



Line Items

The Official
Newsletter
Of Excelsior EMC

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2022 OFF TO A STORMY START



Two Pike contract crews set up in the middle of a dirt road in order to pick up a downed power line.



Excelsior EMC Lineman Justin Powell works into the night to restore power.



Pike Electric Lineman Cody Denmark is preparing to pick up wires that are down across Interstate 16.



Georgia Right of Way employee Chris Radford works from a bucket over a body of water to cut a fallen pine tree off of a power line.

Only days into the new year, we were hit hard by a severe wind and rain event that left 25% of our membership without power. High winds coupled with heavy rainfall broke limbs and toppled trees onto power lines.

The winds began picking up on the afternoon of January 2nd and continued to get worse throughout the night. Our first outage associated with this storm began at 1:17 am on January 3rd. Throughout the night, our crews battled to restore power despite the darkness, heavy rain, and high winds. What they found was vegetation from outside the right of way either blew through, hung up in, or toppled onto sections of power lines, often in hard-to-reach places. Swollen creeks and saturated lowlands from the torrential rains made many places inaccessible to bucket trucks, so poles had to be climbed to repair the damaged lines, slowing restoration. However, our linemen worked as safely and quickly as possible to restore power to our members.

When restoring power after a storm, Excelsior EMC has always stuck to the same plan: repair the lines that are the backbone of the grid first, then turn our attention to tap lines, and then work to restore individual homes. This plan allows us to restore power to the greatest number of members in the shortest amount of time. In this particular instance, sticking to our tried-and-true methods of power restoration allowed us to restore power to all 6,041 of our members who lost power in under 21 hours.

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

Thank You Employees

We spend a tremendous amount of time working to improve service reliability. Keeping the lights on is our main objective, second only to safety.

The high winds on January 3 certainly challenged the reliability of our electrical system and tested the endurance of our employees. It has been several years since we experienced such a significant outage event. In fact, you have to go back to Hurricane Michael in October of 2018 to see this level of outages. Most of the outages involved power lines that were torn down by trees and limbs. These types of outages take longer to restore and are far more complicated to repair than a simple limb hung in a power line or blown fuse.

Restoration of power after large storms takes a team effort, so I want to recognize the hard work of our entire team. In large-scale outages, we use our staking engineers as "bird dogs" to patrol lines ahead of repair crews. These bird dogs make an assessment of the damage so that our linemen can focus on making repairs. Once a power line has been patrolled, the bird dog's assessment is recorded in the notes for the outage and communicated to our repair crews so that they can go directly to the spot of the damage, thereby increasing restoration efficiency.

We also utilize our Pike Electric contract crews to replace broken poles and work on power lines with extensive damage. Our Georgia Right of Way contract crews play a vital role as well by clearing roads and power lines of trees and limbs. Using contractors in this manner increases our available manpower and reduces the amount of time that it takes to get the lights back on.

On numerous occasions, I've seen our entire team labor for extended periods or with very little rest from a previous storm. I've seen the damages to power lines and equipment caused by high winds which bring down trees and limbs. Heavy rains often saturate the ground making access to power lines a challenge.

We are aware of the inconveniences anytime the power is off. However, I want to thank our employees and contractors for the hard work and extra effort they gave during the recent storms. I want to thank them for stepping forward and delivering on our commitment to provide the best service possible.

When you see our employees or contractors please pass along your appreciation for their hard work and dedication in restoring power.



Every Member Counts

AREA STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN EMC/FFA WIRING CONTEST



Pictured Left: Houston Clifton works diligently to complete the wiring skill portion of the contest, which is worth 60% of the students' final grade. Students have 90 minutes to complete this exercise, with most of them finishing with only minutes to spare.



Pictured Left: Braylon Burke is standing next to the Speech Demonstration portion of the contest, which is worth 10% of the students' final grade. While in front of a panel of judges, the students must explain the wiring problem presented to them, how it is wired, why it is wired a certain way, materials used, and they must also reference any pertinent National Electrical Code guidelines.

Braylon Burke, a sophomore at Southeast Bulloch High School, and Houston Clifton, a senior at Metter High School, represented their schools in the Area IV EMC/FFA Electrification Career Development Event (CDE), held on January 11 at Treutlen County High School.

The Electrification CDE, also known as the EMC/FFA Wiring Contest, is a unique way to encourage high school students to learn about electricity. Students enrolled in agricultural education courses take part in FFA-supervised projects which prepare them to compete in the Electrification CDE. These projects and the Electrification CDE are designed to promote the safe, efficient use of electricity.

Students who participate in the wiring contest also compete for scholarship money. The first place winners from each of the six area competitions throughout the state receive a \$500 scholarship, while the second place winners receive \$300. Both have a chance to compete in the state event and receive up to an additional \$1,000.

The wiring contest contains three primary components: a practical wiring exercise, a problem solving exercise which requires the students to interpret and apply the National Electrical Code, and a speech demonstration activity. Any active FFA member enrolled in a 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade high school agricultural education class is eligible to participate. Chapters are limited to one contestant per chapter.

The FFA is a national organization of more than 650,000 members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture. FFA is an integral part of the agricultural education program in our area public schools. Its mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Excelsior EMC would like to congratulate Houston Clifton and Braylon Burke for jobs well done at the Area IV EMC/FFA wiring contest.



DEREK LINDSEY PROMOTED TO LINEMAN



Derek Lindsey

Derek Lindsey recently received his Integrated Transmission System (ITS) Qualified Operator Certification at the Electric Cooperative Training Center in Smarr, Georgia, completing the transition from Apprentice Lineman to Lineman.

During the week-long course in Smarr, Derek was given instruction on how to read system one-line diagrams to identify system configuration, direction of power flow, voltages, system equipment, and zones of protection for protective relays. He also received hands-on training in the operation and inspection of substation equipment, and the writing and executing of switching orders. At the end of the training session, he demonstrated the necessary procedures for substation power restoration and passed a written examination to become a qualified ITS operator.

Derek held the title of Apprentice Lineman for over six years. He has undergone extensive on-the-job training under the supervision of a crew leader as well as classroom training and has truly earned the distinction of being named an Excelsior EMC Lineman.

Excelsior EMC would like to congratulate Derek on his accomplishment.



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