



Walton EMC Recognized For Workplace Safety Excellence

Your cooperative was recently recognized for an entire year without any employee missing work due to an injury in the workplace, an impressive accomplishment given the complexity and inherent dangers of the electric utility industry.

“Our business involves risks from energized wires, working high in the air and moving heavy items, not to mention being out after storms to restore power,” said Brad Adcock, Walton EMC loss control director. “We strive to minimize these dangers by investing time and attention to safety measures and careful work practices.”

To acknowledge the organization’s robust safety program, the cooperative received the No Lost Time Award during their state trade association’s recent annual meeting in Savannah.

Nationally, electrical linemen suffered 18.6 fatalities for every 100,000 hours worked in 2020, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, compared to just 3.4 fatalities per 100,000 hours for the average American worker.

Walton EMC had no fatalities or injuries that required the worker to miss any time away from the job.

Today, electric utility employees, including those with Walton EMC, work in a much safer environment due to advances in equipment and safety techniques, along with stricter safety regulations and oversight. This leads to a significant reduction in accidents and time away from work for many employees, according to Georgia EMC Vice President of Training, Education and Safety Harry Reeves.

Still, the nature of the electricity business makes it a challenge to avoid an injury no matter how many safety practices are in place, making it especially noteworthy when EMCs earn this award.

“It’s a testament to all our employees,” said Adcock. “Our success and safety depend on all of us following carefully designed safety precautions to ensure we return home to our families at the end of each day.”

While protecting the safety of employees and the public is the primary goal of workplace safety and training, Walton EMC’s stellar safety record also translates into significant savings for the cooperative and its customer-owners.

When an injury does occur, the costs go beyond direct medical expenses. Indirect costs, like increases in insurance, hiring another employee and even loss of reputation can add up to four times the direct cost of the injury.

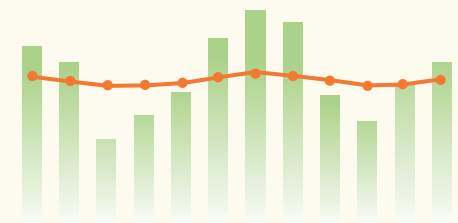
2023 POWER MOVES

Setting goals for the new year? Make Walton EMC a part of your 2023 to-do list. Your co-op offers plenty of opportunities for making power moves that can benefit you, and the community, all year long.



Track your energy use. Manage your energy from your mobile device by downloading the myWaltonEMC app. It allows you to monitor your home’s energy use by the hour and day, and also see how weather affects your electric bill.

Simplify your billing. If the peaks of winter and summer electric bills are tough on your budget, sign up for Levelized Billing. It allows residential customer-owners to pay nearly the same amount on their electric bill each month, removing the month-to-month fluctuations caused by changing weather and other factors.



Opt for Operation Round Up. Join with fellow co-op customer-owners who are allowing Walton EMC to round up their electric bill to the next dollar. Sharing your change helps worthy organizations and needy individuals throughout the co-op’s service area.



Attend the annual meeting. Make plans to participate in the co-op’s 87th Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 17, 2023. Watch for announcements in May regarding meeting day details, board elections and how you can register to win prizes.



Give solar a shot. Support renewable energy by purchasing solar electricity through Walton EMC’s Cooperative Solar program. Each block is only \$25 a month. The solar energy it produces offsets the same number of kilowatt-hours on your power bill.

Learn more about these programs or sign up online at waltonemc.com. Or, call 770-267-2505 to speak with a customer care representative, available Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.–7 p.m.

quick guide

IF YOUR POWER IS OUT
770.267.2505
waltonemc.com > Report an Outage

WHEN WE’RE AVAILABLE
Power Outages and Emergencies > 24/7
Contact Center > M-F, 7A-7P
Business Offices > M-F, 8A-5P

find us

Monroe 842 US Hwy. 78
Snellville 3645 Lenora Church Rd.
Watkinsville 2061-D Hog Mountain Rd.

Web waltonemc.com
Facebook facebook.com/waltonemc
Twitter twitter.com/waltonemc
Youtube youtube.com/emctv

our leaders

- CEO Ronnie Lee
- COO Ron Marshall
- Senior VP Corporate Services Russell DeLong
- Senior VP Power Supply Robert Rentfrow
- CFO/Senior VP Finance Marsha Shumate
- VP Walton Energy and External Affairs Jim Bottone
- VP of Engineering and Operations Tim Morris
- Board Chair Dawn Taylor
- Board Vice Chair Michael Lowder
- Board Secretary/Treasurer Billy Ray Allen
- Board Members Tommy Adcock, Johnny Allgood, Dan Chelko, Jason Sidwell, Sam Simonton, Jim Whitley
- Public Relations Director Greg Brooks, MCC
- Communications Coordinator Savannah Chandler, MCC
- Design mPrint Design Studio

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Photo:

Walton EMC board member Sam Simonton, center, accepts the 2022 No Lost Time Award at the recent Georgia EMC annual meeting in Savannah. The recognition is given to EMCs that go an entire year without any employee missing work due to an injury in the workplace. Presenting the award are Georgia EMC’s Harry Reeves, left, and Washington EMC CEO Wendy Sellars.

PLUGGED IN

Q: Can I be notified when my power is turned back on?

A: Yes, Walton EMC will call you when your power is restored to your home or business. You must request a call at the time an outage is reported, either online or by telephone.

Electronic reports are the fastest way to report an outage. You can use waltonemc.com or our mobile app to complete a report form, which includes opting to be notified by phone call when service is restored. To report via mobile app or online, you'll need one of these identifiers: (1) phone number on file with Walton EMC; (2) your account number; or (3) your meter number.

You can also report an outage by calling 770-267-2505. Follow the voice prompt to report the outage and provide a phone number where you can be reached. To report via phone, you'll need the phone number on file with Walton EMC.

You can also track restoration progress in real time via Walton EMC's outage map. Access it on the co-op's website by clicking on Outages.



Question answered by **Michael Cameron**
Dispatcher

Plug Into Advanced Power Strips

Electronics account for approximately 12 percent of the total electricity used by the average U.S. household. Advanced power strips (APSS) are an easy, low-cost way to manage the energy consumed by your home electronics and save money on your electric bill.

There are several different types of APSS on the market, but all operate on the same basic principle. They prevent "vampire load" — the electricity a device uses when turned off — by sensing when a device is in standby mode and completely shutting off its power supply. Consider replacing a standard power strip with an APS if you have five or more electronics connected to your home office or entertainment center.

Tame the Suckers

CONTROL STANDBY POWER TO CUT ELECTRICITY COSTS

Consumers love electric devices and appliances that entertain, add convenience or promote productivity. But adding a new device probably means you're inviting another energy vampire into your home.

Nearly all new electrical products — TVs, coffee makers, computers and many more — are energy vampires. They sit in standby mode consuming power while waiting for someone to use them.

Individually, these power suckers account for a small amount of energy use, but the average household has about 40, so the consumption and power bills can add up.

Walton EMC energy advisors suggest the following measures.

WHICH ADVANCED POWER STRIP IS RIGHT FOR YOU?



TIMER

Automatically turns off outlets based on a pre-set schedule.



ACTIVITY MONITOR

Looks for signs of activity in the room, and turns off outlets if none is detected.



REMOTE SWITCH

Can be turned off via a remote switch.



MASTER-CONTROLLED

Automatically turns off controlled outlets where peripheral devices (such as a printer or game console) are plugged in when a primary device (such as a computer or TV) is turned off.



OFF

MASTERLESS

Completely shuts off power to outlets when all controlled devices are turned off.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory



Jan. 10 is National Cut Your Energy Costs Day

LOOK FOR...

- Any gadget with an external power supply
- Devices that use a remote control
- Anything that has a continuous display

Use the energy calculator at waltonemc.com/residential to find more ways to save.

FIGHT BACK

- **Unplug.** Unplug any electronics when not in use and unplug rarely used devices.
- **Use power strips.** Plug devices into power strips and turn them off when not needed. Smart power strips make it even easier by automatically shutting off power. See the related article above.
- **Activate power-saving settings.** On your computer, monitor or game console, disable the screensaver and turn on the auto power down option (if available). Also turn off the "quick start" or "instant-on" option.
- **Install timers.** Set it and forget it. This works particularly well with items you only use at specific times, like a coffee maker.



Walton EMC Linemen Restore Power after Ian

"It looked like a bomb went off. This is one of the worst storms we've ever worked." This is how Jacob Brooks described what he and six other Walton EMC linemen saw when they arrived in Florida to repair damage following Hurricane Ian.

The category 4 hurricane reached 155 mph winds, striking and devastating Fort Myers, Florida, and surrounding areas.

Walton EMC linemen joined thousands of others from across the country to restore power to members of Lee County Electric Cooperative in Fort Myers. At the height, more than 90 percent of the co-op's 210,000 customers were without power.

"There were more conversations about death this time," said Blaine Ogle, who has participated in numerous storm recovery missions. "The people down there were talking about family and friends who made it and others who didn't."

Ian caused more than 150 deaths, which makes it the deadliest storm to strike Florida since 1935.

The change in temperature and terrain created challenging working conditions for the crew.

"Setting a pole in sand that collapses is a lot different than what we're used to at home," Brooks said.

The resounding gratitude from Fort Myers residents did not go unnoticed by the linemen.

"There is a sacrifice that comes with this job," said lineman Josh Mercado. "Remembering our spouse and kids at home keeps you thinking about why you do what you do."

As with every aspect of their job, safety was the crew's priority while helping restore power for the Floridians.

"We're happy to get the lights on, but I'm most proud that all of our guys came home safe," said Derrick Hendricks, line crew supervisor.



After Hurricane Ian created havoc on the Florida coast, Walton EMC linemen spent 13 days restoring power to Fort Myers residents. Pictured below left to right: Jacob Brooks, Hollis Lucas, David Peters, Derrick Hendricks, Blaine Ogle, Josh Mercado and Ryan Mitchell.



2023 WASHINGTON youth tour

APPLICATION DEADLINE
Friday, February 10, 5:00 pm

ENTRY FORM & DETAILS
waltonemc.com/youth

