



August/September 2025

UPCO news

Mark your calendar!

Upon EMC's 88th Annual Meeting of Members

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Thomaston-Upon Civic Center,
101 Civic Center Drive,
Thomaston, Georgia

Registration: 9-11 a.m.
Business Meeting: 11 a.m.



Important Annual Meeting information

In order to facilitate the orderly transaction of business at the Annual Meeting of the cooperative, any members desiring to address the members at the Annual Meeting, or to ask questions of management of the cooperative at the Annual Meeting should contact Brooke Parrott at the office of the cooperative seven (7) days prior to the Annual Meeting to secure a place on the agenda. Comments and questions should be limited to subjects directly affecting the affairs of the cooperative and are subject to a maximum time limit of three (3) minutes.

Local civic nonprofit organizations shall be allowed to place an exhibit booth at the Annual Meeting and distribute or offer items (other than food or inappropriate items) for sale prior to the beginning or after adjournment of the Annual Meeting. Such organizations should contact Brooke Parrott at the cooperative's office prior to the day of the Annual Meeting. Upson EMC reserves the right to limit the number, size and content of exhibit booths.

Join us for a day of community, connection and celebration as Upson EMC hosts its 88th Annual Meeting of Members! This important yearly event is more than just a meeting. It's a gathering of the people who power our cooperative.

Here's what's in store:

- **Meet and greet:** Chat with local businesses, community organizations and fellow members.
- **First 500 members receive a free gift!** What is it? That's our little surprise.
- **Hear from leadership:** President and CEO Ken Simmons will share a brief update on the state of the cooperative.
- **Get involved:** Members will vote to elect two directors to the board.
- **Win big:** Every attending member gets a chance to win one of over 40 exciting door prizes, including home appliances, artwork, gift cards, bill credits and even a flat-screen TV!



Who owns what?

Understanding electric equipment responsibilities

By Alan Wainwright, Operations Manager, Upson EMC

As August rolls in with rising temperatures, it also brings the increased potential for severe weather. Summer storms can arrive quickly and hit hard, sometimes causing significant damage to essential electric equipment throughout our community.

Upson EMC is always prepared to respond swiftly to outages and safely restore power, but it is also important for homeowners to understand which parts of the electric system are their responsibility and which are maintained by us at the co-op. Understanding these key differences can help speed up repairs and ensure everyone stays safe when the weather turns rough.

Upson EMC is responsible for maintaining and repairing the equipment and lines that run to your home, including utility poles, distribution power lines, electric meters and pad-mounted transformers.



Members are responsible for the equipment located between the electric meter and your home or business, including the meter base socket and service panel. Members are also responsible for the weatherhead and service mast located outside the home.

If any equipment that you (the

homeowner) are responsible for is damaged, please call a licensed electrician to conduct the repairs. A professional electrician has the experience and know-how to assess and manage these types of repairs.

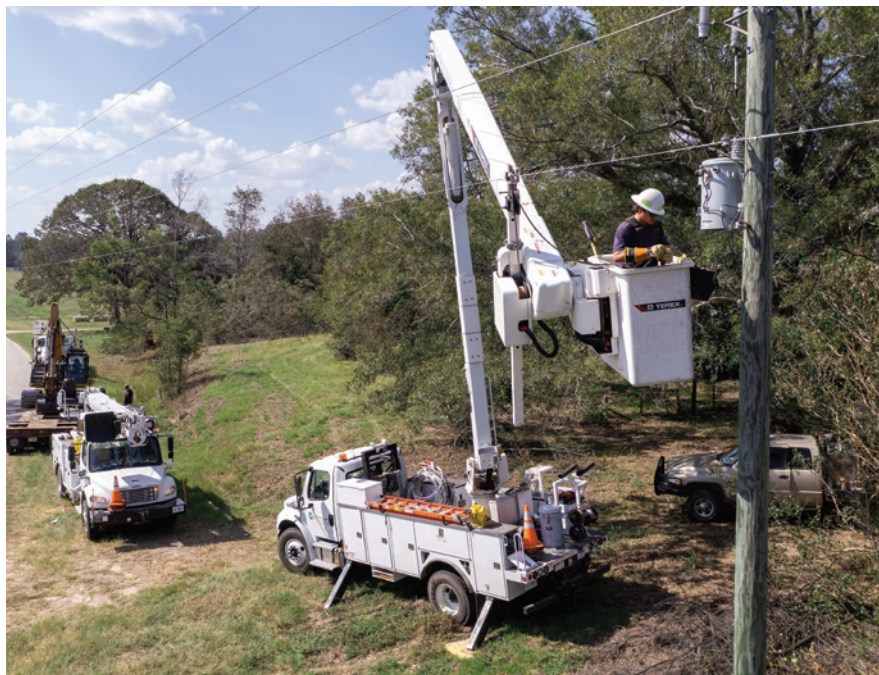
When severe weather damages electrical equipment, it's important to note that any necessary repairs to the homeowner's equipment must be conducted before our crew can restore power to your home or business. By understanding the equipment you are responsible for, the repair and restoration process will be smoother and faster.

Our community takes great pride in the beautiful trees and landscaping that contribute to the natural beauty where we live, however, regular trimming is essential to ensure reliable electric service and minimize damage from severe weather. Upson EMC regularly maintains and trims trees throughout our service territory to improve service reliability. If you spot a tree limb that is obstructing a distribution power line outside your home, please call our office so we can trim those limbs and maintain those lines.

Any overgrown limbs or vegetation around the service line is the homeowner's responsibility, and in these cases, please call a professional tree trimming service to assist.

By working together to understand the essential equipment that powers daily life, we can all be better prepared to start the repair and restoration process if severe weather impacts our community.

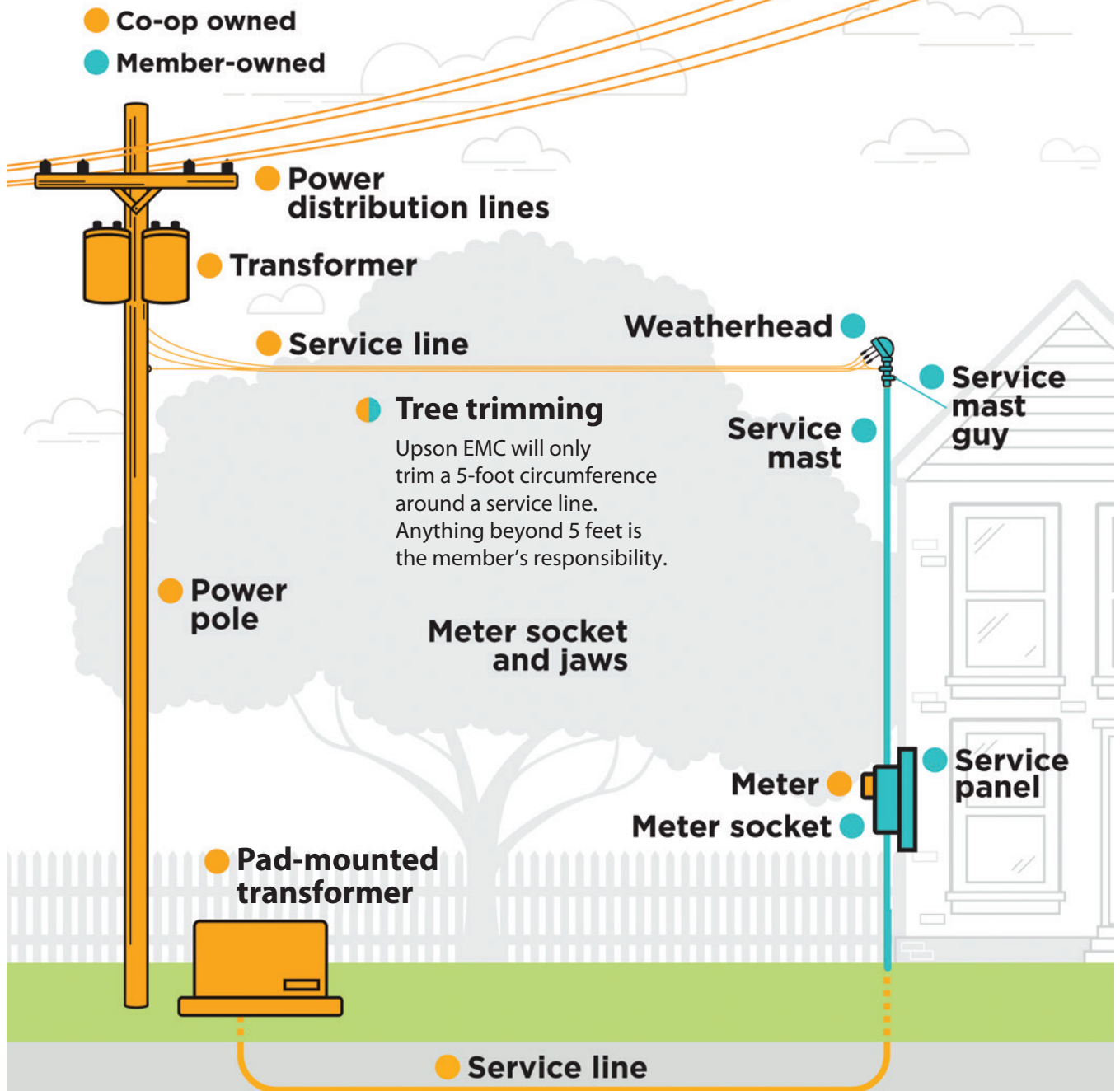
If you have any questions about your electrical equipment, we're here to help. Please call our office at (706) 647-5475.



Who owns what?

Electric co-op owned equipment vs member-owned equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.



Note: This graphic depicts overhead and underground service. Please be aware of which type of service you receive at your home.

Understanding your 2024 patronage capital assignment

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, Upson EMC operates differently from traditional utilities. Instead of generating profits for shareholders, we operate at cost—returning any excess revenue, known as *margins*, back to you, our members, in the form of *capital credits*.

When you join Upson EMC, we create a capital credits account in your name. Throughout the year, we track how much electricity you use. Once the year ends and all financial obligations are settled, we determine if any margins remain. These margins are then allocated to members based on how much each member paid for electricity (excluding sales tax).

This annual allocation increases your capital credits balance. These credits remain in your account even if you move, and they help fund improvements and maintenance of the electrical system—keeping service reliable and rates as low as possible.

Each year, the Upson EMC Board of Directors reviews our financial health to decide whether a portion of these capital credits can be *retired*, or paid out to members.

In addition to margins earned directly by Upson EMC, we also

$$\frac{\text{2024 total operating margins} + \text{2024 total associated organizations}}{\text{2024 total sales of electric energy}} = \frac{\$ 2,868,025}{\$ 17,844,262} = 0.160725$$

2024 Patronage Capital Assignment Factors

		Example if your total bills were: (excluding taxes)		
	Allocation Factor	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,000
Patronage capital assigned for Upson EMC	0.109077	\$54.54	\$109.08	\$218.15
Patronage capital assigned from associated organizations	0.051648	\$25.82	\$51.65	\$103.30
Total patronage capital assigned	0.160725	\$80.36	\$160.73	\$321.45

receive margins from associated organizations we partner with, such as the Cooperative Finance Corp., GRESCO, Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, Meridian Cooperative and Cooperative

Response Center. These are also allocated to your account using the same method.

This unique system reflects the cooperative difference: You're not just a customer, you're an owner.



Holiday office closing

Upson EMC's office will be closed on Monday, September 1, 2025, in observance of Labor Day.