

CHELCO crews work through the night during South Walton wildfire



CHELCO crews worked through the night during the wildfires in May.

Dry weather and high winds created dangerous conditions for a fast-moving wildfire that swept through more than 600 acres and damaged or destroyed approximately 59 homes in Santa Rosa Beach in May, according to the Walton County Sheriff's Office.

The fire began affecting our lines around 7 p.m. on May 7, and by 8 p.m. lines were de-energized between Thompson Road and Highway 393 at the request of the South Walton Fire Department.

The CHELCO team worked around the clock to ensure that our members were safe from the potential dangers of the fire interfering with our lines. As soon as it was safe to do so, crews began replacing damaged poles to get power restored as quickly as possible, and power was backfed to members whose homes were not in the fire's path, minimizing our outages that night.

CHELCO, Southland Utility Services and Volt Power worked through the night and into the next day restoring power to approximately 1,500 meter locations.

Our response was recognized by local writer Sean Dietrich, who described our teamwork with local authorities as "the largest choreographed wildfire operations our county has ever seen."

Our team's efforts also drew praise from Jimmy Patronis, Florida's Chief Financial Officer and State Fire Marshal.

"Impressive rapid response by CHELCO in South Walton County," Patronis wrote on Twitter. "Around the clock, making a difference, helping people get back home."

By the next afternoon, power had been restored to all homes that were able to receive electricity. Thank you to all who were involved in these efforts; your dedication does not go unnoticed.

Executive Update

Offices set to reopen

Our offices have been closed to the public for nearly three months, and it's finally time to reopen. With most employees back on site by June 8, our announced reopen date is June 15, and disconnects will resume on June 24. All dates are tentative.

Lobby Changes

When we reopen, we will ask members to limit only one person per transaction in our offices and to maintain at least six feet of separation. Hand sanitizing stations will be available and frequently-touched surfaces will be cleaned regularly. We will also offer masks and gloves to those who request them.

PTO Updates - COVID-19

Employees may now take up to four days of PTO within 10 business days. All PTO requests must be supervisor approved.

Kudos

Emily Cowan sends a huge thank you to **Larry Tankersley** for driving her around the site of the devastating wildfire in the south end of Walton County in May. "I want to give a big shout-out to Larry for taking time to escort me through the aftermath of the fires," Emily said. "He had already worked so many hours the night before, but he took time to show me around the site so I could see the damage and take pictures. You rock, Larry!"

The Eglin team sends kudos to **Ray Lytle and the IT Department** for solving their recent plotter issue and fixing their Shoretel line extensions. "Ray did an excellent job troubleshooting and then finding the solution to get the plotter back up and running," the Eglin team said. "We also appreciate IT for resolving our 4-digit line extension issue. The Eglin team appreciates Ray's and IT's continued support."

Facilities team to the rescue! Thank you to the facilities maintenance team for their ingenuity and engineering skills on the project to install safety barriers (below) at the DeFuniak Springs office. Well done, team!



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Offices reopening: Talking points if you get questions

Please refer to this guide as your "cheat sheet" in case you're asked questions from members that you may not have been expecting. **If you don't know the answer, tell them to call us at (850) 892-2111 and speak with a Member Service Rep.**

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Why didn't CHELCO give discounts like Gulf Power?
A: CHELCO made a special retirement of \$1.4 million in capital credits, which were returned to members in the form of a bill credit or check.

Q: Why can't you absorb the amount I owe?
A: If we absorbed all amounts from nonpaying members, other members must pay the difference and rates might go up.

Q: Why are you resuming disconnects?
A: We need to return to regular account management to control debt, but we are offering lenient payment arrangements to help members catch up on their balance before being disconnected.

CHELCO Family

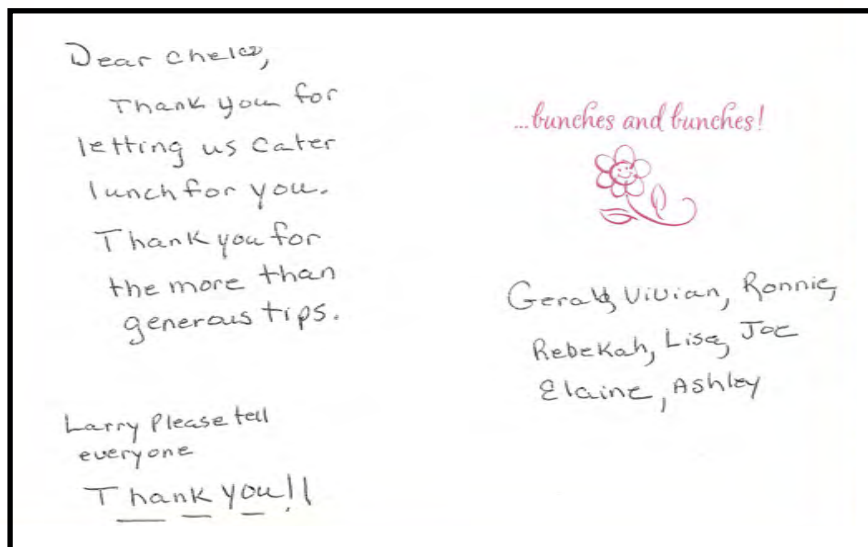


Congratulations to **Bella Murley**, daughter of Shane Schiller, for establishing the new USA Powerlifting Florida State record for raw squat in two separate age and weight divisions. Bella attends the United States Military Academy at West Point and is a member of the powerlifting team.



Congratulations to **Holden Mitchell**, son of Matthew Mitchell, for his acceptance into the U.S. Marines' Semper Fidelis All-American Program, which recognizes high school students who face life's battles with the conviction and determination to succeed.

Simply Good BBQ sends handwritten "Thank You"



Since we began our weekly support for local restaurants, we've raised over \$15,700 as of June 1 and have gotten appreciation, gratitude and kind words from each restaurant.

Recently, we received a letter from Simply Good BBQ thanking us for our generous support in using them to cater lunch for our employees on April 24.

"Dear CHELCO," the letter said. "Thank you for letting us cater lunch for you. Thank you for the more than generous tips. -Gerald, Vivian, Ronnie, Rebekah, Lisa, Joe, Elaine, Ashley."

Kind words and simple gestures like these remind us that we are making a difference in our community.

Milestones

Birthdays

Betty Sims	June 1
Steve Rhodes	June 2
Joseph Gates	June 2
Stephanie Jordan	June 3
Kisha Brinson	June 4
Dana Godwin	June 4
Jason Nowling	June 7
Clint Fowler	June 11
Kevin Jones	June 11
Austin Dunlap	June 11
Ricky Collinsworth	June 15
Amy Honish	June 15
Bruce Cosson	June 17
Kathy Davis	June 21
Steven Rodriguez	June 24
Alannah Anderson	June 25
Cindy Gless	June 25
Tarrant Bowles	June 28
Andrew Thomas	June 30

Service Anniversaries

Lyvonnica Green	13 years, June 4
Calob Vann	1 year, June 4
Gary Towery	16 years, June 9
Derrick Marshall	16 years, June 9
Ricky Rice	26 years, June 13
Casey Jones	3 years, June 21
Bruce Cosson	21 years, June 21
Kevin Carter	31 years, June 22
Lemoyne McKee	21 years, June 23
BJ Ealum	31 years, June 23
Tina Howell	29 years, June 24
Tim Lamica	17 years, June 25
Jeff Williams	2 years, June 25
Curtis King	9 years, June 27
Terri McLelland	32 years, June 27

Employee Spotlight



Cameron Davis

Cameron Davis recently completed his two-year engineering apprenticeship and is now an Engineering Representative. Before starting his two-year apprenticeship in Engineering, Cameron worked as a Meter Services Technician for CHELCO for five years. In his role as an Engineering Representative, he is responsible for designing high quality, well-integrated, reliable overhead and underground distribution power lines while striving to achieve member satisfaction. Congratulations, Cameron!

We're still collecting COVID-19 impact pictures. Please send them to Tyler Wood at twood@chelco.com.

Raving Fans

Joseph Gates, Jared Mauldin, Josh Dickinson, Michel Armbruster, Justin Yarbrough and Tyler Slay created a Raving Fan May 18 for the work they performed in Santa Rosa Beach. Ms. Sharon Gremald of Santa Rosa Beach wrote a letter to CHELCO complimenting their efficient work and professionalism.

Kevin Carter and Curtis King created a Raving Fan April 30 and May 1 for going above and beyond when assisting a member with an electrical issue. Mr. Keith Pugh of Blue Mountain Road shared a letter of commendation: "Thank you for responding so quickly and efficiently to our electrical issues. Within about an hour of making a call to CHELCO, Kevin and Curtis arrived to check it out for us... Kevin gave up his Saturday morning to work with an electrician to disconnect the power from the house so repairs could be made. We commend him for his dedication to his job."

Brock Bishop, Caleb Garrett, Glenn Garrett, Jason Nowling, Jeff Truett, Kale Gomillion, Shane Boone, Tyler Slay, Kevin Carter, Curtis King, BJ Ealum, Andrew Thomas, Dan Paul, Dusty Taylor, Chance Pitts, Larry Tankersley and Kevin Wilkerson created a Raving Fan for their hard work through the night of the wildfire in Santa Rosa Beach. Firefighter Kevin MacDonald said, "I want everyone to remember to thank the unspoken heroes that were out working alongside firefighters in the fire. The CHELCO linemen were out in the thick of it replacing burnt power poles all night. Thank you guys!"

CHELCO welcomes new employees



Huston Funk was recently hired as our new Materials Supervisor. Huston previously worked for Transocean Offshore Drilling as a senior materials coordinator. At CHELCO, he will manage the inventory of all cooperative warehouses and stock rooms. Welcome to the CHELCO team, Huston!



Kevin Tippet recently joined CHELCO as an HR Intern. Senior Master Sergeant Kevin Tippet is retiring from the United States Air Force. He recently served as the corporate level human resources manager and superintendent for training on Eglin Air Force Base. At CHELCO, he will be interning under HR & Training. Welcome to the CHELCO team, Kevin!

Water. Rest. Shade. Stay safe in the Florida heat

As the weather heats up, it's important to remember to keep safe while working in Florida's summer heat. Follow these tips from OSHA.gov to stay safe, hydrated and healthy this summer.

Consume plenty of liquids, preferably water and sports drinks like Gatorade.

Take breaks often to allow your body to recover from prolonged work in the intense heat.

Seek shade and try to work in it when possible. Constant exposure to the sun can be dangerous, and occasionally deadly.

For more information on how to stay safe in the summer heat, contact HR or visit OSHA.gov.

Get fit with NRECA discounts

The NRECA National Discounts program is waiving the \$25 enrollment fee for the Active & Fit Direct online fitness on-demand exercises. For \$25/month, you can gain access to over 800 Fitness on-demand programs, healthy living coaching and local gyms. Use code ACTNOW25. Visit the NRECA National Discounts Program at www.cooperative.com to sign up.

**DAYS SINCE LAST
LOST TIME INJURY 301**

**AS OF
June 1, 2020**

Safety team members: Matthew Mitchell, Betty Sims, Jason Price, Joe Hollington, Joe Spaid, Matt Rushing, Lyvonnica Green, Tim Marlow, Ricky Brassell, Kevin Wilkerson, Susan Wilkinson, Gary Towery and Scott Cromartie.

PLUGGED IN