

# Mitchell



VOL. 53 NO. 9  
SEPT. 2016

# EMC

The news  
you need to  
know in  
5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA  
[www.mitchellemc.com](http://www.mitchellemc.com)

## Going Solar Just Became Easy With COOPERATIVE SOLAR Mitchell EMC

**MITCHELL EMC** is pleased to present our cooperative solar project. Our site consists of a 20-megawatt solar electricity generation site in Hazlehurst, Georgia. This 135-acre facility consists of 87,000 solar panels and is expected to produce approximately 43 million kilowatt-hours of solar electricity per year.

### PRICING AND ENERGY PRODUCTION

Blocks of solar electricity cost \$20 each per month. Each block, is expected to produce between 100 and 200 kilowatt-hours of solar energy monthly. Energy output will vary due to the sun's angle, the time of year, the number of cloudy days in the month and other factors.

### AVAILABILITY

You will be able to purchase up to 2 blocks of solar electricity. Only residences served by Mitchell EMC electric grid can participate.

### SIGN-UPS

Sign-ups are on a first-come, first-served basis. Call us at 229-336-5221 to apply. We are not able to take online requests at this time. If blocks are sold out, a waiting list is available.

### BILLING

You will be billed \$20 for each block of solar electricity. The kilowatt-hours produced by your block in each calendar month will offset the same number of kilowatt-hours on your bill.

### LENGTH OF COMMITMENT

You can discontinue your solar energy commitment at any time by notifying us. If you leave the program, Mitchell EMC cannot guarantee there will be availability should you decide to rejoin. There will also be a 1 year wait period before you can sign up for solar once you leave the program.

In partnership with:



[greenpoweremc.com/solar](http://greenpoweremc.com/solar)

# Driving Blindfolded on the Highway

By Anne Prince

**W**ould you drive on a highway blindfolded? Of course not. However, if you text while driving 55 miles per hour on a highway, you are essentially doing just that.

Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. When traveling at 55mph, that's like driving the length of a football field while blindfolded. Talking on a cell phone also carries significant risks. According to the National Safety Council, drivers can miss seeing up to half of what's around them – traffic lights, stop signs, pedestrians – when talking on a cell phone.

In our digital world, people feel pressure to remain in constant contact, even when behind the wheel. As mobile technology use increases, distracted driving – talking, texting, sending emails – is a growing threat to community safety. We have all seen distracted drivers, and most likely, we ourselves have used a phone while driving. Drivers don't realize the dangers posed when they take their eyes off the road and their hands off the wheel and focus on activities other than driving.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, each day in the U.S., more than nine people are killed and more than 1,153 people are injured in crashes that are reported to involve a distracted driver. The National Highway Administration notes that 3,154 people were killed and an estimated 424,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver in 2013.

Texting and cell phone use behind the wheel takes your eyes off the road, your hands off the wheel and your focus off driving – putting the driver and others in danger, including passengers, pedestrians, other drivers and bystanders. On the tragic end of the spectrum, victims' families, friends, co-workers and community are impacted.

At Mitchell EMC, safety is a core value. At this time of year in particular, when more people are on the roads and kids are out of school, our goal is to raise awareness and spur conversation about the dangers of distracted driving. Talking on a cell phone quadruples your risk of an accident, about the same as if you were driving drunk. Risk doubles again if you are texting while driving. We are committed to eliminating this unnecessary risk and believe that no conversation or text is worth the potential danger.

Help promote a culture of safety. We encourage everyone to join us and help keep our families, friends and neighbors safer by putting their phones down and focusing on the road when they drive. Together, we can put the brakes on distracted driving.

*Anne Prince writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

**We Will Be CLOSED**  
**5<sup>th</sup> of SEPTEMBER**  
**IN OBSERVANCE OF**  
**LABOR DAY**

# Electrical Safety Lessons for Kids

By Meghaan Evans

We all know electricity plays a major role in our everyday lives, and it is a powerful resource that should be respected. Unfortunately, our children often do not understand the dangers of electricity. At Mitchell EMC, we encourage you to share electrical safety tips and lessons with your little ones as often as possible. We also understand their attention spans run short, so here are a few creative ways to get them involved.

Depending on the age of your child, consider designating an “electronics deputy.” The deputy should be responsible for pointing out electronics in your home that are not in use and keeping appliances safe from liquids. Reward your deputy for pointing out overloaded outlets or other potentially dangerous situations.

Emphasize the importance of fire prevention with your children, and create a family fire drill plan as an extra precaution. Incentivize your children by rewarding those who followed the plan and made it safely out of the home.

While it is fun and engaging to turn safety into a game, it is important to ensure your children understand the risks they are facing if they do not practice electrical safety.

One of the most important safety tips you can give your kids is to avoid any downed power lines. In fact, it is best to avoid power lines, transformers and substations in general. A downed power line can still be energized, and it can also energize other objects, including fences and trees. Make sure your kids understand the potential dangers of coming in contact with a downed power line or low hanging wire. And, if they encounter a downed power line, ask them to tell you or another adult to call Mitchell EMC.

Here are a few other safety tips you can share with your kids:

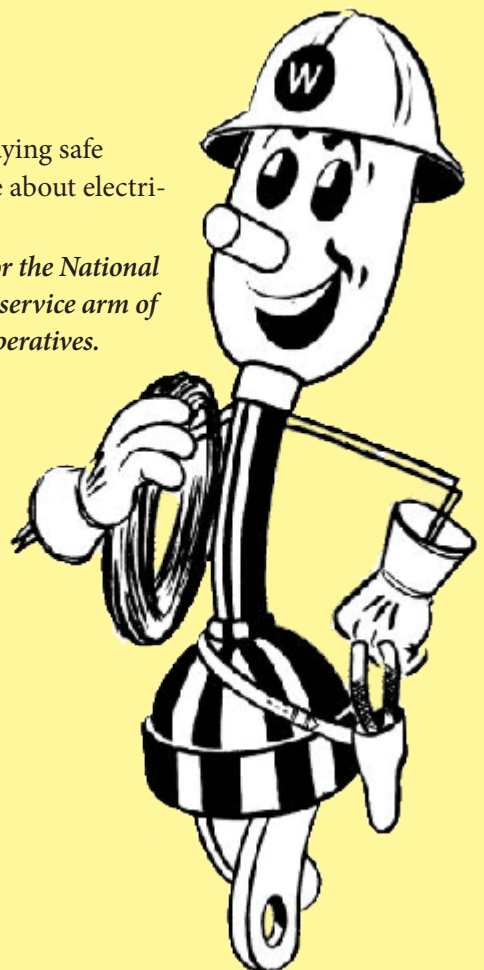
- Never put metal objects in outlets or appliances.
- Do not overcrowd electrical outlets.
- Never mix water and electricity.

No matter how you choose to get your kids interested in staying safe around electricity, Mitchell EMC is here to help. To learn more about electrical safety, visit [www.mitchellemc.com](http://www.mitchellemc.com).

*Meghaan Evans writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

“

Emphasize the importance of fire prevention with your children, and create a family fire drill plan as an extra precaution.”



# Stay focused on safety during harvest

During harvest season, many farmers reap the benefits of advancement in agricultural technology. With the help of GPS auto-steer devices, farmers are able to decrease driver error and maximize productivity. Yet despite these advances, safety risks remain. To help farmers stay out of harm's way, Safe Electricity shares tips for a safe harvest.

GPS with auto-guidance provides farmers with real-time location data about a field, which can be used for crop planning, map making, navigation assistance and machinery guidance. During harvest, this technology allows drivers to have their hands off the steering wheel as the combine maneuvers itself through the field. Thanks to this technology, farmers can more easily and efficiently maintain accuracy even during low-light conditions, which enhances productivity.

"One critical part of safety around electricity is awareness," explains Kyla Kruse, communications

director of the Safe Electricity program. "It's important to remember that farm machinery is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of its large size, height and extensions. Being aware of the location of overhead power lines and planning a safe equipment route can help reduce accidents."

In equipment with auto-guidance systems, less focus is needed on steering, which may lead some drivers to think that they do not need to be as aware of navigation issues. However, even while using a GPS with auto-steering, farm workers need to keep safety in mind and stay focused on their surroundings.

Putting safety first requires alertness, focus and knowledge of potential hazards and safety steps. Varying pass-to-pass accuracy levels and potential issues, such as power poles not being correctly plotted in the system, reinforce the need for drivers to stay focused on the location of the farm equipment while in the field and to be ready to

take action if necessary.

Regardless the technology used on the farm, keep the following electrical safety guidelines in mind:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines—at all times, in all directions.
- Look up and use care when moving any equipment such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead power lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, contact Mitchell EMC.

If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Consider insulating your water heater tank, which could reduce standby heat losses by 25 to 45 percent and save you about 4 to 9 percent in water heating costs. You can find pre-cut jackets or blankets available from around \$20.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

**Note:** If you move or no longer have electric service with Mitchell EMC, it is important that members keep their address current, so that future disbursements can be properly mailed. Capital credits are reserved for members even if they move out of the Mitchell EMC service area. Mitchell EMC will make a diligent effort to send a check by mail.

## Statement of Equal Employment Opportunity

All applicants for employment shall be considered and hired on the basis of merit, without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), age, national origin, disability, genetic information, or past or present military status. The employment practices shall ensure equal treatment of all employees, without discrimination as to promotion, discharge, rates of pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or past or present military status.

M/F/V/DV/D

# WATT'S COOKING



## Vanilla Ice Cream

### Ingredients:

2-14 ounce cans of sweetened  
condensed milk  
6 cups milk  
2 teaspoons of vanilla

Combine all ingredients and mix well.  
Freeze in ice cream churn.

*Thanks!*

to **Arlene Ferguson**,  
Worth County, GA, for sharing  
this recipe.

## *Share & Win!*

Send us your favorite quick  
and easy dinner recipes. If your  
recipe is chosen for print, you can  
win a **\$25 credit** on your next  
Mitchell EMC bill.

Send recipes to Heather Greene, P.O.  
Box 409, Camilla, GA 31730 or email to  
heather.greene@mitchellemc.com.