

THE SAWNEE HIGHLINER

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Summer Thunderstorm Safety Tips

Thunderstorms are a common natural phenomenon and during the summer time in Georgia they can pose significant risks to safety and property. The following safety tips will help you stay safe during this thunderstorm season.

Remember, in the event of a power outage, you can report it by **texting "OUT" to 855-938-3412** (must be enrolled in SmartHub), via the Sawnee EMC app, online at sawnee.coop/report-outage, or by calling the Customer Call Center at **770-887-2363**.

CONTACT US

Web Address & Email:

www.sawnee.coop
customerservice@sawnee.coop

Business Office Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Physical Address:

543 Atlanta Highway
Cumming, GA 30040

Customer Call Center:

Mon. - Fri. 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Phone: (770) 887-2363
Fax: (770) 234-6722
Text: (678) 999-8124
TDD: (770) 781-4271



QUOTABLE QUOTE

If you see someone without a smile today, give 'em yours."

— Dolly Parton

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Stay Informed

Listen to local news, your weather app, or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates. These sources will provide timely information about approaching storms and any necessary actions you should take. Watch for signs of a storm, like lightning flashes or increasing wind.

Seek Shelter

If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or in a vehicle with the windows closed. It is important to find a safe location to wait out the storm.

Lightning Safety

If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. The National Weather Service recommends staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunderclap to ensure the storm has safely passed.

Avoid Electrical Equipment

During a thunderstorm, avoid using electrical equipment. Additionally, close windows and close outside doors securely to protect against strong winds and lightning.

By following these simple summer thunderstorm safety tips, you can significantly reduce the risk of injury and damage during these natural events. Always prioritize your safety and be prepared to act when a storm approaches. For more storm safety information, please visit sawnee.coop/outage-storm-center.

Appointment of Sawnee EMC’s 2026 Director Nominating Committees

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

District #3 – (Cumming):

- Mr. Travis Bridgeman
2495 Wanda Woods Rd.
Cumming, GA 30041
(770) 283-7993
- Ms. Mary Helen McGruder
725 Pilgrim Mill Rd.
Cumming, GA 30040
(678) 936-0308
- Mr. Timothy M. Perry
Citizens Bank
c/o Timothy M. Perry
P.O. Box 2820
Cumming, GA 30028
(770) 605-8974

District #5 – (Ducktown):

- Ms. Rebecca Kafka
3137 Canton Hwy.
Cumming, GA 30040
(404) 520-5934
- Ms. Linda Shadburn
3495 Hurt Bridge Rd.
Cumming, GA 30028
(678) 773-1953
- Ms. Toni Smith
1920 Dr. Bramblett Rd.
Cumming, GA 30028
(770) 654-0411

District #8 – (Ocee):

- Mr. Jeff Hancock
10721 Bell Rd.
Johns Creek, GA 30097
(678) 523-6301
- Ms. Cathy Marion
120 Pro Ter.
Duluth, GA 30097
(404) 372-7398
- Ms. Carol McGrevin
10697 Bell Rd.
Duluth, GA 30097
(770) 490-0971

Effective June 5, 2026, the Sawnee Board of Directors appointed nine (9) members to serve on the three (3) Committees on Nominations (Committee) for the directorate districts in which the term of the incumbent Director is expiring. It is the function of each Committee to consider candidate(s) for the office of director for District #3 (Cumming); District #5 (Ducktown); and District #8 (Ocee), as outlined in the Corporation’s Bylaws.

To the left are the names of the Sawnee EMC members appointed to serve on each of the Committees. Sawnee members interested in being considered as a candidate for the office of director in 2026 should contact members of the Committee for the district in which they reside.

The Committees will meet at the Sawnee EMC Headquarters in Cumming, GA as outlined below:

Directorate District	Committee Meeting Date	Time
District #3 (Cumming)	July 22, 2026 (Wednesday)	10:00 a.m.
District #5 (Ducktown)	July 22, 2026 (Wednesday)	2:00 p.m.
District #8 (Ocee)	July 23, 2026 (Thursday)	10:00 a.m.

If you are a Sawnee EMC member located in one of these three (3) directorate districts and have an interest in seeking the office of director in 2026, you are encouraged to review the director candidate information available online at [sawnee.coop/elections](http://www.sawnee.coop/elections) or request a director candidate information packet from the office of the President and CEO, as outlined below.

Qualified members, who wish to seek the office of director outside of the Committee process, may do so by utilizing the petition process. Petitions from potential candidates must be submitted to Sawnee EMC no later than thirty-five (35) days before each directorate district meeting. These deadlines are as follows:

Directorate District	Petition Deadline Date	Time
District #3 (Cumming)	July 28, 2026 (Tuesday)	5:00 p.m.
District #5 (Ducktown)	July 29, 2026 (Wednesday)	5:00 p.m.
District #8 (Ocee)	July 30, 2026 (Thursday)	5:00 p.m.

Note: A petition form is available via U.S. Mail, or online at [sawnee.coop/elections](http://www.sawnee.coop/elections).

If you have a question about Sawnee EMC’s 2026 director election process, the Committee on Nominations or the petition process, please feel free to contact the Office of Sawnee EMC President and CEO at [\(770\) 887-2363](tel:7708872363) or via email at kristi.sheriff@sawnee.coop.

Unlock Comfort and Savings Year Round By Weatherizing Your Home

If you're working on your summer to-do list, consider adding home weatherization to your list of projects. Although we often think about weatherizing our homes during winter months when we're standing next to a chilly window or drafty door, weatherizing your home provides comfort and energy savings year-round, especially during the hot summer months when your air conditioner is working overtime.

According to [energystar.gov](https://www.energystar.gov), a home with insufficient insulation and air leaks wastes more than 20% of the energy used to heat or cool the home — that's essentially throwing money out the door. Fortunately, most weatherization projects are easy to DIY and can be completed in a day.

The simplest and most cost-effective weatherization strategies include air sealing around windows and exterior doors. Below are a few ideas to consider.



Air Sealing Windows

If you have older windows, odds are you have air escaping through cracks and gaps around the frame. Do a quick visual inspection. If you can see any daylight around the frame or the windows rattle easily, you likely have air leaks. Also, check for any cracks around the frame that may not be visible with sunlight. If you suspect you have gaps and plan to apply new caulk, be sure to remove the old caulk and clean the area well before applying the new.



Weatherstripping Exterior Doors

Another simple weatherization project is installing weatherstripping around exterior doors. The most common types of weatherstripping options are V-channel, felt, and foam tape. To choose the best type for your home, consider temperature fluctuations and weather exposure. Most homeowners opt for felt or foam tape; both options are easy to install but will need to be replaced every couple of years, depending on wear and tear. Weatherstripping

should be installed around the top and sides of the door. If you see daylight around the bottom of an exterior door, consider installing a door sweep in addition to weatherstripping. Door sweeps are available in many different options.



Adding Insulation

Another way to improve comfort in your home is by adding insulation. While this is a more costly project and may require professional help, it's an effective way to decrease heat flow, which impacts energy use in winter and summer months. Older homes may need additional insulation to either replace older materials or meet newer efficiency standards. Contact a member of Sawnee EMC's Energy Services team if you suspect your home's insulation levels are inadequate and have questions regarding them.

Weatherize your home to unlock year-round comfort and savings on monthly energy costs. Questions? Please contact one of our Energy Services professionals at **770-887-2363** or via email at energy_services@sawnee.coop. We are glad to help!

SAWNEE
® An Electric Membership Corporation

RATED #1
BY THE PEOPLE THAT MATTER MOST –
OUR MEMBERS

Best in Customer Satisfaction with Residential Electric Service among Cooperatives, 3 out of 4 Years.

For J.D. Power 2025 award information, visit [jdpower.com/awards](https://www.jdpower.com/awards).



Outdoor Safety – Look Up for Overhead Power Lines

Outdoor projects can bring you close to overhead power lines. Below is a quick safety checklist that can prevent serious injury.

OUTDOOR POWER-LINE SAFETY TIPS:

- **Look up and around.** Keep ladders and long tools away from overhead lines (carry ladders horizontally).
- **Use extra caution on roofs.** Avoid roof work near overhead power lines and postpone work in bad weather.
- **Watch for service lines.** Use extra care around service lines attached to your home.
- **Don't trim near lines.** Leave tree work and gutter cleaning near overhead power lines to qualified pros.
- **Never climb trees near power lines.** Branches can shift into a power line without warning potentially causing injury or death.
- **Call 811 before you dig.** Have underground power lines marked before digging or building - this is a free service and in Georgia it's the law.
- **Power lines can also be involved in vehicle crashes.** If a vehicle hits a power pole, treat the area as energized. Stay inside the vehicle unless there is immediate danger (like fire), and assume any downed line is live even if it isn't sparking.

If you have any questions about safety around power line, please contact our Customer Call Center at [770-887-2363](tel:770-887-2363), text [678-999-8124](tel:678-999-8124) or email customerservice@sawnee.coop.

Here's WATTS Cookin' Gazpacho

Ingredients:

- 32 oz. V-8 Juice
- Small can diced tomatoes, unsalted
- 2 medium tomatoes, seeded, and chopped
- 1 medium cucumber, peeled
- 2 medium carrots, chopped
- 1/2 large red onion, chopped
- 1/2 bell pepper, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 Tbsp. lime juice
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tsp. red wine vinegar
- 1/2 tsp. salt

Directions:

Slice cucumber in half, lengthwise and remove seeds. Dice one half of cucumber and roughly chop second half. Put the roughly chopped cucumber and carrot in a bowl with the canned tomatoes, garlic, lime juice, vinegar, and salt. Add a tablespoon or so of chopped onion. Put one cup of V-8 juice in the bowl with the vegetables and puree with a blender (immersion or standard). Add remaining V-8 and stir to mix. Add tomatoes and diced vegetables and stir. Refrigerate at least four hours.



👉 Thanks to Ken England for the recipe! Do you have a recipe to share with us? If we print it, we'll credit your account \$5.00. Send your favorite recipe to marketing@sawnee.coop.