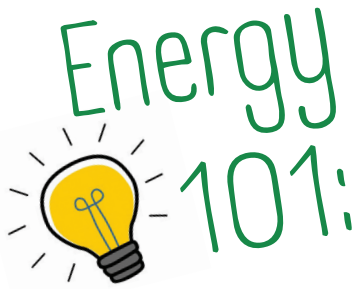


# Energy Lines

The official publication of Flint Energies

May 2026



## Understanding power surges and blinks

**Have you ever noticed your lights blink during a thunderstorm? Or perhaps you've noticed a blinking microwave clock when you arrive home.** When this happens, you've likely experienced a brief disruption to your electric service, which could result from a power surge or blink. While the symptoms of surges and blinks can appear similar, what's happening behind the scenes can be quite different.

### What's a power surge?

Power surges are brief overvoltage spikes or disturbances of a power waveform that can damage, degrade or destroy electronic equipment within your home or business. Most electronics are designed to handle small variations in voltage; however, power surges can reach amplitudes of tens of thousands of volts, which can be extremely damaging to your electronic equipment.

Surges can be caused by internal sources like HVAC systems with variable frequency drives or external sources like lightning and damage to power lines and transformers.

Flint Energies encourages all members to install surge protective devices (such as surge protector power strips) to safeguard your sensitive electronics. If you're experiencing frequent surges in your home or business and you believe the cause is internal, contact a qualified electrician to inspect your electrical system.

### What's a power blink?

Power blinks are also brief service interruptions, but they're typically caused by a fault (short circuit) on a power line or a protective device that's working in reaction to the fault. Faults can occur through a variety of instances, such as squirrels, birds or other small animals contacting an energized power line; tree branches touching a power line; or lightning and other similar events. In fact, when it comes to power disruptions caused by critters, squirrels reign supreme. In 2025 alone, squirrels were responsible for more than 1,200 outages.

Any of the above-noted events can cause your power to blink, but you may also experience a brief interruption when protective devices that act like circuit breakers are working to detect the fault. Believe it or not, these brief power blinks caused by protective devices are actually good because that means the equipment is working as it should to prevent a prolonged outage.

Regardless of the cause, Flint Energies crews will be on their way to inspect the damage and make necessary repairs after a power outage. And you can help, too. Any time you experience repeated disruptions to your electric service, please let us know by calling 1.888.354.6836, or report it through the Flint Energies app or through your Member account online at [flintenergies.com](https://flintenergies.com).

# Clearing the path to reliability

## Trees are majestic, beautiful and good for the soul.

But we know that Flint Energies Members depend on us to deliver reliable power to their homes and businesses. That's why Flint Energies strives to balance maintaining the beautiful surroundings we all cherish with ensuring reliable electricity. You might not realize it, but there are several benefits to regular tree trimming.

Keeping power lines clear of overgrown vegetation improves service reliability. After all, we've seen the whims of Mother Nature during severe weather events when fallen tree limbs take down power lines and utility poles. While many factors can impact power disruptions, about half of all outages can be attributed to overgrown vegetation. This is why you sometimes see Flint Energies crews or contractors trimming trees near power lines. Our trimming crews have been trained and certified based on the latest industry standards.

In fact, all U.S. electric utilities are required to trim trees that grow too close to power lines. Scheduled trimming throughout the year keeps lines clear of overgrown or dead limbs that are likely to fall, and we are better prepared for severe weather events. Plus, we all know it's more

cost-effective to undertake preventive maintenance than it is to make repairs later.

Working near power lines can be dangerous, and we care about your safety and that of our lineworkers. If trees or limbs fall over or touch power lines in our Members' yards, they can pose a grave danger to families. If children can reach 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.

As a co-op, Flint Energies always strives to keep costs down for our Members. If trees and other vegetation are left unchecked, they can become overgrown and expensive to correct. A strategic vegetation management program helps keep costs down for everyone.

When it comes to vegetation management, there are ways you can help, too. When planting new trees, plant them a safe distance from overhead power lines. Medium-height trees (40 feet or shorter) should be planted at least 25 feet from power lines. Taller trees (over 40 feet) should be planted at least 50 feet from power lines. You can also practice safe planting near pad-mounted transformers. Plant shrubs

at least 10 feet from the transformer door and 4 feet from the sides. If your neighborhood has underground lines, remember to contact Georgia 811 before you begin any project that requires digging.

If you spot an overgrown tree or branch that's dangerously close to overhead lines, please let Flint Energies know by contacting us at 800.342.3616.

We have deep roots in our community, and we love our beautiful surroundings. It takes a balanced approach, and our vegetation management program is a crucial tool in ensuring service reliability.

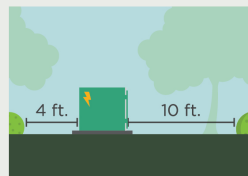
## 3 Ways to Help Limit Tree Trimming

Did you know electric utilities are required to trim trees and other types of vegetation that grow too close to overhead power lines? We know you love your trees, and we will do everything we can to avoid trimming them. Here's how you can help:

**1. Plant trees in the right place.** Trees that will be <40 ft. should be planted at least 25 ft. away from power lines (>40ft. should be at least 50 ft. away).



**2. Don't block pad-mounted transformers.** Plant shrubs at least 10 ft. away from transformer doors and 4 ft. from transformer sides.



**3. Report dangerous branches.** If you spot a tree or branch that is dangerously close to power lines, please let us know.



**Trimming improves safety for all.  
Let's work together to enjoy the beauty of trees and reliable electricity.**

# Powered by people:



## EMPOWER Program inspires the next generation of leaders

**Another successful year of the EMPOWER Flint Energies Rural Regional Youth Leadership Program has come to a close, leaving a lasting impact on the students who participated and the communities they represent.** Throughout this year's program, 35 high school juniors were immersed in experiences designed to foster leadership discovery and personal growth. From identifying their unique strengths to learning how to effectively lead others, students gained valuable skills that will serve them well into the future.

"Each year, EMPOWER continues to grow, and it's clear the true impact comes from the students themselves—sharing how the program has opened their eyes, created meaningful relationships and provided life-changing experiences," says Natalie Bradley, Flint Energies Community Relations Specialist. "Rooted in the cooperative difference, we simply help unlock their potential by listening, challenging and empowering them to recognize the value they bring to their communities."

Participants also explored the importance of community and economic development in rural areas. Through hands-on learning and discussions with local leaders, students gained a deeper understanding of how small communities can thrive through innovation, strategic planning and strong local partnerships.

The program concluded with a trip to the state capital, where students had the opportunity to see government in action. This experience helped them connect what they learned throughout the program to real-world, decision-making and civic responsibility, inspiring many to consider how they can play a role in shaping the future of their communities.

The EMPOWER cohort continues to equip the next generation of leaders with the knowledge, skills and passion needed to make a meaningful difference—right where they are.



**CALL US**  
1.800.342.3616

**REPORT AN OUTAGE**  
1.888.354.6836  
[flintenergies.com](http://flintenergies.com)

**VISIT US**  
Monday through Friday  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays

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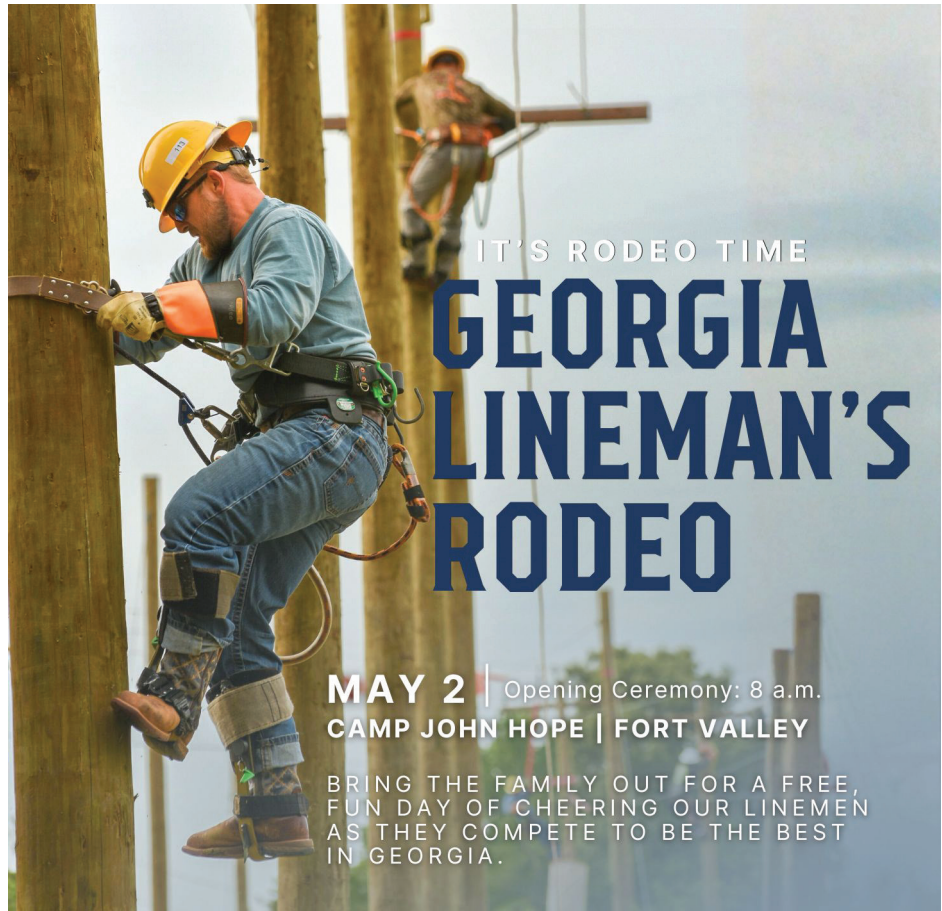
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**HOLIDAY NOTICE:** Flint offices will be closed Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.

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Blair Brown, CCC, Editor/Designer



IT'S RODEO TIME  
**GEORGIA  
LINEMAN'S  
RODEO**

**MAY 2** | Opening Ceremony: 8 a.m.  
**CAMP JOHN HOPE | FORT VALLEY**

BRING THE FAMILY OUT FOR A FREE, FUN DAY OF CHEERING OUR LINEMEN AS THEY COMPETE TO BE THE BEST IN GEORGIA.

**PRODUCT CONTENT LABEL**

The product is sold in blocks of 150 kilowatt-hours (kWh). The product will be made up of the following renewable resources:

Green-e Energy Certified New <sup>3</sup> Renewables in Flint Energies Green Power Program			Generation Location
	2025 <sup>1</sup> Historical	2026 <sup>2</sup> Prospective	
-Biomass	100%	100%	Georgia
-Geothermal	0%	0%	
-Eligible hydroelectric	0%	0%	
-Solar	0%	0%	
-Wind	0%	0%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

- The 2025 figures reflect the resources that were supplied for the year ending December 31, 2025.
- The 2026 figures are prospective and reflect the power that we have contracted to provide. Actual figures may vary according to resource availability. We will annually report to you before August 1 of next year in the form of a Historic Product Content Label the actual resource mix of the electricity you purchased.
- New Renewables come from generation facilities that first began commercial operation within the past 15 years. This product includes generation from a facility that began commercial operation within the past 15 years or is approved for extended use by Green-e Energy.

For comparison, the 2025 average mix of resources supplying Flint Energies includes: natural gas (78%), nuclear (3.9%), coal (5%), solar (10%), hydroelectric (2.8%) and landfill biomass (0.3%).

Monthly electricity consumption per residential customer averaged 865 kWh in 2024. [Source: U.S. EIA, 2025]

For specific information about this electricity product, please contact Flint Energies at (800) 342-3616, [mmclemore@flintemc.com](mailto:mmclemore@flintemc.com), [flintenergies.com/renewable-energy](http://flintenergies.com/renewable-energy).



Green-e Energy certifies that Flint Energies Green Power Program meets the environmental and consumer protection standards established by the nonprofit Center for Resource Solutions. For more information on Green-e Energy certification requirements, visit [green-e.org](http://green-e.org).