



Where customers have a choice



Using Electricity
is Second Nature

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This Summer

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A MESSAGE FOR YOU

Mark A. Suggs
EVP and General Manager



Restoring Power Safely

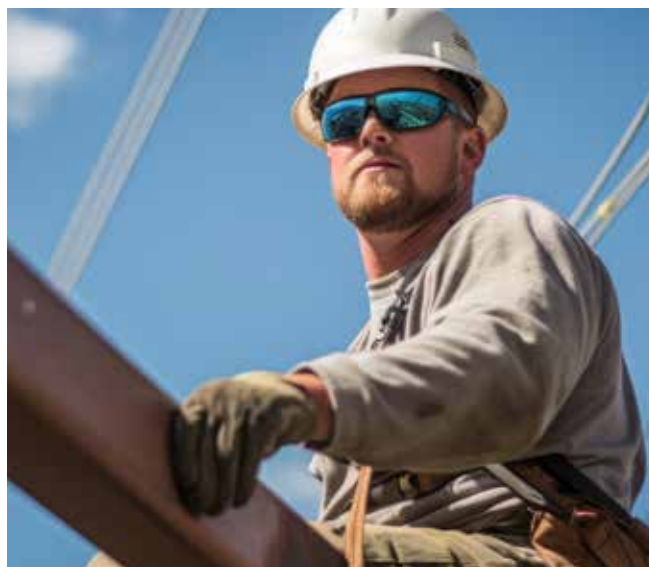
As we enjoy the warmer days of spring we must prepare for the potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages. While Pitt & Greene EMC strives to provide reliable service to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst—co-op lineworkers.

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.

While making repairs, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex. Now imagine all of this in addition to working in the heat and humidity.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts that can pinpoint an outage from miles away. Line crews use their laptops and cell phones to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our community, lineworkers are responsible for keeping 1098 miles of lines across 6 counties working, in order to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless



of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

A lineworkers job has changed over the years but the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high voltage lines day and night in the worst of conditions. During hurricanes or storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power.

We can't control the weather, but we can prepare for it. We keep 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

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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Thermostat placement can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. Thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Avoid placing items like lamps near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home.



Have a Backup Plan

Just as Pitt & Greene EMC prepares for storms and outages we ask that you do the same. If you or a loved one requires the use of medical equipment supplied by electricity 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.

If you do not have a backup plan,



now is the time to put one in place in the event power is knocked out. We will restore power as soon as possible, but depending on the type of damage caused and where the damage may be, we cannot guarantee how long you may be affected by an outage.

Restoring Power Safely

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Make sure you receive important messages by checking that we have your correct phone number. Scan the QR Code to be certain.

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 the tree trimmers 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. During the workweek call the office at 252.753.3128. After hours, weekends, and holidays call 252.753.8778.

We recently implemented Text Power, a system to communicate with members during severe weather, outages and other instances that may arise. To ensure you receive these messages when they go out we must have your correct cell phone number. If you are unsure as to whether we have your correct number call our office at 252.753.3128 and speak with a CSR. You can also scan the QR Code (left) or text the letters "PGEMC" to 252.745.1799. At any time you have questions please call our office for assistance.

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

Don't Toy with Your Safety

When you are playing outdoors, keep a safe distance from power lines, substations and other equipment your electric co-op uses to send electricity to your home. Flying remote controlled toys are a great way to have fun, but accidentally making contact with a power line or other electrical equipment can be dangerous and in some cases, even deadly.

- Never fly kites, or remote controlled toys near power lines.
- Stay away from power lines, meters, transformers and electrical boxes.
- Never climb trees near power lines.
- If you get something stuck in a power line, call Pitt & Greene EMC and never touch or go near a downed power line.





Using Electricity is Second Nature

We run air conditioning constantly, use refrigerators, microwaves and indoor lighting, and charge computers, phones and other devices daily. Now, more than ever, it's easier to mismanage our energy use and appliances at home, which could either overwork our system or even create an electrical accident.

Learning how to properly use your home's electrical system and your electronic devices can make a huge difference in how efficiently your electricity works for your home. It can also help prevent electrical accidents and keep you and your family safe.

Stay safe at home with these seven tips:

1 Avoid overloading outlets
Make sure your outlet isn't overloaded with too many devices and appliances using adapters and extension cords. Additionally, only one heat-producing device should be plugged into an outlet at a time (coffee maker, hair dryer, etc.), and refrigerators, ovens, laundry machines and other major appliances should be plugged straight into the wall and not an adapter or extension cord.

2 Unplug appliances when not in use
Not only will unplugging appliances prevent you from using unnecessary energy, but it could help protect your appliances from surges and other electrical mishaps.

3 Use the proper wattage for lamps and lighting fixtures
The recommended wattage is what keeps your lamps shining safely. There should be a sticker indicating the maximum wattage of the bulb needed. Lamps should also be used with a shade or globe to prevent other items from heating up if they are too close to the bulb, particularly if you are using incandescent bulbs.

4 Never run electrical cords under carpets, rugs, doors or windows
Running cords throughout your house can cause tripping hazards as well as inviting electrical accidents when

they're consistently out in the open. A cord under a rug or carpet is a fire hazard. If you find you're using extension cords regularly, consult your electrician about adding new outlets around your home within reach of the things you need to have plugged in.

5 Get rid of damaged extension cords
Making sure you're using the correct extension cord for the environment and circumstance will help prolong the lifespan of your cords. They are meant to be replaced as needed. Never try to fix a damaged cord. Updating or upgrading your extension cords when they're not working properly will help prevent sparks, surges, and electrical fires. Your extension cords should also have surge protectors.

6 Keep electrical appliances and tools away from water
You're probably aware that water and electricity don't mix, but it's sometimes easy to overlook hazards in everyday situations. Make sure you're keeping kitchen appliances a safe distance from sinks and the other appliances that use water. Also be sure that all outlets near a water source are ground fault circuit interrupters, or GFCI receptacles. These can quickly shut off power at the outlet when a short circuit is detected.

7 Call a professional
If your lights are flickering, your circuits are tripped frequently, you see sparks or smell burning or rubbery odors, it's time to call a trained electrician. These warnings signal a larger electrical problem that needs to be addressed at the source quickly rather than waiting it out or leaning on a temporary solution.

5 WAYS TO SAVE THIS SUMMER

When summer temperatures rise, so do our energy bills. Here are a few ways you can reduce energy use and grow your summer savings.

1. Raise your thermostat.

The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temp, the more you'll save.

2. Install window coverings

like blinds or light-blocking curtains to prevent indoor heat gain during the day.

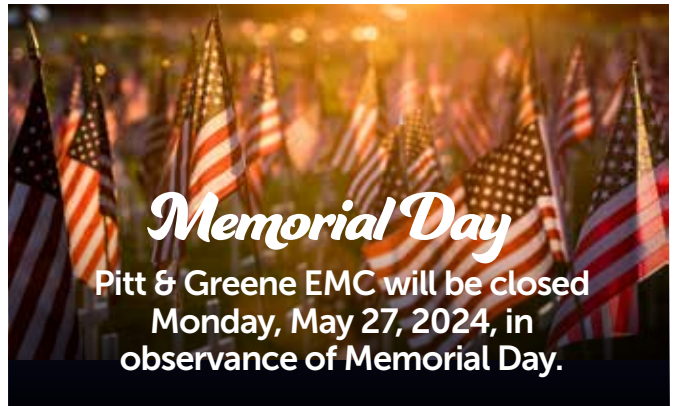
3. **Seal leaks with caulk and weatherstripping** around windows and exterior doors. Air leaks force your air conditioner to work harder and run longer than necessary.

4. **Run ceiling fans** for additional cooling but turn them off when you leave the room.

5. **Lower your water heater thermostat** to 120 degrees to reduce standby heat loss.



Source: Dept. of Energy



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Co-op Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
252-753-3128 | 1-800-622-1362 |
252-747-7600

POWER OUTAGES & EMERGENCIES

During weekends, holidays and after office hours: 252-753-8778

De lunes a viernes de 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
252-753-3128 | 1-800-622-1362 |
252-747-7600

CORTES DE SUMINISTRO ELÉCTRICO Y EMERGENCIAS:

Durante fines de semana, días festivos y después del horario de oficina:
252-753-8778