

Ready Yourself For  
Stormy Weather

*Share Scrumptious Recipes*

# JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

February 2015

RESTORING  
YOUR POWER

**FAST**



## Weather: The Unknown Variable



President/CEO  
Chip Jakins

*Chip Jakins*

Weather is the single biggest variable affecting your power. It has the largest impact on your bill and is the most likely cause of an outage. Unfortunately, it is beyond our control. But we can be prepared for stormy weather, and we are.

We know that when it is your power, one minute is too long. We agree: Any outage is too long. Power outages can interrupt business, delay school openings and make it much more difficult to live your life comfortably. Making our system less vulnerable to weather-related outages is a priority, as is reducing the time it takes to restore power after an outage occurs.

Two years ago, we completed a system-wide upgrade to smart meters. These meters installed on customer homes and places of business allow us to more-precisely pinpoint where on the system an outage has occurred so we can get it fixed faster. Through a sophisticated network of about 213,000 AMI meters and computerized systems – Outage Management, Geographic Information, Customer Information, Supervisory Data Control and Acquisition – we monitor the flow of electricity through the 79 substations, more than 13,500 miles of energized wire and thousands of pieces of equipment that deliver power to our members' homes and businesses constantly. These systems allow us to quickly identify and respond to outages, remotely engaging equipment or dispatching crews to make repairs. Coupled with line automation improvements, smart meters reduced outage time by five percent in 2014.

A new automated distribution project begun last year will continue to improve our ability to respond to outages. Through this multi-year project, we will replace around 200 manually-operated switches with reclosers. These automated devices monitor the current in the line and operate independently, as well as remotely by our System Control Center, to keep the power on. Once installed, they will help keep more members from losing power in the first place, and restore power more quickly when outages do occur.

We are also adding four new substations and upgrading more than 60 miles of transmission lines. We are doubling and tripling the lines running between our 79 substations

to create a redundant system that improves reliability. Infrared technology is used to examine our substations and ensure all the parts and pieces are in top working order, limiting equipment failure.

The biggest threat to the power supply in a storm is falling trees and tree limbs. A vigorous right of way maintenance program ensures that those are kept trimmed as far away as possible from our lines. We have 26 crews trimming back limbs and trees every day.

The causes of some outages, such as wind or the occasional ice storm, are out of our control. But we do everything we can to limit the damage Mother Nature can throw at our distribution system. And when our best efforts to avoid outages fail, we have a comprehensive Emergency Restoration Plan that swings into action, mobilizing employees and equipment to respond to widespread power outages in an orderly, effective manner to get the lights back on.

As advanced as our systems have become, we could not serve you without the trained professionals we employ. Our job is to keep the electricity flowing no matter the circumstances. To do that, we rely on those who are in the field, as well as those at work in the local offices. We have hundreds of employees who gladly answer your calls and meet with you in person, monitor outages and dispatch crews from the control center, stock trucks and those who put on heavy coats, wield chainsaws and work long into the cold night repairing lines to restore your power. I am thankful for their dedication every day, but especially during emergencies. ⚡

**On the Cover:** North Georgia is susceptible to all kinds of threatening weather, none quite as damaging as ice. On January 23, 2000, an ice storm hit our service-area causing an outage that ultimately affected 83,106 customers.

### JEMCO news

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## onlinef@cts

### LEARN WHETHER WEATHER AFFECTS YOUR BILL Complete your Home Profile

Jackson EMC customers can learn more about how they use energy and ways to cut costs by completing an online energy profile. Using your account number, the Jackson EMC Home Fitness Monitor can produce a comprehensive energy report with your answers to a few questions. Your results will tell you how much of your energy dollar is spent heating the air inside your home or cooling it down in summer. You'll also see how much you spend powering your TVs and running your dishwasher too. Monthly reports will help keep you in the know about how changes in weather impact your energy use.

Right now, when you sign up for Track My Progress, create your Home Profile and set energy saving goals, you'll automatically be entered to win a \$1,000 shopping spree at Academy Sports + Outdoors or a Fitbit Flex.

Go to [www.jacksonemc.com/challenge](http://www.jacksonemc.com/challenge) to get started.



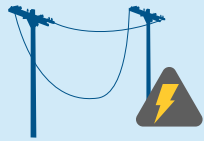
# Prepare for Winter Weather

Winter weather brings cooler temperatures and sometimes snow and ice that can knock power out. Stay safe in the event of a storm and follow these tips to prepare for an outage.



## BEFORE THE STORM:

- Create a Disaster Kit.
- If your water is pumped electrically, fill your bathtub and spare containers with water in case power goes off.
- Turn your refrigerator to its coldest setting. If the power goes out, this will keep food fresh longer. If your freezer is relatively empty, fill used plastic soda bottles or other plastic containers with water and put them in the freezer. During an extended outage, transfer some of the containers to your refrigerator.
- Individual households may receive special attention if loss of electricity affects life-support systems or poses immediate danger. If you or a family member depends on life support, inform your co-op before a power outage happens.



## IF THERE IS AN OUTAGE:

- Report outages and downed wires to Jackson EMC.
- Treat all downed power lines as dangerous. Always assume fallen power lines are energized and stay at least 10 feet away from lines and any nearby objects they may be touching. Never attempt to move power lines. Never touch a person or object that is in contact with a downed line; call 911.

**WARNING:** If you need to use a generator to energize your refrigerator or other necessary electric device, plug directly into a generator and not into your house so you don't feed electricity back on the line, unintentionally putting linemen at risk and causing a cascading outage once power is restored.



## INSIDE THE HOUSE:

- Unplug everything. As electricity is restored, it may create power surges that can destroy electronics. Leave one light switched on so you know when power has returned.
- Don't use candles. Flashlights produce more light and won't burn your house down. Bring solar landscape lights inside for extra light. Don't forget to put them out for recharging during the day.
- Keep the fridge closed. The less you open fridge and freezer doors, the longer your food will stay cold. Put an appliance thermometer in the fridge and freezer. (The fridge will keep food properly cold for four hours if unopened. A full freezer will hold temperature for 48 hours; 24 hours if it is half full and the door remains closed.)



## AT THE OFFICE:

- Unplug motor-driven appliances and sensitive electronic equipment such as computers, printers and copiers in order to avoid an electrical overload when power returns.
- Make sure heat-producing equipment has been switched off or unplugged before you leave the building. If such equipment comes back on when power is restored and employees are out of the building, it could cause a fire.

Listen to local radio stations or check your Jackson EMC mobile app for status reports about affected areas and power restoration activities.

**outage.jacksonemc.com**  
**1-800-245-4044**  
**mobile.jacksonemc.com**

# Prepare a 72-Hour Survival Kit

No. The zombies aren't coming – unless you know something we don't. But, a severe storm can knock out power in your area leaving you without heat, running water or a way to cook food. It's a good idea to put together an emergency supply in case of an emergency. Remember: children don't like to be in the dark.

## A basic emergency supply kit could include the following items:

- Battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio.
- Water: a gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation.
- Non-perishable, ready-to-eat food.
- First-aid kit – including prescription medications.
- Manual can opener.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- Tools: wrench, pliers, hammer and screwdriver to turn off utilities.
- Paper and pencil.
- Cellphone with car charger, battery pack or solar charger.
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person.
- Complete change of clothes for each person.
- Cash and credit cards.
- Photocopies of important family documents (insurance policies, identification and bank account records) in a waterproof, portable container.
- Books, games, cards or puzzles for entertainment.
- Moist towelettes and garbage bags for sanitation.
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap and other personal items.
- Pet food and extra water for your pet.



# How the Power

Lights out? Chances are, weather caused it. Sixty-five percent of power outages for Jackson EMC members are triggered by the weather. Winter ice storms, a string of tornadoes or a summer downpour after weeks of drought can disrupt the flow of energy powering our homes, schools, businesses and factories.

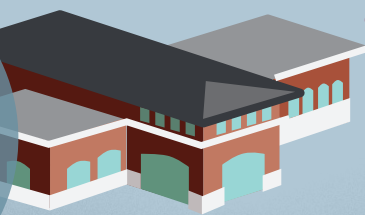
Line crews battle the elements to find problem areas and restore service as quickly and safely as possible. Generally, the first lines to fail are the first to be repaired but efforts are made to restore power to the

largest number of members as quickly as possible. Then, crews fix problems affecting smaller groups of members. Workers have to find the problem, then they follow a series of steps to bring the lights back on.

**1 Smart meters** connect to our integrated computer system and provide a steady flow of information to our 24/7 system control center.



**2 System Control** is monitored 24/7 by technicians who manage the service for all of JEMC's 215,000+ members. These employees also pay close attention to the weather and the larger electric grid energizing the lines. This attention allows them to plan for potential risks to your energy supply and possibly repair lines before you ever realize an outage has occurred.



**3 Line crews** are dispatched from district offices to repair the lines once a problem is recorded through our outage management system or a customer calls to report an outage. Day or night, linemen work long hours, often in hazardous weather, to restore your power.

Last year, 46 Jackson EMC linemen pitched in 1,636 hours to help four other Georgia EMCs whose distribution system was impacted by weather.



**10 Lights on.** Providing you with power is our top priority. We work to keep your power on 24/7, 365.

**9 Service entrance,** or the lines that carry power from the meter to the wiring inside your house may be damaged as well. A licensed electrician will need to make those repairs to safely restore power to your home.



**?** Did you know?

**½ inch of ice** can add up to **500 pounds** of extra weight on the power lines.



# is Restored

**4** **Transmission towers** and cables that supply power to thousands of consumers rarely fail. But when damage occurs, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

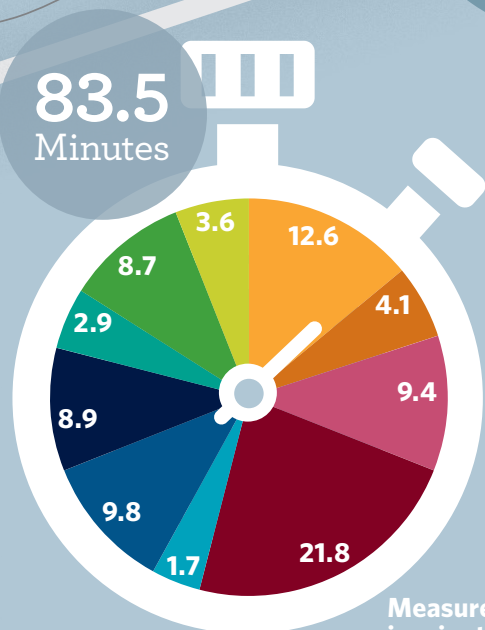
**5** **Distribution substations** serve hundreds or thousands of members. JEMC has 79 substations. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to discover if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if there are problems down the line. Problems corrected at the substation often restore power to a large number of people at once.

**6** **Distribution lines** are inspected next. Extending from substations, these lines supply towns, housing developments and other large groups of customers

**8** **Individual homes and businesses** where damage has occurred to the service line between your house and the transformer are rare. In this instance, your neighbor's lights would be on while yours are still dark. Crews will repair your service once they've restored power for other large sections of customers.

**7** **Supply lines** or tap lines that deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools and homes are repaired next, bringing power back to those members farthest from the substation.

**83.5**  
Minutes



## What Causes An Outage?

Out of 525,949 minutes in a year, on average, a JEMC customer was without power for 83.5 minutes.

- Trees on lines due to wind or ice
- Weather
- Major storms
- Trees and limbs
- Wildlife
- Equipment failure
- Maintenance
- Power supplier
- Vehicle accidents
- Unknown/Other

\* 2013 Outage Minutes

**?** Did you know?

**45%** of outages last only seconds and are restored automatically by responsive equipment.

# FAST FACTS

- Nationally recognized program started by Palmetto EMC.
- 28 of Georgia's 42 EMCs participate; another 10 are considering.
- Participating members have monthly electric bill rounded up to the next even dollar amount; contribute about \$6 per year.
- Foundation funds administered by volunteer board of directors.
- Funds used for charitable organizations and individuals.
- Any individual or organization in any of the 10 counties served by Jackson EMC may apply; does not have to be a member.
- Grants are limited to \$15,000 for organizations and \$3,500 for individuals.
- Rounding up began in October 2005.
- Currently, more than 179,462 accounts participate in the program; 89 percent of the cooperative's 202,054 accounts.
- Members contribute an average total of \$88,500 each month.
- To date, the Jackson EMC Foundation has awarded 928 grants to organizations and 305 to individuals, totaling more than \$9.3 million.

Go to [www.jacksonemc.com/foundation](http://www.jacksonemc.com/foundation) for more information, a list of all grants awarded and downloadable applications. ▲



## operationroundup



### December Grants

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded a total of \$113,540 in grants to organizations during its December meeting, including \$104,000 to organizations and \$9,540 to individuals.

#### Organizational Grant Recipients:

**\$15,000** to the **Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry** for its Emergency Food Assistance Program, which provides clients with emergency food supplies, buying them time to deal with the difficult and frequently temporary circumstances they are facing and helping them get back on their feet.

**\$15,000** to the **Norcross Cooperative Ministry** for its Emergency Shelter Assistance Program, which provides up to four weeks stay at a local hotel for families that find themselves homeless.

**\$15,000** to the **North Gwinnett Cooperative Ministry** for its Medication Assistance Program, which covers the cost of non-narcotic/controlled substance prescriptions for senior citizens and families that qualify for assistance when the amount of medication is too much or the co-pays are too costly.

**\$10,000** to the **Eyes of Love Lighthouse Mission** in Buford, a grassroots ministry that collects and distributes clothes, food and furniture to those in need in Gwinnett, Hall, Barrow, Jackson and Clarke counties to help them get back on their feet

and to help with rent on the building used to house the mission's inventory.

**\$10,000** to the **Lilburn Cooperative Ministry** to provide 40 needy families with \$250 assistance for rent or mortgage payments annually, helping them to avoid foreclosure or eviction.

**\$10,000** to **I Am, Inc.** in Buford, to purchase supplies for the Gaining Insight & Real Life Skills (GIRLS) leadership development program for girls ages 10-18, aimed at reducing the instance of high-risk behaviors, increasing self-esteem and focusing on life skills that promote success, such as self-assessment, managing money, etiquette, goal-setting, public speaking and choosing a career.

**\$10,000** to **NOA's Ark**, a Dahlonega emergency shelter and comprehensive support program for women and children who have been the victims of domestic violence or sexual assault, to help fund a Trauma Counseling Service that provides individual and group counseling to reduce the risk of posttraumatic stress and other psychological problems.

**\$5,500** to **Citizen Advocacy - Clarke County**, a nonprofit agency that

develops one-to-one personal relationships between people with disabilities and local citizens for advocacy and protection, to help pay the salary of a part-time support coordinator.

**\$5,000** to **Nothing but the Truth**, a faith-based organization dedicated to meeting needs in the community, to purchase food for the Weekend Food Bag Ministry that provides food for the weekend to Gwinnett County public schoolchildren who have been identified by counselors as food insecure.

**\$4,000** to **Randy and Friends, Inc.**, a Gainesville nonprofit that employs adults with developmental disabilities, for a commercial-grade range, refrigerator/freezer and icemaker that will be used to expand the offerings of The Rooster's Perch Café, where clients work as well as display and sell crafts they have created.

**\$2,500** to **Books for Keeps**, an Athens nonprofit organization that works to improve children's reading achievement, for its Stop Summer Slide program, which provides books for summer reading to children in elementary schools where 90 percent or more of the students receive free or reduced lunches.

#### \$2,000 to Northeast Church Women's Mission Connection

in Braselton for its Backpack Buddies program that sends two main meals, breakfast choices, snacks, juice and shelf milk home each weekend with children in the West Jackson Primary, West Jackson Intermediate and Gum Springs Elementary schools who have been identified by counselors as being food insecure.

#### Individual Grant Recipients:

**\$3,500** to help rebuild the home of a **Banks County family** that is trying to rebuild after a fire destroyed their home.

**\$3,500** to help fund training for a service dog that will assist a **young man who has cerebral palsy and is legally blind** as he attends college next fall.

**\$2,540** to convert an existing shower/tub enclosure to a handicap accessible shower for a **disabled senior citizen**.

For more information about the Jackson EMC Foundation, or to apply for a grant, visit [www.jacksonemc.com/jemcfoundation](http://www.jacksonemc.com/jemcfoundation).

★ CALLING ALL CURRENT SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS ★

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JUNE 11-18, 2015

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- ★ Schools' applications deadline dates vary
- ★ Apply to your Leadership/Guidance Counselor's Office for more info and to be nominated
- ★ Visit [www.jacksonemc.com/youthtour](http://www.jacksonemc.com/youthtour) to learn more

**JACKSON**  
ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION™

## Apply Now for 2015 Washington Youth Tour

Spend a week with like-minded teens in Washington D.C., as one of Jackson EMC's delegates for the 2015 Washington Youth Tour, set for June 11-18. Applications for the 2015 tour are currently being accepted for this once-in-a-lifetime leadership experience.

Four students will be selected as delegates and will be given a free ticket for this leadership experience. High school sophomores and juniors will spend time with youth leaders from across the nation while they develop crucial leadership skills; visit noteworthy monuments, memorials and museums; see government in action; and meet state representatives at the Capitol.

Applications are available at [www.jacksonemc.com/wyt](http://www.jacksonemc.com/wyt). However, completed applications must be submitted to your school counselor or leadership contact. Area schools' deadlines vary. Check with your high school guidance counselor to learn when applications are due. For more information, contact Kay Parks at [kparks@jacksonemc.com](mailto:kparks@jacksonemc.com).

## Share Your Recipes with Jemco News

Share your best recipes with *Jemco News* readers. In 2015, we are rewarding our contributing chefs with a sweet collection of kitchen goodies and gadgets. One of our members' recipes will be featured each month, and they will receive a chef-worthy gift, including a Magic Bullet Blender.

It is hard to imagine cooking without the help of an oven, stove or microwave. However, 76 years ago when Jackson EMC began serving this area with electricity, people had never fried chicken on the stove or baked a chocolate cake in an electric oven, so they were taught by the employees of the cooperative.

To honor this rich history of good food and the role electricity plays in preparing it, we feature member recipes each month in *Jemco News*.

## smartconnections



*Myrtle Gross performs an electric range cooking demonstration at the 1951 JEMC Annual Meeting.*



Send your recipes, complete with name, address and daytime telephone number to: **Cooperative Cooking, Jackson EMC, PO Box 38, Jefferson, GA 30549** or send an email to *Jemco News* editor April Sorrow at [asorrow@jacksonemc.com](mailto:asorrow@jacksonemc.com).

## Jackson EMC Offices

1000 Dawsonville Highway  
Gainesville, GA  
(770) 536-2415

85 Spratlin Mill Road  
Hull, GA  
(706) 548-5362

850 Commerce Road  
Jefferson, GA  
(706) 367-5281

461 Swanson Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA  
(770) 963-6166

EMC Security  
55 Satellite Blvd., NW  
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(770) 963-0305 or  
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## WHAT'S COOKIN'?

"You need to make this; it will become your favorite recipe. I combined all the good parts of a bunch of other recipes to come up with this. And, I make it for company because it is always a hit. People always say it tastes like they are in a restaurant."

- Leslie Arnold - Lawrenceville, GA

## Sausage, Tomato & Cream Penne Pasta

### Ingredients:

- 1/3 lb. Jimmy Dean breakfast sausage
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1-14 oz. can petite diced tomatoes
- 1-8 oz. can tomato sauce
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 1 tsp basil
- 1/4 tsp thyme
- 1/8 tsp red pepper
- 1/3 cup heavy cream
- 1/3 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- 8 oz. penne pasta, cooked



### Instructions:

1. Sauté sausage, onion and garlic together, drain grease. Add tomatoes, sauce and spices.
2. Cover and simmer for 20 minutes. Turn off heat and add heavy cream.
3. Toss sauce and Parmesan cheese with cooked penne. Enjoy. Feeds three hungry people.

Submit  
Recipes to:

Cooperative Cooking  
Jackson EMC  
P.O. Box 38  
Jefferson, GA 30549