



The news
you need to
know in
5 minutes!

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CAMILLA, GEORGIA
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Surge Protection 101

By Abby Berry

A power surge is an unexpected increase in voltage, and it can occur from a variety of sources. Regardless of the cause, power surges can majorly damage electronic devices and equipment in your home.

Let's take a look at common causes of power surges and how you can protect your sensitive electronics.

One of the most common causes of a power surge is lightning. Most of us have experienced this during a severe thunderstorm. When lightning strikes an electrical system, the excess current must be channeled somewhere—unfortunately in many cases, it's sent through a home. Your best bet is to unplug all unused devices and electronics during severe thunderstorms.

Another common cause of power surges is electrical overload. This happens when devices or appliances are plugged into an outlet that can't handle the required amount of voltage, or if multiple devices are plugged into one outlet through an extension cord. If you're experiencing power surges due to electrical overload, it's time to call a qualified electrician to evaluate your home's circuits and electrical needs.

Faulty wiring in a home can also cause power surges. Damaged or exposed wires can cause spikes in voltage, creating a potentially dangerous situation. If you notice signs of faulty wiring, like visible burns on outlets, buzzing sounds from outlets or frequently tripped circuit breakers, your home may be due for electrical wiring repairs and updates.

Surges can also occur after a power outage. Sometimes, when electricity is being restored and reconnected, it's common to experience a quick surge in current. Similar to advice for a surge caused by lightning, it's best to unplug sensitive electronics during the outage—then wait to plug them back in after power is fully restored.

Aside from unplugging devices when you suspect a power surge, there are two ways you can take additional precautions to protect electronics in your home.

Point-of-use surge protection devices, like power strips, can protect electronics during most surges. But remember, not all power strips include surge protection, so read the packaging label carefully before you buy, and don't overload the power strip with too many devices. You can also install specialized electrical outlets that offer additional surge protection. Talk to a trusted electrician to learn more.

Another option is a whole-home surge protector, which can help protect your home from larger, more powerful surges. In most cases, whole-home suppressors are connected to your home's service panel and include features like thermal fuses and notification capabilities that indicate when a device has been impacted by a surge. Whole-home surge protection prices vary based on the size of the home and suppressor. Whole-home suppressors should always be connected by a licensed electrician, so consider the cost of installation as well.

Occasional power surges are inevitable, but by unplugging devices when you think a surge may occur and using additional levels of protection like power strips or whole-home suppressors, you can better safeguard your sensitive electronics and devices.

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.



SURGE PROTECTION

Keep your electronic equipment safe.

A power surge is typically caused by lightning, changes in electrical loads, faulty wiring or damaged power lines.
Install power strips with surge protection to protect sensitive equipment.

- Easy to use (just plug them in)
- Protect electronics plugged into the device
- Must be replaced over time or after a major surge event

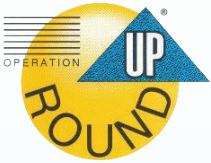
REMEMBER:
Not all power strips offer surge protection.
Carefully read the packaging labels when purchasing.

OPERATION ROUNDUP SCHOLARSHIP

Due To The Community Foundation of South Georgia By: MARCH 1, 2022

What better way to invest in the future than by investing in the outstanding youth of our communities? Mitchell EMC Members who enroll in Operation Round-Up are doing exactly that by providing scholarships to deserving students. Participating members allow us to round their electric bills up to the nearest whole dollar amount. Though it may not seem like much, those funds added together make a huge positive difference in our local community.

A maximum of ten (10) renewable scholarships will be awarded on an annual basis. Scholarships will be \$2,500 per semester, twice a year, for up to four years to assist in attaining an undergraduate degree from a post-secondary institution in the United States. After the first Semester, the monies for subsequent semesters will be issued provided that students have submitted prior semester grades to verify they have maintained a minimum GPA of 2.5 and continue to be enrolled as a full-time student.



Applicants must be a graduating high school senior or a student currently enrolled in or attending a post-secondary college, technical college or university in the United States, and that has attained at least a 2.5 GPA. The applicant, their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must have their primary residence or a place of business in the Mitchell EMC Service Area. Preference will be given to Mitchell EMC consumers. However, further consideration will be given based on financial need, academic achievement, extracurricular school activities or employment, community service, and leadership qualities.

Please note that the scholarships have different deadlines and should be mailed to different addresses listed on the scholarship form. We encourage students to apply for both scholarships. Applications will be judged by an independent scholarship committee, and winners will be notified by May 1.



85th Annual Meeting of the Members of Mitchell EMC

The 85th Annual Meeting of the Members of Mitchell EMC is on Friday, April 15, 2022, at the EMC headquarters in Camilla. Watch your mailbox for your registration card and more details.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

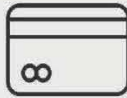
When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this services so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest. A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can greatly impact the efficiency of your system.

Source: Dept. of Energy



PAYMENT OPTIONS

WAYS TO PAY



Bank Draft

Members can arrange for energy bill payments to be processed automatically each month on the due date via bank draft.

Recurring Credit Card

Arrange for payment by American Express, Discover, Visa, or Mastercard by completing the back part from your bill stub and return to Mitchell EMC.

Pre-Pay

Prepaid metering is a pay-as-you-go alternative to traditional electric service with a monthly bill. Once the account is set up, you can pay as frequently as you like, as much as you like.

MEMC Mobile App

Our mobile app is designed to give you fast, secure account access so you can easily manage your account details, view your bill, account balances, and make payments.

CheckOut

Pay your Mitchell EMC bill while checking out at participating retailers near you. Get your barcode and find locations at www.mitchellemc.sedccheckout.com/lookup

TRADITIONAL PAYMENT METHODS

Mitchell EMC has several options for you to pay your bill. You can come by any Mitchell EMC office during business hours, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Night deposits are available at each location as well. In addition, phone payments can be made by calling (229) 336-5221 or (800) 479-6034 any time, day or night, to pay your bill by credit card or E-check.

You may also mail your payment to:
Mitchell EMC
PO Box 409
Camilla, GA 31730

UPDATE YOUR ACCOUNT

Help us Help You. By keeping your account information up to date, Mitchell EMC is better able to answer questions and serve your account, if you've

- ◆ Moved or have a new mailing address
- ◆ Married or changed your name
- ◆ Changed or added a phone number, or
- ◆ Update your e-mail address

You can easily update your information by calling our office at 1-800-479-6034 and speaking with one of our friendly Customer Service Representatives.



475 Cairo Road
Camilla, GA 31730



229-336-5221
800-479-6034



www.mitchellemc.com
info@mitchellemc.com

Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...



PAY YOUR BILL WHERE YOU SHOP

With A **FAST** and **CONVENIENT** way to pay your Mitchell EMC bill through the checkout lane at participating retailers near you.



PAYING YOUR BILL IS EASY WITH CHECKOUT

Get Your Barcode Online at mitchellemc.sedcheckout.com/Lookup

1 
Get Your Barcode Online
GET

2 
Find Participating Store Locations Near You
FIND

3 
Scan Barcode at Register and Pay Your Bill
SCAN

DOLLAR GENERAL





FAMILY DOLLAR



Check Out
BY PAYGO*

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



Ranch Chicken Chili

Ingredients:

2 frozen chicken breasts (or 6 chicken tenders)
Can whole kernel corn
Can black beans (drained & rinsed)
Can Rotel tomatoes
1 pkg. Ranch Seasoning
8 oz. pkg. cream cheese

Directions:

In your crockpot place the chicken on the bottom and dump the remainder of ingredients in. Turn on high for 4 hours...Stir together and remove chicken and shred or cut into pieces, adding it back into the chili. It is done. Serve with side salad, cornbread or crackers. Enjoy!
Note: you can use thawed chicken tenders and it will be ready in about 25-30 minutes start to finish. Cut chicken tenders in cubes and you have a company ready meal in a flash!

Submitted by:

LaNay Dawn Cardon, Worth 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.