



# Line Items

The Official  
Newsletter  
Of Excelsior EMC

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## BE PREPARED FOR WINTER STORMS



When winter temperatures drop and storms hit, it can be challenging to stay safe and warm. While we normally do not get to enjoy mounds of fluffy snow each year, the possibility of freezing temperatures and severe weather is likely.

Heavy ice and snow can lead to downed power lines, leaving our members without power. This can be dangerous during extremely low temperatures. Excelsior EMC cares about your safety, and we want you to be prepared for these potentially

dangerous situations. While our crews will always work as quickly and as safely as possible to restore power, there are a few things you can do to prepare yourself for an extended outage.

- **STAY WARM** – Plan to use a safe alternative heating source such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove during a power outage. These are great options to keep you and your loved ones warm, but exercise caution when using and never leave the heating source unattended. If you are using kerosene, propane, or natural gas-burning devices to stay warm, remember that fuel and wood burning sources of heat should always be properly ventilated and always read the manufacturer's directions before using.
- **STAY FED** – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends having several days' supply of food that does not need to be cooked. Crackers, cereal, canned goods, and bread are good options. Five gallons of water per person should also be available in the event of an extended outage.
- **STAY SAFE** – When an outage occurs, it usually means that power lines are down. It is best not to travel during winter storms, but if you must, have a survival kit with you and do not travel alone. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live and stay as far away as possible.

Winter weather can be unpredictable and dangerous but planning ahead can often be the difference between life and death. Excelsior EMC is ready for what Mother Nature has in store, and we want you to be ready too. For more winter safety tips, visit [ready.gov/winter-weather](https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather). Also, be sure to follow Excelsior EMC on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for more information about safety, energy efficiency, outage updates, and more.

# Line Items

BRONSON BRAGDON  
Editor

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**When Your Power Is Off — Call**  
(912) 685-2115 or (912) 764-2123

When your power goes off, don't stay in the dark longer than you have to. To restore your power as quickly as possible, we need your correct phone number. Your phone number is the quickest way for us to locate your home or business when you call to report an outage.

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## Between the Lines

by  
Greg Proctor  
President/CEO

## Cooperation Among Cooperatives Makes Us Stronger

Excelsior EMC is connected to a network of cooperatives which makes us stronger. We begin with Georgia EMC, the statewide association for electric cooperatives in Georgia. Membership in Georgia EMC allows the Cooperative to keep in close contact with the other 40 EMCs in the state and to stay up to date on all statewide issues. Georgia EMC assists us with our monthly safety meetings and other employee training programs and legislative issues. They also provide coordination of emergency storm restoration assistance from fellow EMCs when we have major power outages.

Excelsior EMC is a member of Oglethorpe Power Corporation (OPC). OPC is a generation cooperative that provides much of the power we buy at the wholesale level. As a member of Cooperative Energy Incorporated (CEI), we purchase our remaining wholesale power requirements. All of our wholesale power is delivered to our distribution substations through our membership in Georgia Transmission Corporation (GTC). Our membership in Georgia System Operations Corporation (GSOC) provides for the dispatch of the wholesale power we purchase to meet our systems' hourly power requirements.



### QUICKREAD

**Excelsior EMC is connected to a network of cooperatives which makes us stronger.**

Excelsior EMC is also a member of Gresco Utility Supply, Inc. (GRESKO), where we purchase transformers and materials needed to construct and maintain our distribution system. Southeastern Data Cooperative (SEDC) prints and mails our monthly electric statements and provides all the computer programming necessary to perform all other accounting services. Our membership in Cooperative Response Center (CRC) provides additional capacity and flexibility for answering phone calls with live agents and in dispatching trouble crews.

On a national basis Excelsior EMC is a member of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) which unites electric cooperatives in the 47 states where electric cooperatives serve. NRECA provides important benefits by representing our interests with federal lawmakers in Congress, the Executive Branch, and the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), the main federal agency with whom we interact. We are also a member of National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) which provides capital and other financial products to America's electric cooperatives.

Excelsior EMC is connected to all of these and more that have the same strong cooperative principles and values as we do. The bottom line is this cooperation among cooperatives makes us stronger and allows us to serve you better each day.



Every Member Counts

# JODY WILSON & TERRY CALHOUN PROMOTED



*Excelsior EMC Lead Linemen  
Jody Wilson & Terry Calhoun*

Excelsior EMC Linemen Jody Wilson and Terry Calhoun were recently promoted to Lead Linemen.

The Excelsior EMC Lead Lineman position was created for the purpose of having a leader, in the absence of a crew leader, who can ensure the crew completes their work in a safe, efficient, and effective manner while working in accordance with electrical codes and Rural Utilities Service construction specifications. Jody and Terry will be responsible for providing supervision and leadership to crew member personnel as they work to construct and maintain lines on our distribution system.

Jody and Terry have a combined 28 years of line work experience. During their time with the Cooperative, they have both proven to have the knowledge, skills, and leadership qualities desired to fill the Lead Linemen position. They have undergone extensive on-the-job training under the supervision of a crew leader as well as classroom training, and have truly earned the distinction of being named Excelsior EMC Lead Linemen.

Excelsior EMC would like to congratulate Jody and Terry on their accomplishments.

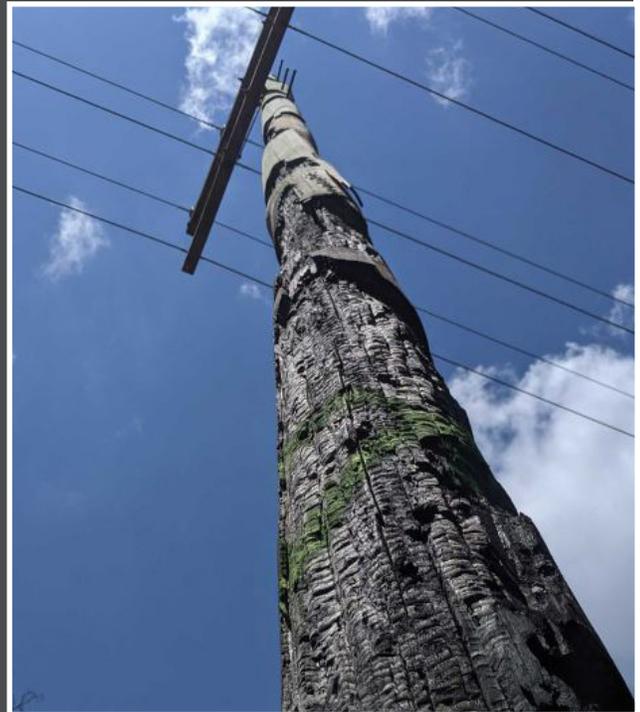
## TAKE PRECAUTIONS WHEN BURNING FIELDS

The risks of burning a field or yard seem minimal. But have you considered the hazard to a power pole set in the middle of a field or yard that is burning?

Once a power pole has caught fire, the hazards increase dramatically. If the pole burns completely through, it will fall creating a danger of power lines lying on the ground within the burning area. If the pole is partially burned, then stabilizing it and placing another pole so the power lines can be transferred is a hazard to the line crew.

Although it is a cost and inconvenience to the person doing the burning, it is also an inconvenience to others who live around you while the power is off for repairs. You can prevent this situation by preparing a fire break around any power poles before starting a controlled fire.

In the event that a power pole does catch fire, do not get around the pole or under the lines. Warn others of the danger and notify Excelsior EMC immediately at (912) 685-2115 or (912) 764-2123.



# FIVE TIPS FOR SPACE HEATER SAFETY



As temperatures drop this winter, many will look for supplemental heating sources for their homes. Space heaters can be a good alternative for those who want to warm one area of their home without turning up the thermostat on the central heating system. However, space heaters are also responsible for 32 percent of house fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association. If you are planning to use a space heater in your home this winter, review these tips to keep you, your family and your property safe.

- 1 MATERIALS** – What are the components of your space heater made of? Parts like metal grating can be hot to the touch and may burn anyone who gets too close. Make sure you purchase a heater that is cool to the touch and has guards over the coils just in case little fingers get too close.
- 2 PLACEMENT** – While it can be tempting to place a small heater on a shelf so it is not in the way of pets and children, it is safest to leave the heater on a nonflammable floor surface. Keeping the space heater on the floor can keep it from falling over, preventing fire hazards. The most important rule about space heater placement is the three-foot rule. Wherever your heater is, it should always be kept three feet away from flammable materials.
- 3 SPECIAL FEATURES** – Does your space heater have an auto shutoff function if tipped over? Auto shutoff can be a lifesaver. If you currently own a space heater without auto shutoff, consider purchasing a heater with this important safety feature.
- 4 CORDS** – You should never use an extension cord when plugging in a space heater as it can cause the cord to overheat. The space heater should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Also make sure cords aren't in a high-traffic area so they are not a tripping hazard.
- 5 USE** – Never leave a heater unattended while in use. If you are leaving your home or going to bed, make sure to unplug the heater.

Following these tips and making sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions can keep your family safe and warm this winter.

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