits out of the Shiloh Substation, focusing on distribution lines around and near Howell Rd., Hwy. 258 N, Coakley Rd. and other hotspots across the system. Crews will utilize equipment such as the sky trim, bucket trucks and bush hogs to effectively clear these areas.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we carry out this essential work. Together, we can ensure a dependable power supply for 2025 and beyond!