



[www.fairfield.coop](http://www.fairfield.coop)

**MAILING ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 2500  
Blythewood, SC 29016

**BLYTHEWOOD OFFICE**

701 Blythewood Road  
Blythewood, SC 29016

**WINNSBORO OFFICE**

3129 U.S. Hwy. 321 North Winnsboro,  
SC 29180

**OFFICE HOURS**

8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

**CUSTOMER SERVICE**

Toll Free: (800) 628-0336  
Blythewood: (803) 754-0153  
Winnsboro: (803) 635-4621  
Camden and Lugoff: (803) 425-1059

**POWER OUTAGE REPORTING ONLY**

(800) 499-7862

Outages are handled by an automated outage reporting system. Please follow instructions. The system will automatically report the outage and a crew will be dispatched.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

- Mitchell D. Rabon, *President, District 3*
- Robert Entzminger, *Vice President, District At Large*
- Robert Kenneth Miles, *Secretary, District 2*
- W. C. Good, *Treasurer, District 3*
- Cynthia Able, *District 2*
- Timothy L. Hopkins, *District At Large*
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- Joseph E. Sharpe, *District 2*
- Peggy D. Swearingen, *District 1*



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# Tree trimming improves service for all



**ONE THING I LOVE** about our community is the natural beauty that surrounds us. We are fortunate to have so many trees that offer beauty, shade and habitat for birds and wildlife.

At Fairfield Electric Cooperative, we strive to

balance maintaining our beautiful surroundings with ensuring a reliable power supply by keeping power lines clear in rights-of-way (ROW).

A right-of-way is the land we use to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines. Rights-of-way enable the co-op to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder power line installation, maintenance or operation. Fairfield Electric must be able to maintain the power lines above and below the ROW. Proactive vegetation management benefits co-op members in three ways.

## Safety

We put the safety of our members and our lineworkers above all else. Overgrown vegetation and trees pose a risk to power lines. If trees are touching power lines in our members' yards, they can pose a danger to the family. If children can access those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc or jump from a power line to a nearby conductor like a tree. A proactive approach to trimming also diminishes the chances of fallen branches or trees during severe weather, which makes it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

## Reliability

One of the biggest benefits of our vegetation management program is reliability. Strategic tree trimming reduces the frequency of downed lines causing power outages. Generally, healthy trees don't fall on power lines, and clear lines don't cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keep lines clear to promote reliability.

## Affordability

As a not-for-profit cooperative, Fairfield Electric strives to keep our costs in check to keep our rates affordable, which extends to our approach to vegetation management. If trees grow too close to power lines, the potential for expensive repairs also increases. Effective tree trimming and other vegetation management efforts keep costs down for everyone.

Our community is a special place. We appreciate the beauty trees afford, but we also know our community depends on us to provide reliable energy. Through vegetation management, we are better able to keep the power lines clear, prepare for future weather events and secure the reliability of the grid.

In closing I want to remind you of our upcoming annual meeting. It is set for the week of May 17 through May 21. The format will be similar to last year with drive-thru registration and the business meeting livestreamed. I sincerely hope that you will participate in this year's meeting.

**BRUCE G. BACON**  
Chief Executive Officer

# Plan for safety when DIY-ing

**MANY OF US** are spending more time at home and finding new, creative ways to enhance our living space. Tackling do-it-yourself (DIY) projects can be fun and cost-effective. Whether you're painting the front door, or finally upgrading those patio lights, successfully completing a DIY home project is satisfying. But many projects don't come without risks. Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is crucial for Fairfield Electric linemen, just as it should be for any DIY-er.

"None of our construction and maintenance projects begin without proper planning," says Mike Marthers, manager of safety and training.

"Our foremen make sure the crews have all the materials, equipment and gear they need, the site is ready and safety precautions are followed. For the sake of their safety and their project's success, we encourage our members to take on their home projects in the same way."

Investing in PPE is essential for most home projects. Stock up on safety goggles, dust masks, ear plugs (or noise reduction ear protectors), gloves and any other kind of protection you may



**Personal protective equipment (PPE) is crucial for Fairfield Electric linemen, just as it should be for any DIY-er. Fairfield Electric lineman Michael Robinson is all geared up in his PPE as he operates a chainsaw.**

need for your project. Additionally, remember to wear appropriate clothing and shoes.

If your project requires any digging, call 811 or visit [sc811.org](http://sc811.org) to have Fairfield Electric and other local utilities mark where any underground lines exist.

Be cautious with power tools.

Annually, 8% of electrocutions in the U.S. are attributed to improper use of power tools. The Electrical Safety Foundation International offers the following safety tips:

- ▶ Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) with every power tool to protect against electrical shock.
- ▶ Never use power tools near live electrical wires or water pipes.
- ▶ Use extreme caution when cutting or drilling into walls where electrical wires or water pipes could be accidentally touched or penetrated.
- ▶ If a power tool trips a safety device while in use, take the tool to a manufacturer-authorized repair center for service.
- ▶ Do not use power tools without the proper guards.
- ▶ When using a wet-dry vacuum cleaner or a pressure washer, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions to avoid electrical shock.

You should only tackle DIY home projects within your skill and comfort level. For projects that require extensive electrical work, we strongly recommend you hire a licensed, qualified electrician for assistance.

To learn more about electrical safety, visit our website at [Fairfield.coop](http://Fairfield.coop).

## Fairfield Electric Annual Meeting

Monday, May 17 through Friday, May 21

Due to concerns surrounding COVID-19, members will not attend the business meeting in person. The meeting will be livestreamed on the cooperative's website on May 21 at 6 p.m. Drive-thru registration and voting will be available at the sites shown to the right.

Please bring your registration form that was included in your Annual Meeting Notice. Registered members will be eligible for the prize drawings, which will be held at the conclusion of the business meeting.

Date & Time	Location
Monday, May 17 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Faith and Love Christian Center 540 Great Falls Hwy, Chester
Tuesday, May 18 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Trinity Baptist Church 1062 Ridgeway Rd., Lugoff
Wednesday, May 19 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Fairfield Electric's Blythewood Office 701 Blythewood Rd., Blythewood
Thursday, May 20 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Fairfield Electric's Winnsboro Office 3129 Hwy 321 North, Winnsboro
Friday, May 21 7 a.m. to noon	Fairfield Electric's Winnsboro Office 3129 Hwy 321 North, Winnsboro