



Serving members in Baldwin, Emanuel, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Johnson, Laurens, Warren, Washington and Wilkinson counties

10 things you might not know about power restoration

Have you ever watched a video or TV show in which a person is cooking a meal, then they suddenly snap their fingers, and the meal is plated and ready to eat? That's called a jump cut.

While we wish we could "jump cut" from a power outage to power restoration, it can often take a lot more effort and people to make it happen.

As President and CEO of Washington EMC, I'm accustomed to members' questions about power outages and why it can take time to get the lights back on. Given our reliance on electricity, there's simply never a good time to be without it.

This month, I'd like to shed light on our restoration process to help members understand what may be happening behind the scenes.

Here are 10 things you might not

know about power restoration:

1. We need you. When your power goes out, there is a chance we may not know about it and no one has reported it. We rely on you to let us know if your power is out. We have a very robust outage reporting system at Washington EMC, including meters that automatically send a message to dispatch when the power goes out, phone reporting at (478) 552-2577, reporting an outage through your account online and our website, and now our TEXTalerts system that allows you to text into our home office number (478) 552-2577 to report outages.

2. Our employees might be affected, too. Because Washington EMC is a local electric cooperative owned by the members we serve, our employees are local, too. They are your neighbors, friends and familiar



Wendy Sellers
President/CEO

community volunteers. When you're without power, our people might be, too.

3. It's a team effort. Every one of Washington EMC's employees are working to get your power restored quickly. Our customer services representatives are taking your calls, engineers and field staff are surveying damage, our vegetation management team is clearing hazards, dispatchers are organizing crews and communicators are keeping everyone informed of progress or potential dangers. When your power goes out, we work together as quickly and safely as possible to get you back to normal.

4. We assess the situation first. Every outage is different, and we don't know how immediately what equipment might need to be replaced. When responding to outages, we first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need and a plan for how to fix the problem(s) without compromising electric flow for the rest of our members.

5. Restoration is normally prioritized by the largest number of

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COMMON CAUSES OF POWER OUTAGES

There is never a good time for the power to go out, but if it happens on a sunny day, you might be left wondering why. Here are the most common causes of a power outage.

WEATHER

High winds, snow and ice can cause tree limbs to fall on power lines. Other weather effects, like wildfires and lightning strikes, can cause major damage to equipment.

CRITTERS

Squirrels, birds, snakes and other animals can inadvertently contact power lines, causing short circuits and disruptions to electrical supply.

Scheduled MAINTENANCE

Occasionally, we plan outages to perform upgrades or repairs to parts of the local grid.

ACCIDENTS

Vehicles can crash into utility poles, bringing down power lines. Construction and excavation work can also result in disruptions to underground lines.



An electric membership corporation

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Website: www.washingtonemc.com

Wendy Sellers, President/CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chair, Tennille

Mike Beckworth,

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Secretary/Treasurer, Warrenton

Brenda English, *Milledgeville*

Billy Helton, *Warthen*

Jeff Lacksen, *Sparta*

Ken Vickers, *Wrightsville*

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday

PHONES

Local (478) 552-2577

Long distance (800) 552-2577

24-HOUR CALL CENTER

To report a power interruption
please call:

Local (478) 552-2577

Long distance (800) 552-2577

BRANCH LOCATIONS

12860 Broad St.

Sparta, GA 31087

Closed on Thursday

100 W. College St.

Wrightsville, GA 31096

Closed on Wednesday

Convenient bill pay options include:

Drive-thru payment window

319 N. Smith St., Sandersville, GA 31082

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Pay your bill online

www.washingtonemc.com

Use the free Washington EMC mobile app

Look for WEMC in the

App Store or Android Market.

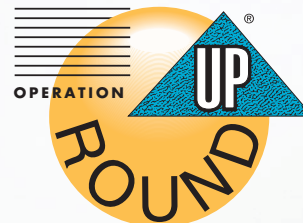
Pay by phone

(478) 552-2577 or (800) 552-2577

Community News

The Operation Round Up board met April 29 and approved funding for the following organizations: Boys & Girls Club-Johnson Co., Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes, Hancock Helping Hands and Crisis Center, Kingdom Life Ministry, Miriam Ministry, Mount Olive Church of the Nazarene Food Bank, Promise of Hope, Rosa M. Tarbutton Memorial Library, Christian Life Center and Special Olympics of Georgia.

We are so proud to be able to give back to the ones making a difference in our communities. The next board meeting is July 29, with a June 30 deadline for submitting applications. For more information, visit www.washingtonemc.com.

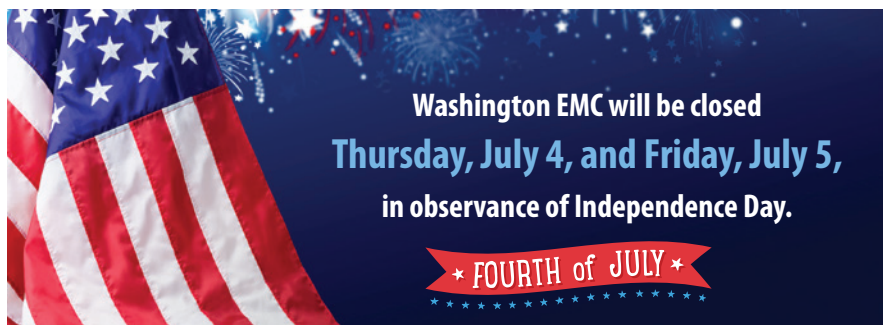


ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts for a significant portion of your home energy use.

Here's an easy way to lighten the load on your clothes dryer. Before you dry a load of damp clothing, toss in a clean, dry towel. The towel will absorb excess water, shortening the drying time. If your dryer does not include an autosense feature to determine drying time, remember to reduce the timer to about half of what you normally would. Remove the towel about 15 minutes after the cycle begins. Shorter drying times will extend the life of your dryer and save energy.

Source: homesandgardens.com



Democratic Member Control



Cooperative Principle 2

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote).

2024 Director Elections

The Washington EMC Board of Directors is composed of members just like you, who reside in specific districts of our service territory and are elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting held the first Saturday in October each year. Directors are elected for a three-year term. Elections will occur for Districts 5 and 7 at the Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, October 5, 2024.

Members interested in serving on the Board of Directors should refer to the Qualifications of Directors and the Nominations sections of the Corporate Bylaws.

The following members will serve on the 2024 Nominating Committee and can be contacted at the addresses listed below:

District 1

Cathy T. Norris
1317 Baker Road
Mitchell, GA 30820

District 2

Steven Fowler
3594 Carrs Station Road
Sparta, GA 31087

District 3

Faye Leslie
351 Deepstep Road
Milledgeville, GA 31061

District 4

Ellen Wright
7595 Highway 88
Sandersville, GA 31082

District 5

Emory Neely
809 Dixon Grove Road
Tennille, GA 31089

District 6

Mike Sheppard
167 Mills St.
Harrison, GA 31035

District 7

Charles Sutton
1227 KB Brantley Road
Kite, GA 31049

The Nominating Committee will meet at the Washington EMC headquarters office at 258 North Harris St. in Sandersville on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at 2 p.m. for the purpose of nominating at least one member from Districts 5 and 7.

Members will vote on director candidates at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 5, 2024. Members from all seven representative districts may vote in the election for all director positions.

Power restoration,

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members we can get back on in the shortest amount of time. Our crews focus on responding first to public safety issues and critical services. Then, we complete work that impacts the largest of number of people first.

6. Our employees face many dangers. Besides working around high-voltage electricity, our crews are on alert for wild animals, weather elements, falling trees and fast-moving cars. (If you ever drive past one of our vehicles, please slow down and move over to give them a safe work space.)

7. Flickering lights are a good thing. Some folks mistake flickering lights for outages, but these blinks are important because they indicate our equipment works and prevents a possible outage likely caused by wayward animals or stray tree limbs on the lines.

8. You need a backup plan. We do our best to help those who need it, but if you depend on electricity for life support purposes, you must have a backup plan. Remember: We don't always know how long restoration efforts will take. If you're unsure what to do, check with your medical team and local emergency management office to ensure your needs are safely covered.

9. Our employees have to plan—and eat. If you ever see our trucks in a restaurant parking lot while your power is out, know that our crews work long, hard hours during outages and need to take time for meals just like everyone else.

10. Sometimes it's a waiting game. Our portion of the power grid is connected to other electric utilities through an integrated transmission system. If our outage is due to an issue from their feed into our system, we must let them do their repairs and be mindful of what they're going through to fix it.

We do our best to avoid power disruptions, but they are inevitable from time to time. If the lights go out, know that your Washington EMC team is working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power.

FAST. RELIABLE. HIGH-SPEED INTERNET.

Fiber internet is at your fingertips. Get started today!

WE'RE HERE

LET'S CONNECT!

Check your availability at
www.conexonconnect.com,
call (844) 542-6663
or scan our QR Code!



SCAN ME



Do you have money to claim?

Please help Washington EMC locate members and former members who have unclaimed refunds.

In compliance with the Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act, O.C.G.A. § 44-12-236, Washington EMC is attempting to locate former members whose capital credits checks were issued August 31, 2018, but have been returned by the U.S. Post Office as “undeliverable” or have otherwise been unclaimed.

A current list of the names of these members and instructions for claiming funds is posted online at www.washingtonemc.com. This list is also available at all Washington EMC locations for reviewing during regular business hours.

The last date to claim funds is September 30, 2024. If funds are not claimed by this date, they will be donated for charitable uses, as permitted by O.C.G.A. § 44-12-236. To claim a refund or submit any question about this notice or the list, call (478) 552-2577.

