

Electric News

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We Are Prepared for Summer Storms

By Lewis Sheffield, General Manager

Summer is here, school is out and families are gearing up for a few months of fun and relaxation. While summer brings much fun in the sun, it can also bring the occasional severe storm. In the event of a power outage, you can trust that Little Ocmulgee EMC is ready to respond.

Most power outages are caused by damage to power lines from falling trees and branches or their contact with live lines during high winds. We work year-round—through right-of-way clearing—to ensure power lines in our service territory stand little risk of being damaged by trees, branches or other types of vegetation.

Despite our best efforts, during major storms, damage can occur to transmission lines, substations and distribution power lines. When this happens, our first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

We start by mobilizing our line crews and other critical staff. Every available phone line is utilized to take your outage report calls. This is why it is important to keep your phone number(s)



and other personal information current with us. We want to be able to quickly identify your account(s) so we can safely restore your power as quickly as possible.

We also offer callbacks at your request to ensure your power was restored. Once an outage ticket is taken, the big problems are handled first—like damage to three-phase lines, which serve hundreds of people. These problems must be corrected before we can focus on other areas where more localized damage may have occurred.

Little Ocmulgee EMC's line crews inspect substations to determine if the problem starts there, or if there could be an issue down the line. If the root of the problem is at the substation, power can be restored to thousands of members from that source as long as there are no more issues down the line.

Next, line crews check the main distribution lines, tap lines and service lines that deliver power into neighborhoods and communities right up to your meter base. Line crews work to repair the damaged lines until power is restored to all members. If you continue to experience an outage, there may be damage to your individual service. Make sure you notify Little Ocmulgee EMC so crews can inspect these lines.

We will do our best to avoid power outages, but sometimes the weather has other plans. Please know our employees are trained and ready to serve as safely and efficiently as possible.

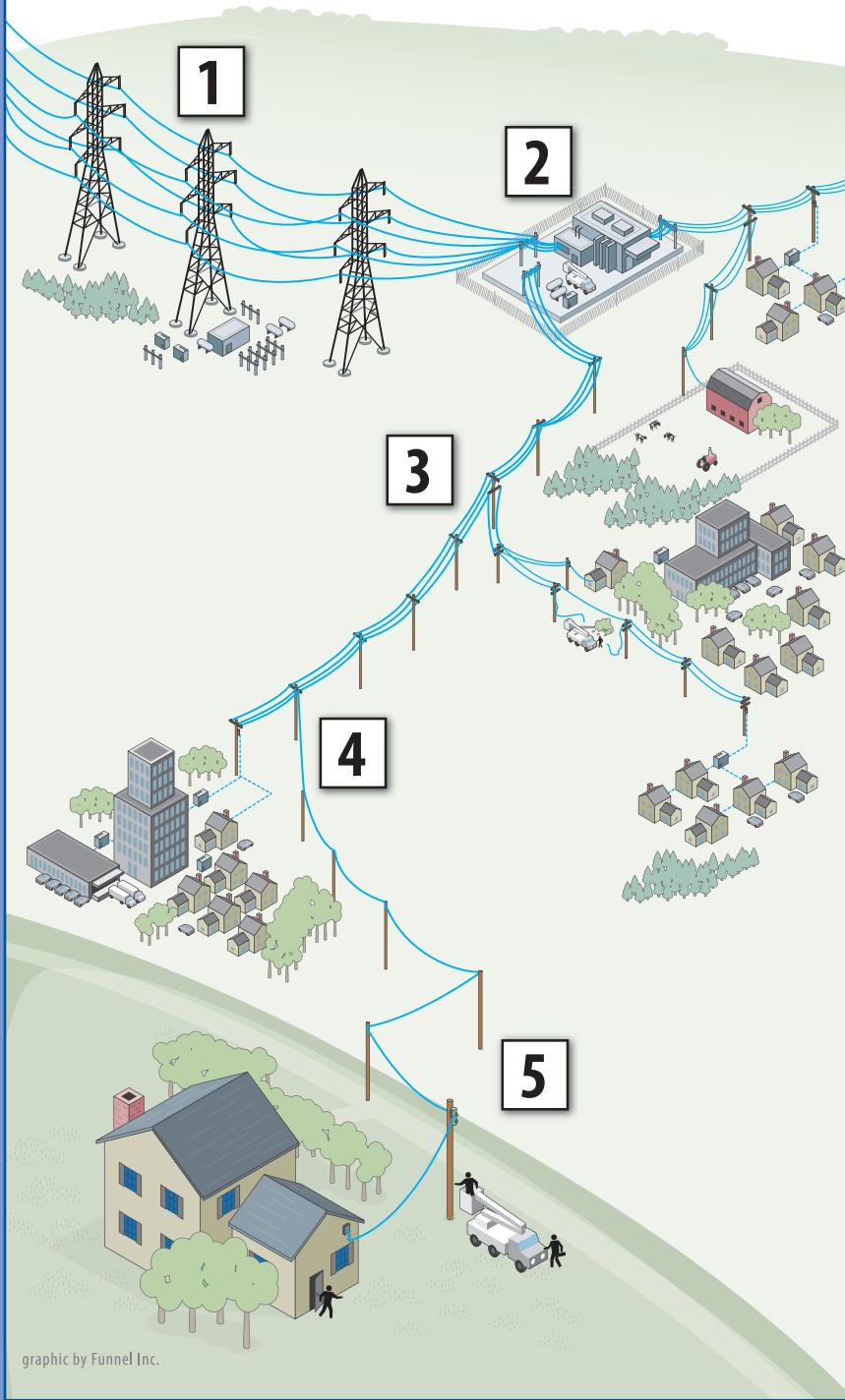
For more on how power is restored, see the graphic on page 24B.



Powering UP

When electricity goes out, most of us expect power will be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm causes widespread damage, longer outages may result. Co-op 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

Each substation serves 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 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, called 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 issues.

graphic by Funnel Inc.

Tree Trimming Keeps Everyone Safe

If you love the big trees in your yard, you might not want to see Little Ocmulgee EMC's tree-trimming crews coming. But keeping trees and other vegetation away from overhead power lines is necessary to keep you and your neighbors safe and the electricity on.

It's important to maintain a clearance of 20 feet on each side of the power line so branches, leaves and tree trunks won't touch the wires, even when they sway in the wind. So crews come out every few years to cut branches within an unsafe distance. Trees and bushes that touch power lines can conduct electricity and interrupt the delivery of power to your house. More than likely, you would notice your lights might blink on and off most times when the wind blows.

More serious problems occur when trees or

branches fall and rip down lines or damage equipment. That can cause a lengthy power outage for your home and all your neighbors' houses. An even greater concern is when a tree touches a power line, posing a safety hazard to anyone who comes into contact with the tree or the line.

If a tree or other vegetation is growing too close to a power line near your home, please give Little Ocmulgee EMC a call at (800) 342-1290 so someone can check to see if it needs to be trimmed.

A word of caution: Don't trim it yourself. It takes a trained worker to work near a power line without getting injured, and the High Voltage Safety Act in Georgia requires individuals performing work within

10 feet of overhead high-voltage electric power lines to notify Georgia 811 during its regular business hours at least 72 hours prior to beginning work (excluding weekends and holidays).



PLEASE MOVE OVER FOR EMERGENCY AND UTILITY CREWS

If you see police, firefighters, utility crews or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down and move over when possible.

Together, we can keep our crews safe.



Capital Credit Assignment for 2017

Being a member of Little Ocmulgee EMC has many advantages. One is that margins made at the end of each year are posted to each member's capital credit accounts and refunded upon board approval.

Margins are the amount of money remaining at the end of the year after the cooperative has paid its total operating cost. Capital credits are assigned to each member's capital credit account, based on the amount of money paid for electricity used during that year.

Example		
Total Annual Electric Bill (2016)	CC factor	Capital Credits Posted to Member's Account
\$1,000 (estimate)	.048514	\$48.51

In 1983, Little Ocmulgee EMC began making refunds for the first time in its history, beginning with deceased members' estates. In 1985, the first

"general" refund (based on first in/first out) was issued for 1948 and 1949. Through 2017, approximately \$7,073,751 has been refunded to members and deceased members' estates since 1983. Listed below are the capital credit factors for the past five years.

Year	Factor
2017	.048514
2016	.042866
2015	.044203
2014	.036799
2013	.024811

The cooperative will continue to make refunds on deceased member estates, as well as general refunds, as financial stability permits, upon board approval. Any capital credit refund of less than \$5 shall be held over to the following year or years until such credits can be paid in the amount of \$5 or more.

Final Three Months to Claim Undeliverable Capital Credits; Deadline is Sept. 1

A current list of members with unclaimed capital credit checks issued in 2012, marked as "undeliverable" by the post office, is located for review at LOEMC's offices in Alamo, Dublin and McRae. This list can be viewed online at www.loemc.com.

The last possible date to claim these funds is Sept. 1, 2018. If these funds are not claimed by this date, they will be donated for charitable uses, as permitted by O.C.G.A. 44-12-236.

Our corporate office in Alamo and the branch office in Dublin are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The McRae branch is open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and closed for lunch 12:30-1:30 p.m.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Use rubber or wool dryer balls, which help separate clothing in the cycle, providing better airflow and a shorter drying time. Wool dryer balls can help absorb moisture, which also reduces drying time.

—Source: energy.gov

