

Keeping you safe during and after summer storms

BY LAURA COOK

No one knows electrical safety better than the experts who practice it every single day. Upson EMC encourages you to practice safety with these reminders—for during and after a summer storm:

Avoid wires and water—When lightning strikes a home during a storm, the electrical charge can surge through pipes and utility wires. That means you can get zapped if you're touching water or any device that's plugged in, whether it's a landline phone or toaster.

Skip the make-shift shelter—During a storm, it's tempting to take cover under a picnic gazebo or golf cart, but in open-sided structures with no conductors to channel strikes, a bolt's path of least resistance to the ground could be you. On top of that, these structures raise your risk of a lightning strike because of their height. Keep moving toward suitable shelter.

Portable generators—Take special care with portable generators, which can provide a good source of power, but if improperly installed or operated, can become deadly. Do not connect generators directly to household wiring. Power from generators can back-feed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including co-op lineworkers mak-

ing repairs. It's best to hire a qualified, licensed electrician to install your generator and ensure that it meets local electrical codes.

Flooded areas—Stay away from downed power lines and avoid walking through flooded areas. Power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Report any downed lines you see to Upson EMC by calling (706) 647-5475 immediately.

Summer storm safety tip

Strong summer storms can create dangerous situations. Always avoid downed power lines—the wire could be live, which could be deadly for those nearby. Quickly report downed power lines to Upson EMC.



Electrical equipment—Never use electrical equipment that is wet—especially outdoor electrical equipment, which could be a potential danger after a summer storm. Water can damage electrical equipment and parts, posing a shock or fire hazard.

Upson EMC has served our local community for 80 years, and safety for our members is our No. 1 concern. To learn about our safety programs and tips, visit www.upsonemc.com.

Claim undeliverable capital credits by October 1 deadline

In compliance with O.C.G.A. § 44-12-236 of the Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act, Upson EMC is attempting to locate former members whose capital credit checks were issued but have been returned by the U.S. Postal Service as “undeliverable” or have other-

wise been unclaimed.

A current list of these members and instructions for claiming these funds is posted on Upson EMC's website at www.upsonemc.com and at the corporate office located at 607 East Main Street, Thomaston, GA 30286, for review

from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The last possible date to claim these funds is October 1, 2016. If these funds are not claimed by this date, they will be donated for charitable uses, as permitted by O.C.G.A. § 44-12-236.