

**NEWS RELEASE
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For additional information, contact:
Carroll EMC
Susan Lester, Member Services Manager
(770) 830-5765
susan.lester@cemc.com

CARROLL EMC HELP PROTECT AMERICA'S HIGHWAYS

On July 1, electric membership corporation (EMC) personnel, including employees with Carroll EMC, joined thousands of other commercial drivers license (CDL) holders across the country to obtain training through the Highway Watch program, a new training program created by the Department of Homeland Security.

The purpose of the program is to encourage an important part of the community-- commercial truck drivers—to keep a watchful eye on America's roads, highways and thoroughfares.

According to Chip Jakins, with Carroll EMC, co-op personnel represent a large part of this group, since many EMC linemen drive and operate commercial trucks.

“In the wake of September 11, we have to ask ourselves, ‘what would happen if our roads, bridges, tunnels and facilities were compromised or destroyed by people intending to harm us’?,” Jakins says. “This training prepares EMC employees to take notice of suspicious activity and notify the authorities, if the need arises.”

According to Department of Homeland Security officials, CDL holders represent three percent of the nation's population, so having this group watch and monitor the nation's highways is another strategy to detect the threat of terrorist activity.

The new Georgia law, which went into affect July 1, requires CDL holders to complete Highway Watch training in order to renew or apply for a new CDL. Some Carroll EMC personnel completed the Highway Watch training on July 26. Another training session is scheduled for August 22, 2006.

Highway Watch® trains transportation professionals like EMC linemen, commercial truck drivers, highway workers, city transit workers, bus drivers, law enforcement personnel and first responders to recognize and respond to potential safety and terrorist activity they may witness in the normal course of doing their jobs.

Once trained, Highway Watch participants can contact emergency personnel through a special telephone hotline - providing emergency responders with precise location and incident information. A trained operator at the Highway Watch Call Center verifies the participant's identity (each participant has a unique Highway Watch ID number) and location and then routes the call to the appropriate law enforcement authorities. Also, if a call is security-related, a report of the incident is forwarded to the Highway Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC) where it is shared with intelligence officials and other law enforcement agencies.

The Highway Watch® program will be offered at no cost and available through classroom training and self study modules available in DVD and VHS, by request.

Carroll EMC is a consumer owned cooperative providing electricity to more than 47,000 meters in Carroll, Haralson, Heard, Paulding, Polk, Troup, and Floyd counties.

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