



Line Items

The Official
Newsletter
Of Excelsior EMC

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HARVEST SEASON SAFETY

Harvest season is a critical time for farmers, but it also comes with unique electrical hazards. To ensure safety, farmers should always be aware of their surroundings, especially when working near overhead power lines. Large equipment like combines, augers, and grain bins can easily come into contact with these lines, leading to dangerous situations. It's crucial to maintain at least a 10-foot distance from power lines at all times.

Before beginning work, conduct a thorough inspection of equipment to ensure that lights, mirrors, and warning devices are in good condition and functioning properly. If any equipment does come into contact with a power line, stay in the vehicle if possible and call for help immediately. Never touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Educating farm workers on these safety measures and having an emergency plan in place can prevent accidents and save lives during this busy season.

5 Tips for a Safe Harvest

Electrical safety during harvest season requires vigilance and proactive measures. Follow these tips to reduce the risk of electrical accidents.

1. Maintain at least a 10-foot distance from power lines when operating equipment like grain augers, elevators and other tall machinery.
2. Use a spotter to navigate safely around power lines and other electrical equipment.
3. Ensure all farm workers are trained on electrical safety procedures.
4. Regularly inspect all electrical equipment and machinery for signs of wear and damage.
5. Keep first aid kits and emergency contact numbers in an easily accessible location.



Line Items

Joseph Jones
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

Co-ops Power Communities with Purpose

Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Some are based on geographical proximity, some are based on shared interests or hobbies, and some communities can even be found in virtual spaces like social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities can bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

Excelsior EMC is deeply committed to our consumer-members, and we're glad you are part of the electric cooperative community.

This month, more than 30,000 cooperatives across the U.S. are celebrating National Co-op Month. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses, but more importantly, it's a time to celebrate the power of co-op membership.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities that are built by the communities they serve. For Excelsior EMC, our mission has always been to provide you with safe and affordable power. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet our members' evolving energy needs.

Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are equally invested in our local community. Why? Because we live here, too. That's why we work hard to make our community a better place to call home.

All co-ops, including Excelsior EMC, are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. These seven principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities while remaining true to our purpose:

- 1. Open and Voluntary Membership:** Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.
- 2. Democratic Member Control:** Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. Why? Because co-ops are created by the members, for the members.
- 3. Members' Economic Participation:** Members contribute money to the co-op to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future. At Excelsior EMC, this happens through paying your energy bills.
- 4. Autonomy and Independence:** Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.
- 5. Education, Training and Information:** Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.
- 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive.
- 7. Concern for Community:** All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow.

This October, as we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people--the local communities we're proud to serve.



Every Member Counts

Rate Comparison

Winter 2024	Excelsior EMC	Georgia Power	Average of EMC's
\$/500 kWh	\$82.30	\$80.84	\$83.80
\$/1,000 kWh	\$134.30	\$143.48	\$139.19
\$/1,500 kWh	\$186.30	\$206.12	\$193.12
\$/2,000 kWh	\$238.30	\$268.78	\$246.92

Summer 2024	Excelsior EMC	Georgia Power	Average of EMC's
\$/500 kWh	\$77.60	\$88.08	\$85.21
\$/1,000 kWh	\$124.91	\$182.19	\$144.33
\$/1,500 kWh	\$188.71	\$288.60	\$206.76
\$/2,000 kWh	\$252.52	\$395.01	\$269.72

NOTE: The average size home with 1,500-1,800 square feet of living area will use approximately 1,500-2,000 kWhs per month when heating and cooling is required.

The Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) gathers the residential electric rates from Georgia's 41 EMCs and Georgia Power then compiles them into a simple to read Residential Rate Survey. The survey lists each electric utility's cost for 500 kWh, 1,000 kWh, 1,500 kWh and 2,000 kWh. The 2024 Summer and Winter Residential Rate Surveys are located on the PSC's website at www.psc.state.ga.us for the public to view. Above is a condensed version to show how Excelsior EMC's rates compare to other electric utilities in the survey.

Solar: Is it for you?

For more information visit:

<https://excelsioremc.com/rooftop-assessment/>

How much is your power bill? If you have low energy usage on a monthly basis, solar panels may not save you enough money to justify installing them on your home. If you have high monthly energy usage, then daytime energy use offset by solar production may offer a return on your investment.

How much sunlight does your roof get? For optimal efficiency and productivity, your roof needs to have unobstructed and constant sunlight for as much of the day as possible. You may need to have trees removed or trimmed before installing rooftop solar.

How long will you live in your house? Due to the high initial cost of the solar system, it may take quite a few years before your solar panel investment will pay off. If you only plan to live in your home for a short amount of time, installing solar panels may not be advisable.

Solar panels are expensive. Although prices have decreased over the last few years, a complete solar energy system can be very costly. Be aware that solar installations are an investment that the breakeven point is often decades into the future. Please evaluate your estimated payback closely.

If you've considered these factors and decided solar panels are right for you, we strongly encourage thorough research when choosing an installer to ensure you're hiring a reputable company for proper installation and maintenance. If you have further questions about solar, call us at 912-685-2115.




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