



The news  
you need to  
know in  
5 minutes!

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CAMILLA, GEORGIA  
www.mitchellemc.com

# Prioritize Safety Year-Round

By **Tony Tucker**

At Mitchell EMC, we recognize Electrical Safety Month every May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to you, the consumer-members we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.



According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically

injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know first-hand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

To me, safety is more than a catchphrase. As President/CEO, it's my responsibility to keep co-op employees safe. Additionally, we want to help keep you and all members of our community safe. That's why you'll see Mitchell EMC hosting safety demonstrations at community events and in schools throughout the year, to demonstrate the dangers of electricity. We discuss emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines. We caution students on the dangers of pad-mounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices.

Electricity is an integral part of modern life. Given the prevalence of electrical devices, tools and appliances, I'd like to pass along a few practical electrical safety tips.

• **Frayed wires pose a serious safety hazard.**

Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.

• **Avoid overloading circuits.** Circuits can only cope with a limited amount of electricity. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a

circuit can safely handle—by having too many devices running on one circuit.

• **Label circuit breakers to understand the circuits in your home.** Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years old and you need to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.

**PLUG INTO SAFETY**

**ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH**  
Make electrical safety a priority this month, and every month.

• **Use extension cords properly.** Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you “daisy chain” them together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don't exceed the wattage of the cord. Doing so also creates a risk of overloading the cord and creating a fire hazard. Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

I encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines near where they play outdoors.

Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity.

Contact Mitchell EMC for additional electrical safety tips or if you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or upcoming community event.

# Restoring Power Safely and Efficiently

By Abby Berry

We do our best to avoid them, but there's no way around it: power outages occasionally happen.

For most Mitchell EMC members, outages are rare and only last a few hours. But when major storms, like Hurricane Michael impact our area, extended outages are unavoidable.



So when the power goes out, how do Mitchell EMC crews know where to start working? How do you know if your outage has been reported? We've got answers to these questions and more, and it all starts with a safe, efficient plan for power restoration.

When the lights go out and it's safe for our crews to begin the restoration process, they start by repairing power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible.

This process typically begins with repairs to the larger main distribution lines that service a great number of homes and businesses. After those repairs are made, crews work on tap lines, which deliver power to transformers, either mounted on utility poles (for above-ground service) or placed on pads (for underground service). Finally, individual service lines that run between the transformer and the home are repaired.

*We can't control the weather, but we can prepare for it. Mitchell EMC keeps a supply of extra utility poles,*

*transformers, and other equipment on hand so we can quickly get to work in the event of an outage.* When widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be out in the field simultaneously working to repair damage at multiple locations. We also coordinate with nearby co-ops to bring in additional crews when necessary.

A proactive approach to maintenance helps minimize the chance of prolonged outages; this is why you see Mitchell EMC crews periodically trimming trees and clearing vegetation near rights-of-way. We love trees too, but it only takes one overgrown limb to knock out power for an entire neighborhood. Trimming improves power reliability for our entire community. In addition to managing vegetation, we regularly inspect utility poles, power lines and other critical equipment to maintain a more reliable system.

If you experience a power outage, don't assume a neighbor reported it. It's best to report the outage yourself, and we make it easy to do. The quickest way to report an outage is through our Mitchell EMC Outage App or at our website [www.mitchellemc.com](http://www.mitchellemc.com); you can also call our outage reporting number at 800-479-6034.

If you have a medical condition that requires electrical equipment, please let us know, and always have a backup plan in place. This plan could include a portable generator, extra medical supplies or moving to an alternate location until power is restored. If you plan to use a generator for backup power, read all safety information and instructions before use.

Mother Nature can be unpredictable, but as a member of Mitchell EMC, you can feel confident knowing we're standing by, ready to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

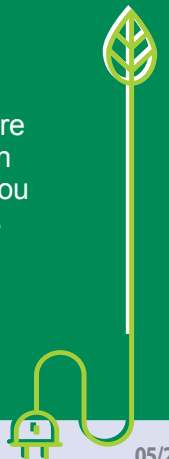
*Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.*

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Even in summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists (meaning you can easily see your joists), you should add more. If you can't see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation.

Attic insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Make sure the areas along the eaves are adequately covered.

Source: Dept. of Energy







## Margin Assignment for 2021

Margins accrued by Mitchell EMC (revenue after all expenses have been paid) have been assigned to Member's patronage credit records. This assignment is made by applying the percentage of the Cooperative's margins to each Member's annual bill, before taxes. The percentage from Mitchell's margins for 2020 is 7.95%.

The table below shows examples of how you may figure your assignment. Simply multiply the percentage figures shown below times your total billing, less sales taxes, for the year.

Percentage	If annual bills (less taxes) were:	\$500	\$750	\$1,000
.03991721%	Credits assigned from Mitchell's operating margins	\$19.96	\$29.94	\$39.92

Remember to keep us informed of your correct mailing address, especially if you should move out of Mitchell EMC's service area. If you have any questions about your assignments, please call us at 229-336-5221 or 800-479-6034.



# Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...

## A QUICK GUIDE TO GENERATORS

With proper use and maintenance, generators provide great convenience during a power outage. Before you purchase a generator, determine your backup power needs to select the right size. Make a list of essential appliances and devices you'll want to power during an outage, then total the required wattage.



### RECOMMENDED IF YOU...

... **rarely** lose power.

#### Recreational Inverter

**Up to 2,000 watts**

Lightweight, about 60 pounds

Quiet, easy to store

Power: fridge and a few smaller items (i.e. lamp, phone charger and home security system)

#### Midsized Inverter

**Up to 3,500 watts**

Weights up to 150 pounds

Power: fridge, laptop, five to 10 lights, phone charger, home security system and 10K BTU air conditioner

... **occasionally** lose power.  
Transfer switch required.

#### Portable Generators and Large Inverters

**Up to 7,500 watts**

Weights about 300 pounds

Power: fridge, gas furnace, 10K BTU air conditioner, dishwasher, multiple lights, TV, laptop and more

Ability to connect to home's breaker panel

... **frequently** lose power.  
Transfer switch required.

#### Home Standby

**Up to 20,000 watts**

Must be permanently installed; starts automatically during outage

Power: nearly all home appliances and electronics (simultaneously)

Can run indefinitely on natural gas or propane

Recommended if you frequently lose power.

### SAFETY FIRST!

- Let us know if you purchase a generator that you plan to connect to an electric panel.
- Improperly installed generators can create back feed, which is dangerous to our crews and the community.  
Before using the generator, disconnect the normal source of power coming into your home/business.
- Never operate a generator indoors or in an enclosed space.

**Disclaimer:** Please note safety requirements may differ based on the type of generator you purchase. Thoroughly read the operator's manual and know how to shut off the generator quickly.

Source: Consumer Reports

**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



## Crustless Coconut Pecan Pie

### Ingredients:

2 eggs  
6 Tablespoons melted butter  
1 cup sugar  
1/2 cup flour  
3/4 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 cup coconut  
3/4 cup chopped pecans

### Instructions:

Melt butter over low heat. Beat eggs, add flour, sugar and salt; beat until smooth. Add melted butter and beat well. Stir in vanilla, pecans and coconut. Mix well. Pour into well-greased and floured Pyrex pie plate. Bake 35 minutes at 325 degrees. Cool.

### Submitted by:

Bertha Simmons, Mitchell County

## *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.