

GRADY E.M.C. NEWS

VOLUME 65

MARCH 2015

NUMBER 1



Grady EMC conducts safety training for Bainbridge Police & Public Services Departments

Police, fire-fighters and EMTs are usually the first to respond on the scene of an emergency and can face great risk of electrical hazards from downed power lines. Unfortunately, these dedicated public servants can find themselves injured or even killed in the line of duty when coming into contact with live power lines. On December 3, 2014, Grady EMC's **John Hudson** and **Scott Taliaferro** conducted a live line demonstration for employees of the **Bainbridge Police Department** and the **Bainbridge Public Services Department**. The one hour presentation used classroom instruction and a mobile live line unit to demonstrate the dangers of working



around power lines and to provide instruction on safety measures that they can take to ensure their safety and the safety of those they serve. Pictured in the photos are John Hudson and Scott Taliaferro of Grady EMC along with Bainbridge city employees as they listen and observe. If you would like information on hosting a live line demonstration for your company or organization, please contact Grady EMC at

media@gradyemc.com.



Grady EMC — Empowering Those We Serve!

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Published Quarterly,

Mailed to All Members of Grady Electric
Membership Corporation

Home Energy Check-up

Use this checklist to examine your home's energy checkpoints & identify potential problems. Once you've completed the analysis, contact Grady EMC if you have any questions about improving your home's energy efficiency or scheduling a comprehensive energy check-up.

BIG TICKET ITEMS

Heating & Cooling Systems

Is the ductwork airtight with no leaks?

Are the ductwork joints connected?

Are the ducts foil wrapped?

Is flexible ductwork unrestricted?

Has your filter been changed in the last month?

Is your outdoor unit free of objects that can hamper air flow?

Has your heating and cooling system been inspected by a licensed HVAC contractor in the last six months?

Water Heaters

Is the water heater free of leaks?

Is it wrapped with an insulating jacket?

Is the temperature set no higher than 140 degrees?

Are the water lines free of leaks?

Are the water lines properly insulated?

THE THERMAL ENVELOPE

Attic

Is blown-in insulation at least 12-14" deep?

Is batt insulation at least 10" deep?

Is blown insulation evenly spread, covering the ceiling joists?

Is insulation compressed by storage items?

Does roof structure have both low and high ventilation?

Living Area

Do you have double-paned or storm windows?

Are gaps and crevices around windows and doors sealed with caulk?

Does your fireplace have glass doors?

Is the damper closed when fireplace is not in use?

Is the floor insulated?

Does the floor insulation have the vapor barrier (paper side) facing in?

Do you have foam gaskets behind light switches and electrical outlets?

Have you sealed holes around pipes in the kitchen and bathrooms?

Dates of Interest

March 2015:

**March 2—Washington Youth Tour
Applications due**

March 8—Daylight Savings Time

April 2015:

April 5—Easter

**April 18—Lineman Apprecia-
tion Day**

May 2015:

May 10—Mother's Day

**May 25—Grady EMC office
closed for Memorial Day**

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DID YOU KNOW?

Grady EMC offers several ways for our members to pay electric bills – Cash, Check, Money Order, Credit Card, Debit Card, and Bank Draft. You can pay your bill in person or on our website at www.gradyemc.com. For your convenience, advance payments can be made for an electric bill if you are going to be out of town when your electric bill comes due. Bank drafts are also an excellent way to prevent past due bills from occurring. These payments are automatically withdrawn from your designated bank account on the bill's due date for the amount that you owe. If you would like to sign up for this convenient service, please contact our office.

Utility bills can change dramatically from month to month even though our lifestyles haven't. Here are a few things to note that might help you control these fluctuations. On average, **75% to 80% of our monthly** residential electricity **usage** comes from three sources -- **heating/air conditioning systems** (with heat consuming the most energy of the two), **water heaters**, and **clothes dryers**. Extremely cold weather patterns cause a spike in energy kilowatt hour (kwh) consumption as members fire up their heating systems to stay warm. In spite of the fact that Grady EMC members have not had a basic rate increase in over twelve years, this will cause an increase in your utility bill. Confirming your heating/air conditioning system is working properly ensures that your system isn't wasting energy. The most common energy drains include malfunctioning thermostats and leaking ducts. An annual checkup of your system can confirm that your system is running at peak efficiency and minimize those winter bill spikes. Checking your water heater for defective heating elements or thermostat is another worthwhile winter project. Setting your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees will provide comfortable and adequate hot water for most household uses. Insulating your water heater's tank and the first six feet of cold and hot water lines prevents heat loss and saves energy. Clothes dryers whose heating element is not working properly can create longer run times to get clothes dry. These simple home maintenance projects can save you headaches and money during the cold months ahead!

The energy efficiency of a home (insulation R values, types of windows and doors, air infiltration), the different lifestyles in the home (number of adults, number of children, thermostat settings on heating/air conditioning systems, loads of clothes washed and dried weekly, swimming pools, saunas, hot tubs, computers, electronic games) and the appliances powering the home all have a dramatic impact on a home's power usage. Every home and family is unique and different, so comparing utility bills of "similar" houses is not an effective way to determine if your utility bill is high. If you have concerns about a bill, feel free to call Grady EMC and we will work with you to explain factors in your bill.

Outage reporting is available through Grady EMC's website (www.gradyemc.com). You can also view outages that are occurring in the service area.

In 2014, Grady EMC returned \$679,734 in **patronage capital (capital credits)** to the estates of our members.

RIGHT OF WAY PROGRAM

Grady EMC has an active Right of Way maintenance program that controls trees and vegetation along the more than 3,000 miles of lines in our system. This vital program helps Grady EMC provide uninterrupted power to our members while conserving our unique South Georgia environments. In the picture on the



right, Grady EMC right-of-way crew member **John Waddell** prepares to bring down a pine tree damaged during a recent storm. In the coming months our right-of-way crews will maintaining lines served by Pummy Road, Elpino, and Roddenberry substations.

Notifying Georgia 811 before you do any mechanized digging is important for many reasons: your safety, and the safety of those near your digging project; preventing environmental damage and utility service interruptions; and, avoiding project delays, expensive repairs and legal problems. In Georgia, it's the law! For safety's sake, it's always best to notify Georgia 811 about any digging project you may have - even if your project is small.

Examples of homeowner digging projects include landscaping, fence installation, anchoring supports for decks and swing sets, planting trees, driving landscaping stakes into the ground, and installing a retainer wall.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Don't forget to "*spring ahead*" and set your clocks forward on Sunday, March 8th!