

BEACON



Amicalola Electric
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

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Comments from the CEO

Clearing the path to reliability

Trees are majestic, beautiful and good for the soul. But we also know that our members depend on us to deliver reliable power to their homes and businesses. That's why Amicalola EMC strives to balance maintaining the beautiful surroundings we all cherish with ensuring reliable electricity. You might not realize it, but there are several benefits to regular tree trimming.

Reliability

Keeping power lines clear of overgrown vegetation improves service reliability. After all, we've seen the whims of Mother Nature during severe weather events with fallen tree limbs taking down power lines and utility poles. While many factors can impact power disruptions, about half of all outages can be attributed to overgrown vegetation. This is why you see Amicalola EMC crews or contractors out in the community trimming trees near power lines. Our trimming crews have been trained and certified based on the latest industry standards.

In fact, all U.S. electric utilities are required to trim trees that grow too close to power lines. Scheduled trimming throughout the year keeps lines clear from overgrown or dead limbs that are likely to fall, and we are better able to prepare for severe weather events.

Plus, we all know it's more cost-effective to undertake preventive maintenance than it is to make repairs after the fact. Inspections of power lines and vegetation allow us to reduce labor and equipment costs while bolstering reliability and accurately monitoring the health and growth of trees, as well as identifying potential problems.

Safety

Working near power lines can be dangerous, and we care about your safety and that of our lineworkers. For example, if trees are touching power lines in our members' yards, they can pose a grave danger to families. If children can reach those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor such as a tree.

Any tree or branch that falls across a power line creates a potentially dangerous situation. A proactive approach lessens the chances of fallen trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

Affordability

As a co-op, Amicalola EMC always strives to keep costs down for

our members. If trees and other vegetation are left unchecked, they can become overgrown and expensive to correct. A strategic vegetation management program helps keep costs down for everyone.

When it comes to vegetation management, there are ways you can help too. When planting new trees, make sure they're planted a safe distance from overhead power lines. Medium-height trees (40 feet or smaller) should be planted at least 25 feet from power lines. Taller trees (over 40 feet) should be planted at least 50 feet from power lines. You can also practice safe planting near pad-mounted transformers. Plant shrubs at least 10 feet from the transformer door and 4 feet from the sides. Remember to contact 811 before you begin any project that requires digging.

Additionally, if you spot an overgrown tree or branch that's dangerously close to overhead lines, contact us at 706-253-5200 and let us know.

We have deep roots in our community, and we love our beautiful surroundings. It takes a balanced approach, and our vegetation management program is a crucial tool in ensuring the lights stay on.



Todd Payne
President/CEO
Amicalola EMC

Those who clear the path

Keeping our rights of way clear is a big part of keeping the lights on for our members. In December, Amicalola EMC contracted with Agriculture Air Services to trim the right of way along Highway 108 and part of Highway 20 by helicopter. These helicopters are equipped with aerial saw blades that can trim trees in hard-to-reach areas. The work done by helicopter and completed in two weeks could have taken two months if done by hand.



Extreme conditions require extreme measures.



Right of way crew members, from left: Alan Millholland, Brad Painter, Dan Holcomb, Phillip Ballew, Crew Leader; Clay Elrod, Crew Leader; Carter Jones and Jack Sanford.

Amicalola EMC continues to take proactive steps to help minimize impact and disruption, which in turn keeps the power supply reliable for all of us. Nonetheless, storms still occur, and some of those storms result in damage that, without our right of way crews, we could not clear. An example of the extremes our crews go to in an

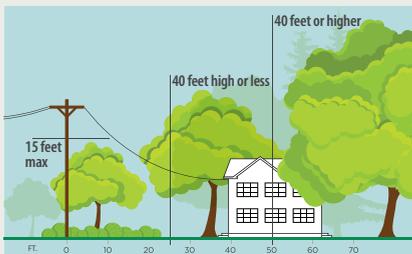
effort to restore power is depicted in the photo at the left, where Clay Elrod can be seen in Talking Rock Creek cutting a tree off a downed power line.

From clearing and maintaining existing and new rights of way, to clearing damage after a storm, we appreciate our right of way crews and what they do to keep the lights on every day.

3 Ways to Help Limit Tree Trimming

Did you know electric utilities are required to trim trees and other types of vegetation that grow too close to overhead power lines? We know you love your trees, and we will do everything we can to avoid trimming them. Here's how you can help:

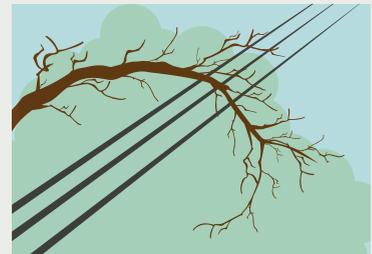
1. Plant trees in the right place. Trees that will be taller than 40 feet should be planted at least 50 feet away from power lines (>40 feet should be at least 25 feet away).



2. Don't block pad-mounted transformers. Plant shrubs at least 10 feet away from transformer doors and 4 feet from transformer sides.



3. Report dangerous branches. If you spot a tree or branch that is dangerously close to power lines, please let us know.



Trimming improves safety for all. Let's work together to enjoy the beauty of trees and reliable electricity.

Amicalola EMC holds Annual Youth Awards Banquet

Around 400 were in attendance on March 21 at Chattahoochee Technical College in Jasper as students from all across our service area were honored.

Students, parents, school representatives and the Amicalola EMC Board of Directors and staff members enjoyed a night of celebration as college scholarships totaling \$140,000 were awarded. One hundred thirty-six seniors as well as the four Washington Youth Tour delegates will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

Earning places on the 2024 Washington Youth Tour were Farah Jones of Pickens County; Tlung Mang of Dawson County; and Addyson Poole and Deacon Shull, both of Gilmer County. The tour will take place June 14-21,



\$140,000 was awarded to high school students across the Amicalola EMC service area. Shown here are winning students with the Amicalola EMC Board of Directors.

2024, and will provide an exceptional opportunity for delegates to network, gain leadership experience and learn about our nation's capital.

A packed house enjoyed a great meal catered by Shade Tree BBQ, dessert by Cindy Parks/Originals to Remember and flowers by Southern Belle Florist & Gifts.



2024 Washington Youth Tour winners, from left: Farah Jones, Pickens High; Tlung Chin Mang, Dawson High; and Addyson Jo Poole and Deacon Thomas Shull, both of Gilmer High, shown with Director of Public Relations Stacey Fields, far left, and CEO Todd Payne, far right.

\$1,000 each was awarded to 136 high school seniors at the youth awards banquet.

Kite safety for kids

1. Never fly your kite near a power line.
2. If your kite gets caught in a power line, do not touch it. Call Amicalola EMC and make sure nobody gets near the area until help arrives.
3. Never fly your kite in stormy weather. A kite can make you a very tall lightning rod.
4. Never use metallic flying line.



CAPITAL CREDITS

Your slice of the cooperative pie!



Monies over and above our operating costs are assigned to our members—that's your piece of the cooperative pie!

Amicalola EMC keeps track of how much electricity its members consume and at the end of each year operating margins are determined. Excess revenues are allocated to members as capital credits. You might call this your slice of the cooperative pie!

If you are a former member of Amicalola EMC and we do not have your current address, it's possible

you have unclaimed capital credits. To inquire about unclaimed capital credits, please call 706-253-5200 during normal business hours or visit your local Amicalola EMC office.

After a mandatory five-year waiting period, any unclaimed capital credits refunds are distributed in accordance with Georgia's unclaimed property laws O.C.G.A. §44-12-236.

Memorial Day closing



Our offices will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2024

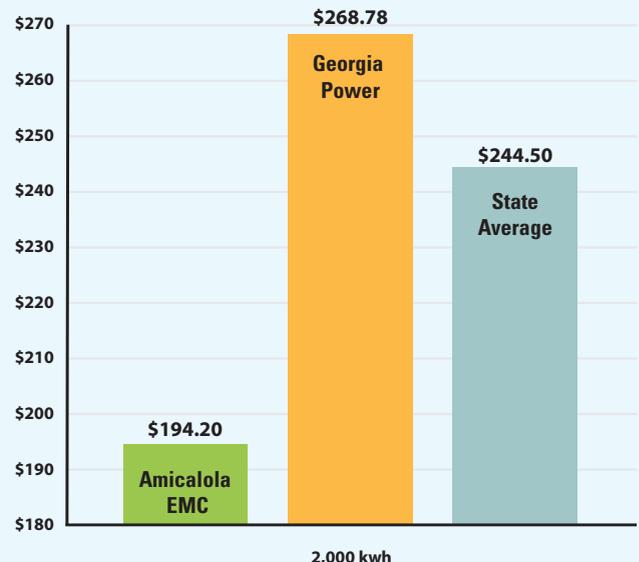
Once again Amicalola EMC rates lower than state average

The 2024 Winter Rate Survey released by the Georgia Public Service Commission showed that, once again, Amicalola EMC members pay less for their electricity. The survey shows that Amicalola EMC is lower than the local investor-owned utility and is also lower than the state average in all categories. The graph depicts the price for 2,000 kilowatt-hours (kwh) of electricity, and in this category Amicalola EMC is the fourth lowest EMC in Georgia.

The most recent rate survey released by the Georgia Public Service Commission shows Amicalola EMC is less expensive than the local investor-owned utility and the state average.

2024 WINTER RATES

2,000 kWh



2,000 kWh