



Serving members in Baldwin, Emanuel, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Johnson, Laurens, Warren, Washington and Wilkinson counties

Lineworkers are ready when it matters most

As president and CEO of Washington EMC, I have the unique privilege of seeing firsthand what it truly takes to keep the lights on for our members. In April, we take time to pause and recognize the brave men and women who make that possible every single day—our lineworkers.

When storms impact our communities and outages occur, many people experience the inconvenience, but our lineworkers see a call to action. Our crews are always ready when it matters most, leaving family dinners, working through the night and heading into challenging conditions to restore power as safely and quickly as possible. That readiness is not accidental. It comes from rigorous training, deep experience and a shared commitment to serving others.

What makes lineworkers especially remarkable is that they aren't just restoring power to a system; they're restoring power to their own communities. They live here. They raise their families here. They understand that electricity is more than a convenience; it's essential to daily life, local businesses, schools, farms and emergency services. Powering the places we call home is personal to lineworkers.

Electric cooperatives like Washington EMC were built on the principle of neighbors helping neighbors, and our lineworkers embody that spirit every day. They are the first to respond and the last to leave, often working long hours behind the scenes. At times, serving our neighbors means going beyond our own service territory through a process known as mutual aid.



Wendy Sellers
President/CEO

During major outage events, Washington EMC crews stand ready to assist neighboring co-op—sometimes close to home and sometimes across state lines—to help restore power. This past January, 10 linemen from Washington EMC were deployed to parts of Habersham EMC's territory to restore power after Winter Storm Fern blanketed the area with ice and snow, causing widespread outages. This spirit of mutual aid strengthens all cooperatives and ultimately benefits the members we serve.

We understand any time the lights go out it can be frustrating, bringing everyday life to a halt. We are incredibly grateful to our members for your patience and encouragement during these times. Linework is demanding. Our crews approach each job with a focus on safety and teamwork. They take pride in their craft and in the trust

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An electric membership corporation

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8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
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PHONES

Local (478) 552-2577
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24-HOUR CALL CENTER

To report a power outage or
pay by phone, please call:
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BRANCH LOCATIONS

12860 Broad St.
Sparta, GA 31087
Closed on Thursday

100 W. College St.
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Convenient bill pay options include:

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319 N. Smith St., Sandersville, GA 31082
Monday through Friday,
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Community news

The Washington EMC Operation Round Up Board met January 26 and approved funding for the following organizations: Hancock County 4-H, Johnson County Community Action Team (CAT), Washington County 4-H, 100 Black Men of Milledgeville-Oconee, First Love Kids, Johnson County 4-H, Rosa M. Tarbutton Library, Miriam Ministry, Young Life Sandersville and the Burn Foundation of America, as well as pledges for the



Fall Line Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, Sandersville School Building Authority and Harlie Fulford Library in Johnson County.

We are always proud to be able to give back to the ones making a difference locally in our communities and regionally in our area!

The next board meeting will be April 27, and the next deadline for applications is March 31. For more information, visit our website at www.washingtonemc.com.

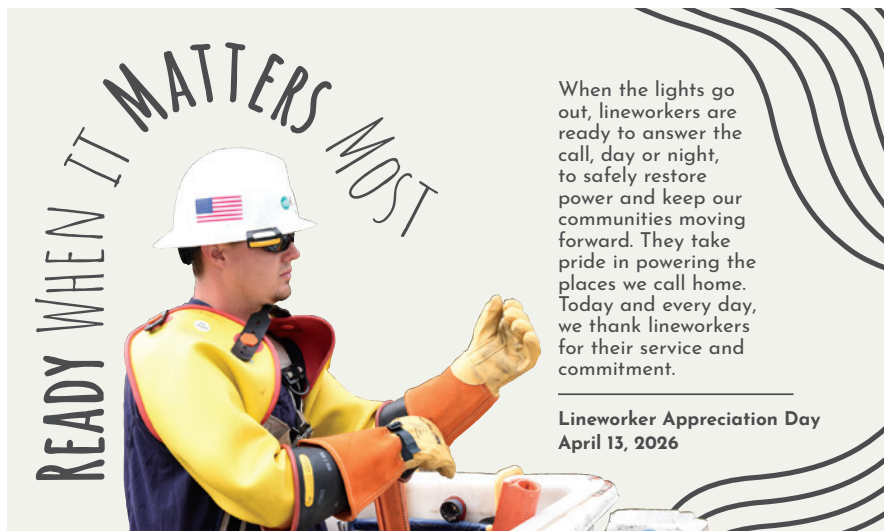


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our members place in them.

On Monday, April 13, we will celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day, but one day is hardly enough. Every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and dedication.

To our lineworkers: Thank you for your hard work, your readiness and your unwavering commitment to our members and the communities we serve. We are proud to stand behind you and grateful for all that you do!



When the lights go out, lineworkers are ready to answer the call, day or night, to safely restore power and keep our communities moving forward. They take pride in powering the places we call home. Today and every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and commitment.

Lineworker Appreciation Day
April 13, 2026

Fast facts about lineworkers

You probably don't think about them until your power goes out, but electric lineworkers protect our homes and communities 24 hours a day. Like other first responders who keep us safe, lineworkers endure all kinds of weather and challenging conditions.

On April 13, we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day to honor the men and women who power our lives. Here are some quick facts about lineworkers and the work they do:

Lineworker history

Lineworkers first appeared during the 1840s rush to spread telegraph service across the U.S., stringing wires between trees and other natural objects. It didn't take long for everyone to realize tall poles were safer and more practical.

What electric lineworkers do

Restoring electricity after a power outage is just one of the many duties of lineworkers, who also:

- Install and connect new power lines to homes and businesses;
- Maintain and upgrade the electric grid;
- Diagnose and pinpoint power-delivery issues;
- Plan and manage large-scale projects; and
- Ensure safe work practices in often challenging conditions.

Lineworkers are responsible for maintaining and upgrading the nation's electric grid, which connects more than 7,300 power plants to 145 million consumers through 60,000 miles of high-voltage lines, millions of miles of distribution lines and more than 50 million transformers.

In Georgia, EMC lineworkers maintain the largest distribution network in the state with 196,921 miles of electric power lines in 157 of 159 counties.

Geared for safety


Lineworkers climb with up to 40 pounds of safety gear and tools. Here's what they typically wear to stay safe while working:

- Hard hats
- Safety glasses
- Clothing that protects against flames and arc flashes
- Rubber gloves and sleeves
- Climbing belts
- Fall-protection harnesses



One hot stick

One essential tool for lineworkers is the hot stick, an insulated fiberglass pole used to safely move energized wires and other equipment. Hot sticks vary in size, depending on the job.



In 2026, Georgia's Lineman Rodeo is May 1-2 at Camp John Hope in Fort Valley, and everyone is welcome to attend.

The wild side of work

Snakes and squirrels can climb poles or jump onto poles from nearby trees and are a major cause of power outages. Lineworkers encounter plenty of both while working.

They've also been known to rescue kittens that climbed too high in trees and curious bear cubs that reach the tops of utility poles. Lineworkers have used bucket trucks to make these rescues.

When your office is outdoors, these encounters are part of the job.

Wired for competition

Many lineworkers enjoy showing off their skills at lineman rodeos. These competitions provide the public with an opportunity to see what it takes to get the job done. For lineworkers, rodeos help inspire camaraderie and strengthen passion for the trade.

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On-the-job training

Described by the U.S. Department of Energy as one of the nation's highest-paid professions that doesn't demand post-secondary education, becoming a journeyman lineworker typically requires a high school diploma or equivalent, training and a paid apprenticeship, which typically spans four years.

Apprentice lineworkers receive hands-on training and experience in the field before advancing to journeyman status. Lineworker salaries range from \$40,000 to \$144,000, depending on location, skill set and experience.

Inspiring safety

Each year, roughly 60,000 lineworkers respond to devastating storms and the damage they leave behind. In addition to extreme weather exposure, lineworkers face a variety of dangers. Safety is always the No. 1 priority, which is why apprenticeship programs were created and why lineworkers continuously receive training on the latest equipment and procedures.

Lineworkers power our lives. The next time you see one, remember to thank them for the essential work they do.

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SCAN ME



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As we prepare for the seasonal shift, remember to set your ceiling fan rotation accordingly. In winter months (or whenever your home heating system is running), fan blades should rotate clockwise, which produces an updraft that pushes warm air down. In summer months (or whenever your home cooling system is running), blades should rotate counterclockwise, which produces a downdraft or wind-chill effect that makes you feel cooler. When used correctly, ceiling fans can boost comfort and allow you to adjust the thermostat a few degrees for energy savings.

Source: energy.gov

