



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

Employee appreciation

Friday, March 4, is Employee Appreciation Day, so I could not pass up the opportunity to talk about the fabulous employees at Washington EMC and how much I appreciate them every day of the year.

Washington EMC belongs to you—our members—but do you know the hardworking individuals who are quietly in the background doing what they do best to help ensure your cooperative is running smoothly and that you receive the best service possible? Well, they are there, through it all, doing a fabulous job every day.

From the customer service representative taking your call, question or payment to the lineman restoring your power after a weather event, our team of dedicated individuals at Washington EMC are absolutely second to none. Every single employee in every department is equally dedicated and so vitally needed to keep your cooperative running smoothly.

I have said it so many times that those who choose to work in the electric cooperative industry do so because they care about people. It's just a vibe that

constantly runs through the industry, no matter the cooperative you visit. The overwhelming sense of helping others, and doing so with care, compassion and a great attitude is just what you will find in the employees at Washington EMC. We help our members, then extend a helping hand to our sister cooperatives when they need help, too, and they do the same for us.

And these employees don't just dedicate themselves to Washington EMC. They are also busy being a part of our community. So many of our employees volunteer as firefighters, sports coaches and Sunday school teachers. They give time at food banks and charities. They raise money and collect toys for children at Christmas. They collect blankets to donate in the winter and donate school supplies during the school year. They are caring and compassionate, and show it every day.

We are so fortunate to have long-term career employees at Washington EMC, too. In fact, at the beginning of 2021, we had 20 employees with 25 years of service or more! That is an incredible demonstration of the long-term commit-



Wendy Sellers
President/CEO

ment these employees have to our cooperative. As we begin 2022, we have many new faces as well, as some of our long-term employees are now enjoying a well-deserved retirement. But each new employee who has joined our cooperative family has jumped right in like they have worked here for years. How lucky we are to have them choose Washington EMC! From our longest-term employee of 44 years to our newest employee of only two months, you will find equal dedication, hard work, determination and care. There is just no finer group!

To each of you, the employees of Washington EMC, I just want to say "thank you." What a tremendous honor it is to work beside you each day!

And to you, our members, if you see one of these hardworking Washington EMC employees, please tell them how much you appreciate the job they do for you and our cooperative. They simply are the best!





An electric membership corporation

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Wendy Sellers, President/CEO

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OFFICE HOURS

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

Monday through Friday

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Long distance (800) 552-2577

24-HOUR CALL CENTER

To report a power interruption
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Drive-thru payment window

319 N. Smith St., Sandersville, GA 31082

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

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www.washingtonemc.com

Use the free Washington EMC mobile app

Look for WEMC in the

App Store or Android Market.

Pay by phone

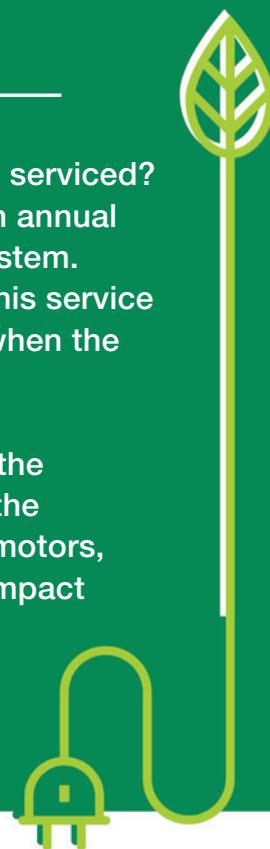
(478) 552-2577 or (800) 552-2577

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune-up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest.

A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors, and other factors that can greatly impact the efficiency of your system.

Source: U.S. Department
of Energy



REMINDER

Our base charge will increase
by \$5 beginning March 1.
Energy rates will remain unchanged.



Remember to spring forward!

Don't forget that daylight saving
time begins Sunday, March 13.



Surge protection 101

A power surge is an unexpected increase in voltage, and it can occur from a variety of sources. Regardless of the cause, power surges can majorly damage electronic devices and equipment in your home.

Let's take a look at common causes of power surges and how you can protect your sensitive electronics:

One of the most common causes of a power surge is lightning. Most of us have experienced this during a severe thunderstorm. When lightning strikes an electrical system, the excess current must be channeled somewhere—unfortunately in many cases, it's sent through a home. Your best bet is to unplug all unused devices and electronics during severe thunderstorms.

Another common cause of power surges is electrical overload. This happens when devices or appliances are plugged into an outlet that can't handle the required amount of voltage, or if multiple devices are plugged into one outlet through an extension cord. If you're experiencing power surges due to electrical overload, it's time to call a qualified electrician to evaluate your home's circuits and electrical needs.

Faulty wiring in a home can also cause power surges. Damaged or exposed wires can cause spikes in voltage, creating a potentially dangerous situation. If you notice signs of faulty wiring, such as visible burns on outlets, buzzing sounds from outlets or frequently tripped circuit breakers, your home may be due for electrical wiring repairs and updates.

Surges can also occur after a power outage. Sometimes, when electricity is being restored and reconnected, it's common to experience a quick surge in current. Similar to advice for a surge caused by lightning, it's best to unplug sensitive electronics during the outage—then wait to plug them back in after power is fully restored.

Aside from unplugging devices when you suspect a power surge, there are ways you can take additional precautions to protect electronics in your home:

Point-of-use surge protection devices like power strips can protect electronics during most surges. But remember, not all power strips include surge protection, so read the packaging label carefully before you buy, and don't overload the power strip

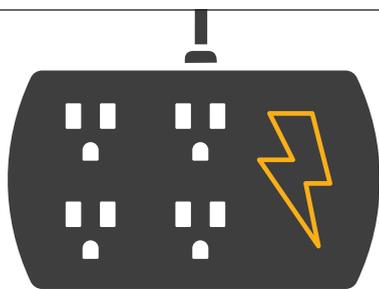
with too many devices.

You can also install specialized electrical outlets that offer additional surge protection. Talk to a trusted electrician to learn more.

Another option is a whole-home surge protector, which can help protect your home from larger, more powerful surges. In most cases, whole-home suppressors are connected to your home's service panel and include features like thermal fuses and notification capabilities that indicate when a device has been impacted by a surge. Whole-home surge protection prices vary based on the size of the home and suppressor. Whole-home suppressors should always be connected by a licensed electrician, so consider the cost of installation as well.

Occasional power surges are inevitable, but by unplugging devices when you think a surge may occur and using additional levels of protection like power strips or whole-home suppressors, you can better safeguard your sensitive electronics and devices.

Contact Washington EMC if you have questions about ways to protect your home from power surges.



SURGE PROTECTION

Keep your electronic equipment safe

A power surge is typically caused by lightning, changes in electrical loads, faulty wiring or damaged power lines.

Install power strips with surge protection to protect sensitive equipment.

- Easy to use (just plug them in)
- Protect electronics plugged into the device
- Must be replaced over time or after a major surge event



REMEMBER:

Not all power strips offer surge protection. Carefully read the packaging labels when purchasing.

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