



Prioritize safety year-round

Sumter EMC recognizes 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 firsthand how dangerous electricity can be, because we work with it 365 days a year.

Electricity is an integral part of modern life. Given the prevalence of electrical devices, tools, and appliances, we'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.**

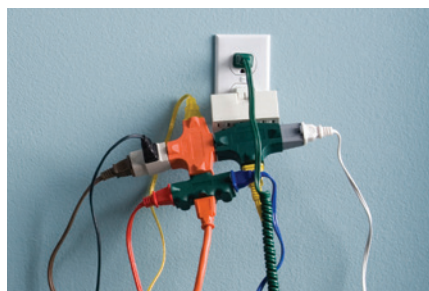
Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years old and you need to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.



- **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 either. Doing so 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.

We 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 a year. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity.



PLUG INTO SAFETY



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

Capital credit assignments



Sumter EMC operates as a not-for-profit electric cooperative owned by the members it serves. Revenues remaining after all expenses are paid are called margins, which are calculated yearly for each consumer and assigned to member accounts as capital credits.

For several years before refunding capital credits to members, Sumter EMC used such funds to expand distribution facilities and general plant. Using the capital credits to construct distribution lines and substations reduces the Cooperative's need to borrow funds and lowers interest expense.

Margins assigned to Sumter EMC by associated organizations are assigned to members in the same way as operating margins. These organizations include Oglethorpe Power Corp. (OPC*), Georgia Rural Electric Service Corp., National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp., CoBank, Southeastern Data

CAPITAL CREDITS ASSIGNED FOR 2021			
%	<i>If your total bills were:</i>	\$ 500	\$ 1,000
2.699	Capital credits assigned from Sumter EMC margins were:	\$ 13.49	\$ 26.99
1.889	Capital credits assigned by Oglethorpe Power Corp. were:	\$ 9.45	\$ 18.89

Cooperative, Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, and the National Rural Telecommunications Corporation.

Margins assigned to members from Sumter EMC operations and all associated organizations (excluding OPC*) equal 2.699% of 2021 revenue. Margins assigned from OPC* equal 1.889% of total revenue for 2021.

Examples of how your capital credit assignment is calculated are shown in the table above. To compute

individual assignments, just multiply the percentage figures times the sum of your 2021 power bills, excluding sales tax and other charges.

If you have any questions about your capital credit assignments, call us today at (229) 924-8041 or (800) 342-6978.

**OPC margins include those of OPC and all other sources of power supply and transmission services.*

Insulate your garage

Does someone in your family like to spend time in the garage tinkering with tools or working on the car?

If so, you have probably often heard that it gets really hot in there. But, you can help make it much more comfortable by insulating the walls.

It doesn't make sense to put an air conditioning system in a garage because the cool air will leak right through the door, ceiling, and walls. But you can keep the space a bit more comfortable this summer by adding insulation.

Insulated walls, ceilings, and doors can block the

heat so it doesn't penetrate the inside of the garage, and they can keep the cool, conditioned air indoors where it belongs. In the winter, it can also help keep the cold air out.

If you need a new garage door, choose an energy-efficient model, which can reduce energy loss through the garage door by up to 71%, according to manufacturer Clopay.



Sumter Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Don't wait for summer to get your A/C inspected



A springtime tuneup can prevent your air conditioning system from going on the fritz later, when the weather is so hot that you won't want to be without the A/C for even a few hours.

It typically costs about \$100 to have a professional inspection of your system, and it's well worth the money.

Some contractors offer an annual preventive maintenance agreement, which will cost a few hundred dollars a year and typically includes a fall and spring inspection of your HVAC system, as well as discounts on repairs and equipment. Of course, you can also pay as you go for the individual inspection.

Either way, your cooling system will get attention from a qualified, licensed service technician who is trained to spot problems that most homeowners overlook. The tech might even alert you if a small repair now will prevent your family from sweltering this summer during an A/C breakdown.

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: energystar.gov



Shiitake Mushroom Salad

Courtesy of Georgia Grown

- 1/4 cup tamari or soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons toasted sesame oil
- 3 tablespoons rice wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon chili garlic sauce
- Black pepper, to taste
- 4 cups Georgia-grown shiitake mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup scallions, thinly sliced



GEORGIA GROWN

In a small bowl, whisk together tamari or soy sauce, sesame oil, rice wine vinegar, chili garlic sauce, and black pepper.

Place mushrooms and scallions in a medium bowl. Pour dressing over mushrooms and scallions and toss to coat. Let mixture marinate for 20-30 minutes.

Note: This dish can be served cold or at room temperature. It can be eaten on its own or atop a bowl of rice or noodles, and leftovers can be used in stir-fry or soup. Serves 4-6.

For recipes from farms and producers across our state, visit www.georgiagrown.com.


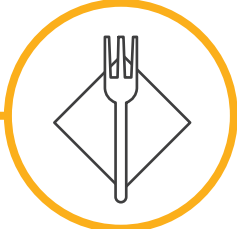


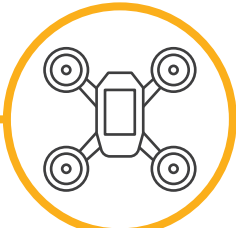
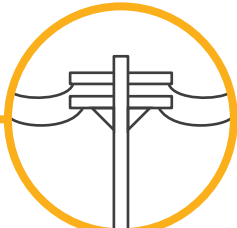

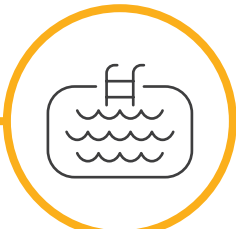

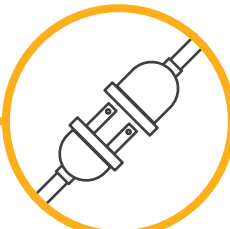
SPOT THE ELECTRICAL HAZARD



After you complete this activity, color the items with crayons or colored pencils.

When combined, electricity and common items that seem harmless can create dangerous situations. Look at the items grouped below, then circle the two items that (when combined) create an electrical hazard.

Check your work in the answer key.

1			
	toaster	fork	bagel
2			
	hair dryer	electrical outlet	running water
3			
	drone	power lines	picnic
4			
	swimming pool	floatie	extension cord

Answer key: 1) fork and toaster 2) hair dryer and water or outlet and water 3) drone and power lines 4) extension cord and pool