



# newsletter

*Serving the members of Ocmulgee Electric Membership Corporation*

## Celebrate your electric cooperative during National Co-op Month

October is a special time here at Ocmulgee Electric Membership Corporation (EMC). It's National Co-op Month, a time when we ask our members to join us in reflecting on our heritage as a member-owned cooperative.

What exactly are co-ops? Are the 42 EMCs throughout Georgia the state's only cooperatives?

Not hardly. Simply put, cooperatives are businesses, in many ways like other businesses, but with several distinct differences that set them apart as particularly effective and viable entities. You may be surprised to learn that cooperatives throughout the United States range from large enterprises, including several Fortune 500 companies, to local storefront businesses.

The cooperative goal is to provide quality goods or services at affordable rates. Co-ops are not owned or controlled by outside investors but by their own members, those who use their services or buy their goods. Governed by boards of directors elected by members from within their membership, cooperatives return surplus revenues to members and are motivated not by profit but by service.

You may be familiar with electric and telephone cooperatives, but many other types of co-ops touch every sector of American economics. Throughout the U.S. and the world, almost any consumer need imaginable can be met by a cooperative. Consider these statistics compiled last year by the National Cooperative Business Association:

- Co-ops operate in every industry including agriculture, utilities, financial services, food, health-care, insurance and more;
- 29 cooperatives report annual revenue in excess of \$1 billion, including Land O'Lakes, Inc., and Ace Hardware;



- Approximately 250 purchasing co-ops offer group buying and shared services to 50,000-plus independent businesses;
- About 30 percent of U.S. farm products are marketed through more than 3,000 farmer-owned cooperatives;
- 270 telephone co-ops provide local and long distance telephone, Internet and satellite TV services to 2 million households;
- U.S. cooperatives serve approximately 120 million members, or four in 10 Americans; worldwide, 750,000 co-ops serve 730 million members.

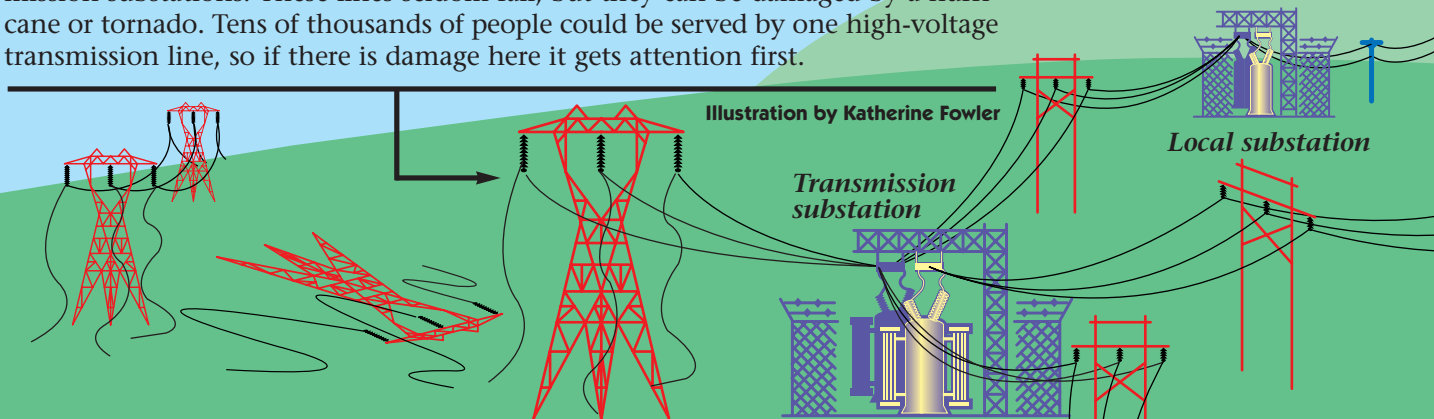
Typically, cooperatives emerge when the marketplace fails to provide needed goods or services at affordable prices. Such was the case with America's electric co-ops, formed in the early 1900s to provide electricity to rural areas that investor-owned utilities deemed unprofitable and would not serve.

In Georgia, EMCs provide electricity to 4 million people, nearly half of the state's population, across 73 percent of the land area. At Ocmulgee EMC, we adhere to the cooperative business model, serving our member-owners by providing quality electric service at affordable rates.

Join us this October in celebrating National Co-op Month!

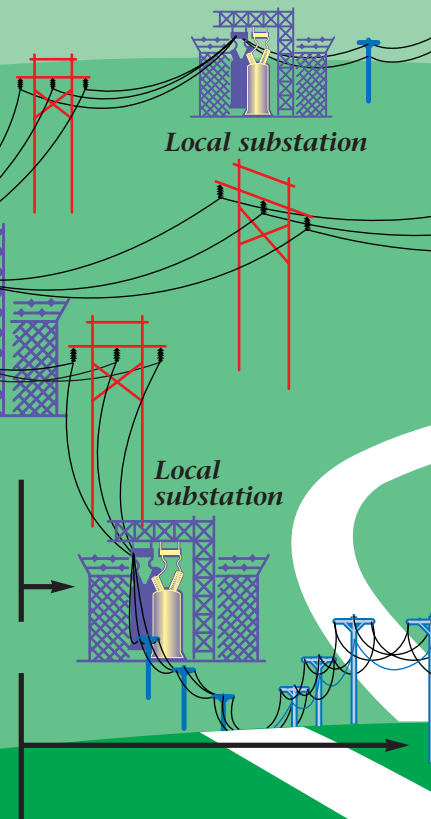
# The steps to restoring power

**Step 1.** Transmission towers and lines supply power to one or more transmission substations. These lines seldom fail, but they can be damaged by a hurricane or tornado. Tens of thousands of people could be served by one high-voltage transmission line, so if there is damage here it gets attention first.



**Step 2.** A co-op may have several local distribution substations, each serving thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, the local distribution substations are checked first. A problem here could be caused by failure in the transmission system supplying the substation. If the problem can be corrected at the substation level, power may be restored to a large number of people.

**Step 3.** Main distribution supply lines are checked next if the problem cannot be isolated at the substation. These supply lines carry electricity away from the substation to a group of consumers, such as a town or housing development. When power is restored at this stage, all consumers served by this supply line can see the lights come on, as long as there is no problem farther down the line.



**H**urricanes and ice storms, tornadoes and blizzards. Electric cooperative members have seen them all in the last few years. And with such severe weather comes power outages. Restoring power after a major outage is a big job that involves much more than simply throwing a switch or removing a tree from a line.

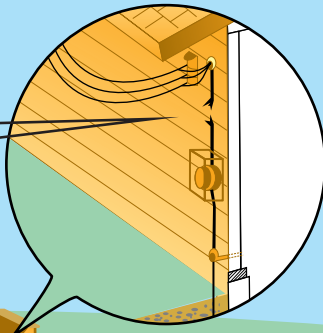
The main goal is to restore power safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible.

The major cause of outages is damage caused by fallen trees. That's why your electric cooperative has an ongoing right-of-way maintenance program.

The illustration on these pages explains how power typically is restored after a major disaster, such as a hurricane or tornado. While power restoration priorities may differ from co-op to co-op, electric system repairs generally follow a plan similar to the one illustrated here.

**Area enlarged:** Members themselves (not the co-op) are responsible for damage to the service installation on the building. Your co-op can't fix this. Call a licensed electrician.

**Step 5.** Sometimes, damage will occur on the service line between your house and the transformer on the nearby pole. This can explain why you have no power when your neighbor does. Your co-op needs to know you have an outage here, so a service crew can repair it.



Other co-ops

During a major outage, other cooperatives are prepared to help. They send line crews to assist with restoring power. These additional crews, as well as equipment and supplies, are coordinated through the Disaster Response Plan in Georgia using personnel from Georgia Transmission Corp., other Georgia EMCs and out-of-state assistance.

Tap Line

Local substation

Report your outage to the cooperative office. Employees or response services use every available phone line to receive your outage reports. Remember that a major outage can affect thousands of other members. Your cooperative appreciates your patience.

**Step 4.** The final supply lines, called tap lines, carry power to the utility poles or underground transformers outside houses or other buildings. Line crews fix the remaining outages based on restoring service to the greatest number of members.

Co-op office

If you or another family member depends on life support, and the loss of electricity affects these life support systems, alert your co-op. The co-op will make every effort to fix your problem as quickly as possible, but sometimes damage up the line must be repaired before power to individual households can be restored. Be prepared with an alternate plan to leave the home—before an emergency arises.

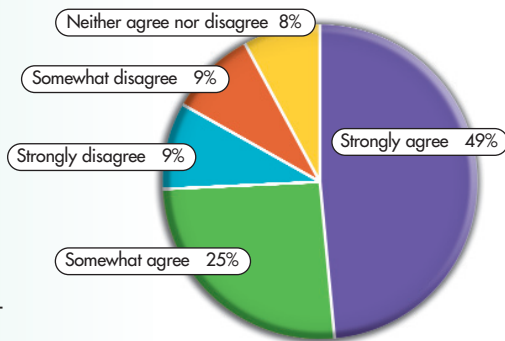
Tap Line

**DANGER!**  
Stay clear of fallen lines

# Did you KNOW?

## Co-op execs feel greater responsibility on energy conservation

A firm majority consisting of 75 percent of electric co-op CEOs and general managers believes co-ops have more responsibility than other utilities to work with consumer-members in energy-conservation efforts, according to a recent study by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Market Research Services. The results of the survey, in which 613 executives took part, indicate their affinity for members and a responsibility to work together in conservation efforts designed to mitigate rate hikes.



—Source: *Electric Co-op Today*

## Employee Recognition

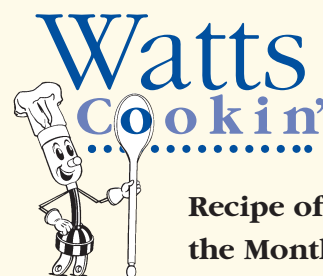
**Dennis Douglas**  
Operations—33 years

**Jeffrey Daniels**  
Engineering—7 years

**Brad Dowdy**  
Engineering—6 years

**Richard Cravey**  
Engineering—6 years

*Thanks for your hard work and continued dedication!*

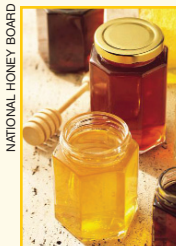


**Recipe of the Month**

## Honey-Kissed Fruit and Granola Bake

*Courtesy of the National Honey Board*

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 1/2 cup honey
- 2 apples, cored, peeled, sliced
- 1/3 cup dried apricots, snipped
- 1/3 cup dried cranberries
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3/4 cup granola



NATIONAL HONEY BOARD

Spray 6 (1/2-cup) ovenproof bowls (or a 1- or 2-quart casserole dish) with nonstick cooking spray. Combine remaining ingredients and spoon into bowls. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Let cool 10 minutes. *Makes 6 servings.*

Why not sample some of the many varieties of local honey that are available—from alfalfa to wild-flower and orange blossom to sage? Additional recipes are available from the National Honey Board at [www.honey.com](http://www.honey.com).

## Prepare your home for winter while weather's still nice

**B**efore the leaves drop from the trees in your yard this autumn, prepare your home for the cold weather that's not so far behind. To start:

- Call a heating professional to service your furnace or heat pump, and clean and change all filters and vents. This will make your heating system function efficiently, and it could save you from making a mid-winter emergency call.
- Clean electric baseboard heaters to protect against fires and to prevent that burning dust smell.
- Replace damaged or pulled-away shingles on your roof, and check the seals on skylights to prevent leaks during storms.
- Drain pipes under the house and those that lead to garden hoses so they won't freeze and burst when the mercury drops. Insulate indoor water pipes in unheated spaces.
- Inspect insulation to make sure it's not blocking ducts or vents. Blown-in insulation can settle over time and may need replacing.
- Stock up on batteries for flashlights and radios, and store canned food, a first-aid kit, water, blankets and other emergency supplies in case a storm causes a power outage.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, and replace them if necessary. Most models are designed to last only about five years.

