

Mitchell EMC



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you need to
know in
5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA
www.mitchellemc.com

EMCs Have Restored Power to Nearly 500,000 Customers

TUCKER, Ga. 5 a.m. — Since late Monday night, the electric membership cooperatives (EMCs) have restored power to nearly a half million customers. The EMCs are currently reporting 52,000 customers without power, down from a peak of 550,000 after Tropical Storm Irma battered Georgia.

Unlike any storm in recent memory, Irma caused damage to all 41 EMCs in every region of the state. Crews have encountered a number of challenges making for a difficult and time-intensive restoration process:

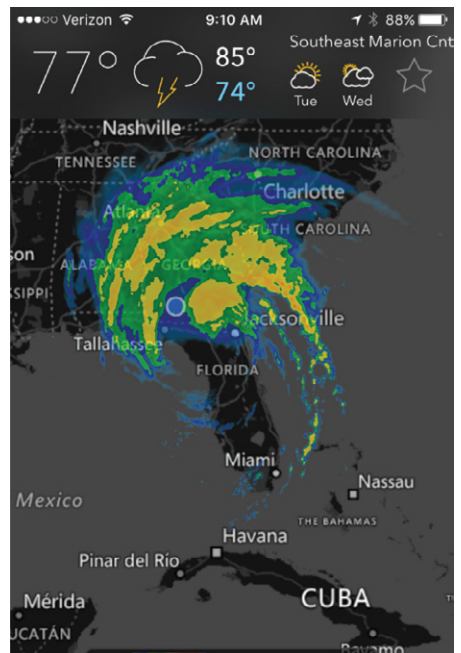
- Repairs were delayed in some cases until severe winds moved through and it was safe for employees to resume work.
- Outages have been located in many areas that were inaccessible due to standing water and roads blocked by fallen trees and other debris.

- Crews have been cutting their way into many areas before repairs begin.
- Workers have been replacing record-numbers of broken power poles (surpassing previous records at many EMCs). Pole replacements are notoriously time- and labor intensive—one pole replacement can take as much as four hours.
- Crews have been working in unusually wet conditions, making it tough on employees, trucks and equipment.

More than 4,500 linemen and hundreds of support personnel have been dedicated to restoring service. The number of states lending help stands at 15 and includes Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. CONTINUED ON P. 3



GA70



Wiring contest going strong after 50 years

By **GALE CUTLER**

Five decades, half a century, 50 years. Any way you measure it that is quite a long time for any program to exist. But the EMC/FFA Electrification Career Development Event (CDE), which challenges high school students to master the basics of electrification, has hit that mark and continues its tradition of developing leaders.

The CDE, sponsored by electric membership corporations (EMCs) across Georgia, reinforces classroom instruction and FFA-supervised activity projects in three stages: a problem-solving exercise, a practical wiring exercise and an oral demonstration. Six area wiring contests scheduled statewide this month and in November will determine the 12 finalists for this school year's state competition—to be held Saturday, Jan 13, 2018, marking the 50th anniversary of the Georgia contest.

Since 1968, electric cooperatives throughout the state have mentored FFA students to prepare them for the contest, have held local practice sessions and have staffed the area and state competitions. That first year, 300 FFA students from across Georgia competed in area contests for scholarships and awards. They worked in teams to complete a variety of challenges, including an actual wiring problem using the proper size of wires and materials. Completed work was judged on safety, code, effi-

ciency, time required and neatness.

The area contests were held in Tifton, Lyons, Athens, Carrollton, Fort Valley and Statesboro and were sponsored by Georgia's EMCs, in cooperation with the state Department of Vocational Agriculture.

Frank L. Hemphill, chairman of the 1968 Contest Steering Committee and Habersham EMC manager at the time, said, "With this level of participation, the contest should be one of the most successful events of this nature ever sponsored by the rural electric systems of Georgia." Hemphill could not have known how right his prediction would be.

The CDE has been fine-tuned over time. Participants currently compete individually, rather than in teams. In one exercise, contestants must use practical knowledge to arrive at the best solutions to hands-on problems. They also give a presentation to explain an electrical wiring task.

What has not changed is the connection between Georgia's 41 EMCs and the FFA.

"The industry partnership between EMCs and FFA/Ag Ed has continued to grow and develop into a dynamic relationship that provides a strong foundation of support to Georgia's FFA members in their quest for premier leadership, personal growth and career success," says Kevin Jump, Central Region Agricultural Education Area mechanics

teacher.

Competing in the EMC/FFA Electrification CDE offers students an opportunity for change, potential lifetime knowledge—and maybe even a career choice. "The EMC contest gave me direction in selecting a career as an electrician and the skills that I learned helped me to get my current job," one winning contestant said. "The wiring skills, problem-solving and speaking skills that I learned helped to prepare me for technical college and dealing with customers. It was a great experience and has had a tremendous impact on my life."

Their interaction with EMC staff also makes students aware of careers at co-ops, not only for positions involving skilled trades but also for many other types of employment. Over the next five years, electric cooperatives nationwide will hire more than 15,000 people. Careers at an EMC include jobs in engineering, information technology, communications, finance, human resources, account or member service representatives, administrative, marketing, community relations and operations. Other positions include telecom specialists, warehouse staff, meter readers, staking technicians, vehicle and equipment mechanics and, of course, lineworkers!

Gale Cutler is senior public relations coordinator for Georgia EMC in Tucker.

Mitchell EMC's offices will be closed on Nov. 23 & 24 in observance of Thanksgiving.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Don't forget to fall back on **November 5!** Set your clocks back by one hour.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spending more time in the kitchen during the holiday season? Here's one way to be more energy efficient: Unplug small kitchen appliances, like toaster ovens and microwaves, when not in use. You could save \$10 to \$20 per year.

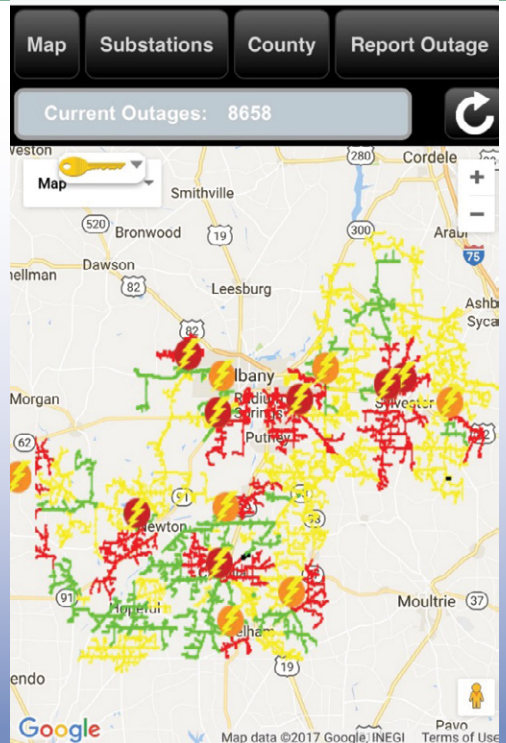
Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy





Facts during Hurricane Irma

- 8,658 outages on Monday after Hurricane Irma came through.
- Crews began working to restore power Sunday, September 10th
- 45 Linemen worked 16 hour shifts to restore power.
- Customer Service Representatives were on hand 24 hours a day and answered 10,874 phone calls from September 10th to September 14th.
- Our entire 14 county service area sustained damage.
- Mitchell EMC reached 181,257 people with 55 post, answered 100 personal messages, 931 consumer comments and gained 408 new page likes from September 10th-September 14th on Facebook.



Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption Expires Dec. 31

If you're an agricultural producer and receive the Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption (GATE) on electricity, you must renew it beginning this October.

GATE is an agricultural sales and use tax exemption certificate issued by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. The document identifies its user as a qualified farmer or producer who is exempt from sales tax on the inputs used in the

production of their commodity.

Mitchell EMC member-owners who receive a GATE certificate should send us a copy along with the account numbers that apply to the GATE certificate, so we can apply the exemption to their account. **We must receive a copy of the new certificate by December 31 for the exemption to continue.**

Producers who have never received GATE can also apply and

send a certificate copy to Mitchell EMC. Visit <https://forms.agr.georgia.gov/gate/> or call 855-FARM TAX for more information, to renew or apply.

Mail GATE certificate copies to Mitchell EMC, Attn: Billing Department P.O. Box 409, Camilla, GA, 31730.



Bids are being accepted until Nov. 10, 2017

Mitchell EMC has the following vehicles / equipment for sale 'as is' to the highest bidder. You can view the items at our Camilla Office Monday - Friday, 8am until 5pm. For more information, contact Keith Gilliard, Shop Mechanic, at (229)336-5221 or (800)479-6034. Please submit your bid in a sealed envelope no later than 5pm, Friday, November 10th, 2017 to the Camilla Office location. The winners will be contacted the week of November 13th. Pickup and payment of vehicles / equipment no later than Thursday, November 30th. *Mitchell EMC reserves the right to refuse any and all bids.*



Year	Make	Model	Description	Mileage	VIN
1998	DITCH WITCH	3700DD	TRENCHER	1468 hrs	3S0161
1991	DITCH WITCH	6510	TRENCHER	3971 hrs	6510DD 6G2033
1990	DITCH WITCH	DITC BT26 TRAILER	DITCH WITCH TRAILER	n/a	1DS0000M5L17G1504
2006	INTERNATIONAL	4400 DM45	DIGGER TRUCK	79,670	1HTMKAAAN16H231918
2002	INTERNATIONAL	4000 SERIES TK	BUCKET TRUCK	148,905	1HTMKAAE23H569066
2006	ANDERSON	TRAILER	ROW TRAILER	n/a	4YBNB25276C040611

Powering Up After an Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark:

1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines:

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

2. Distribution Substation:

A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if problems exist further down the line.

3. Main Distribution Lines:

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

4. Tap Lines:

If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools and homes.

5. Individual Homes:

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issue.

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



Chocolate Chip Cheeseball

Ingredients:

8 ounces cream cheese
1 stick of butter
1/4 teaspoon vanilla
3/4 cup powdered sugar
2 tablespoons brown sugar
3/4 cup mini semi-sweet chocolate chips
3/4 cup chopped pecans

Mix cream cheese, butter and vanilla together until smooth. Mix in powdered sugar and brown sugar. Fold in chocolate chips. Roll into ball shape, cover with saran wrap and refrigerate. Cover with pecans before serving. Serve with graham cracker sticks.

Thanks!

to

Megan Paulk, 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.