



Hurricane Michael devastates Sumter EMC's territory

Hurricane Michael, the largest storm to hit Sumter EMC since the ice storm of 1983, caused tremendous damage to Sumter EMC's territory. At the height of the storm, 95 percent — approximately 19,000 members — were without power, 15 of 23 substations were off line and electric transmission lines were impacted.

After 81 years of restoring power caused by storm damage, Sumter EMC was ready to act on its emergency response plan. Mutual aid agreements were in place and ready to provide extra manpower. Suppliers mobilized to secure and stage extra materials for the restoration efforts, and contacts were made to ensure adequate food and accommodations were in place to provide for the extra manpower.

Ted McMillan, President and CEO of Sumter EMC, says, "When something like this happens, it's all hands on deck. Employees suspended their normal activities to help with the restoration effort. Many employees didn't have power themselves and some had damages to their own homes, but they all still

came in to work to get the lights back on for our members."

Mr. McMillan continued, "This storm was much larger than Sumter EMC. We are so grateful for the electric crews that came from Georgia and five other states to help in our restoration efforts. With over 400 additional linemen, our workforce during the restoration was many times what it is on a normal day."

Sumter EMC is thankful for the many kind gestures and support from the members during this time. It's during challenging times like this that our members show up and encourage us like no other. We appreciate our members and all their patience as we worked through the grueling restoration process.



Comments from members:

"God bless all the hard working men that put their lives in danger when trying to restore power after these horrific storms. They deserve, and they need our support and our patience through all this. God bless them all, they are heroes."

"Thank you for your unending dedication and hard work!"

"Proud to be a Sumter EMC member. Thank you for all the hard work you've put in after the storm."

"Thankful for all the efforts being made to restore power. Praying for ALL the linemen and their families. Be safe and GOD BLESS YOU ALL!"

"Thank you to all the linemen during this tough time — we are so grateful for you all!"

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM
YOUR SUMTER EMC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES.**

The Sumter EMC Americus office and appliance center will be CLOSED:

Dec. 24 & 25, 2018 and Jan. 1, 2019.
For emergencies, call (800) 342-6978.
A dispatcher is on duty 24 hours/day.

Help deter holiday criminals

During the winter holidays, the number of home break-ins skyrockets. Paired with basic security measures, like locking windows and dead-bolt doors, a well-lighted home—inside and out—can deter would-be robbers. Outdoor lighting lets you and law officers scan the property to see if anything or anyone is around.

Sumter EMC offers a variety of lighting packages to suit your needs. You will pay a small monthly charge that covers all electricity used by the light and all routine maintenance. For more details, call Customer Service at Sumter EMC at 229-924-8041.

Bring one for the chipper!

Give yourself and your community a very special Christmas gift by recycling your Christmas tree! The “Bring one for the Chipper” program has become a holiday tradition in Georgia for more than 21 years and is the largest tree recycling program in the nation. Since its inception, the program has recycled an estimated 6 million Christmas trees. The trees are ground into mulch that is used to reduce soil erosion and provide groundcover for playgrounds, local government beautification projects and individual yards.

To participate, remove all the decorations from your Christmas tree, or trees, (lights, ornaments, tinsel, etc.) and take your tree to a drop-off site near you. To locate drop-off sites near you, visit http://www.keepgeorgiabeautiful.org/bring_one_for_chipper.asp and search by zip code, or check your local newspaper during December 2018 for the location and hours of operation for drop-off sites in your area.

Renew your GATE sales tax exemption certificates before January 1, 2019

If you currently have one or more account(s) with Sumter EMC, ***you must renew your GATE certification before January 1, 2019 to continue receiving your sales tax exemption.*** For details on how to renew your GATE certificate, visit our website at the following link <http://www.sumteremc.com/content/sales-tax-exemption>.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holidays? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets, like TVs, gaming consoles, chargers and DVD players use energy when plugged into an outlet, even when they're not in use.

Source: energy.gov



Use your small change to make a big difference

Averaging just 50¢ per month, Sumter EMC members have raised more than \$980,692.

During this holiday season, it is with profound joy that we thank those Sumter EMC members whose generous donations through Operation Round Up® (ORU) have helped so many in our local communities. Your pennies, nickels and dimes have added up to more than \$980,692 since we started the ORU program in 2003.

“ORU is unique in that every penny collected through the program goes back into the local communities in Sumter EMC’s service area. Each month, Sumter EMC ‘rounds up’

the electric bill of participating members to the next dollar and deposits this ‘change’ in a separate checking account. The Sumter EMC Foundation board of trustees, which allocates the funds, is comprised of Sumter EMC members who serve on a strictly voluntary basis.

Sumter EMC uses existing resources to administer the program, so 100% of the funds collected can be allocated to local agencies and organizations that provide support for education, health and safety, cultural purposes, emergency needs, charities and economic development. Individuals cannot apply for ORU funds, and ORU funds are not used to pay the electric bills of Sumter EMC members,” stated Ted McMillan, President/CEO of Sumter EMC. He continued, “During hard economic times, when it is even more important for neighbors to help each other, charitable giving is often the first thing



to go. If you do not already participate in ORU, please consider joining today. It’s so easy. Just call Sumter EMC at (800) 342-6978 or complete the online form located in the *Quick Links* on the home page of our web site, sumteremc.com. A little pocket change from you each month, when combined with the donations from other members, can add up to positive, life-changing results.”

For a complete list of ORU recipients, check out the Foundation pages located in the Community section of our web site, sumteremc.com.

REBATES

are available on a first-come, first-served basis to replace a central system electric or gas furnace with an electric heat pump. The rebate program ends on December 31, 2018 or when the budget for the program is reached, whichever comes first. Call Sumter EMC today to see if you qualify!

Sumter EMC must inspect your existing heating system before any new work is done and again once all upgrades are complete.





**Closing the
Appliance Sales and
Service Center
December 31, 2018!**

***ALL IN-STOCK INVENTORY
MUST GO!***

***TREMENDOUS SAVINGS
STOREWIDE - JUST IN TIME
FOR CHRISTMAS!***

***SHOP NAME BRAND APPLIANCES:
CROSLEY, FRIGIDAIRE, GE
SAMSUNG, SPEED QUEEN***

***AND ELECTRONICS:
HAIER, LG, SAMSUNG***

ALL SALES FINAL