

Peace of Mind
from EMC Security

Now Funding
BRIGHT IDEAS

JEMCO A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS news

March 2015



WORKING THE LINE:

Jose Salgado and Other JEMC
Linemen Share Their Stories



President/CEO
Chip Jakins

Safely Hard at Work

Our Jackson EMC employees work hard every day. Making sure power flows across the 13,600-plus miles of line in our service area keeps us busy all the time. Ice storms challenge the resources of an electric utility like no other natural disaster. The weight ice adds to power lines and tree branches causes power poles and tree limbs to break, wreaking havoc with our distribution system.

When we prepared the February issue of *Jemco News* we had no idea how relevant that information would soon become.

The mid-February ice storm was one of the worst to hit the Jackson EMC service area in decades. It created outages in all 10 counties we serve, stretching our resources to their limits.

I was proud of every employee during the emergency. All of them gave 100 percent, whether they were answering phones or replacing broken poles. Our employees worked tirelessly around the clock to restore power to those affected by the storm. They were assisted by 600 linemen from EMCs in Georgia, Alabama and Florida, and contractor crews from as far away as Indiana who came to work to restore your power as quickly as

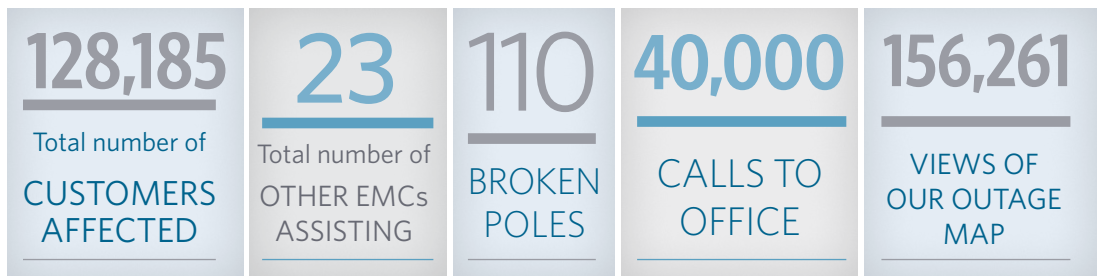
possible. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to each of them.

First and foremost, they worked safely. Despite the dangerous conditions, we didn't have any injuries.

Electricity makes much of this cooperative's work dangerous. Our linemen work in dangerous conditions to keep our lights on every day. One of the many keys to their safety is that they look out for one another. Together, they spend countless hours suspended over a truck in a bucket, packed deep in the cab of a truck, stacked clinging to a pole and up to their ears deep in a ditch. In those tight situations, they grow close fast. You can read more about how this band of brothers works together in this issue.

Live power lines carry several hundred million volts of electricity. Electricity helps us live our lives comfortably, but we have to be safe around power lines and equipment. Safety around power lines, both those above and below ground, is critical. In this issue, we remind you to call #811 before you dig. I also want to direct you to www.jacksonemc.com where you can find more safety information, including our Powertown video where both adults and children can learn more about how to stay safe around electricity. ⚠️

February 2015 Storm Facts and Figures:



JEMCO news

VOL. 64, NO. 3, MARCH 2015 (ISSN 1061-5601), IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MEMBER SERVICES DEPT. OF JACKSON ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORP., 461 SWANSON DRIVE, LAWRENCEVILLE, GA 30043. SUBSCRIPTION \$3.50 PER YEAR AS PART OF YEARLY MEMBERSHIP. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT LAWRENCEVILLE, GA AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.

April Sorrow, Editor.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Jemco News* 461 Swanson Drive Lawrenceville, GA 30043

onlinef@cts

811: Call or Click Before You Dig

Accidental contact with underground wiring can be fatal. Required by law, safe digging begins with a call to Georgia 811. The "Call Before You Dig" law requires homeowners and professional contractors notify the Utilities Protection Center by dialing #811 or 1-800-282-7411 or through an e-request filed at least 48 hours before the project begins so the utility infrastructure can be marked. Lines will be marked for free, keeping you safe from injury and potential fires. Fill out an e-request at:

www.georgia811.com/quiktik.aspx



Uniform Color Code for Marking Underground Utility Lines

Proposed Excavation	Telephone, TV, Cable
Temporary Survey	Drinkable Water
Electrical Power Lines	Sewer and Drain Lines
Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum	Reclaimed Water, Irrigation



Safe & Secure

According to the FBI, Georgia is ninth on the list of states with the highest rates of property crime. Nationwide, a property crime occurs every 4 seconds and a burglary occurs every 16 seconds. Yet, only 25 percent of homes are equipped with a security system.

Jackson EMC members have access to state-of-the-art security protection through EMC Security, a company jointly owned by Walton EMC, GreyStone Power and Jackson EMC. Customize the security plan that works for you and your family and never sign a contract for service.

Call **770-963-0305** to learn more about EMC Security's security solution and schedule a free on-site consultation.

Residential Security Monitoring

EMC Security provides residential security monitoring services to provide homeowners peace of mind while they're home and away. These services start at \$16.95 per month and provide the state's only redundant monitoring service.

"I received a call at 3:15 on a Saturday afternoon from EMC Security. They told me the alarm was going off at home. They said they were going to send the police by to check it out. I'm glad they did. The police caught two people that broke in. I never would have thought someone would break into my home in the middle of the day on a Saturday. I'm glad I had the system turned on." - Athens, GA

Fire Alarm Monitoring Service

EMC Security provides 24-hour fire monitoring services for no additional monthly cost.

"I can't tell you how grateful I am that we had the fire alarm system put in. The fire in our laundry room happened when my husband and I were at work. We live on a quiet street, so I know the fire monitoring saved my home, and more importantly my dog, Jesse." - Loganville, GA

Connected Services

EMC Security offers the most advanced home technology available. Use your smartphone to arm and disarm your security system, control your thermostat, lock doors or control your lights.

"We got our security system so we could travel in retirement without worrying about our home. On our first trip, we forgot to turn the system on. The folks at EMC Security told us about the app that we could use to turn the system on. We are believers now. We ended up having the time of our life and didn't worry at all about our home since we knew it was protected." - Lawrenceville, GA

Medical Alert

With an EMC Medical Alert System, elderly and disabled loved ones can live independently and safely. It is the smallest, and most powerful, two-way communication device on the market.

"My husband fell out of the shower at our home and was unable to pick himself up off the floor. He activated his pendant and was immediately speaking to an operator who dispatched assistance and stayed on the line with him until they arrived. They found blood clots in my husband's legs. Our medical device and EMC Security's quick dispatch may have saved his life." - Hoschton, GA

Vehicle and Asset Tracking

This vehicle tracking service allows our customers to help keep young drivers safe and help keep track of important items like boats, trailers and other portable devices. The connected service product provides immediate vehicle or asset location, a detailed history of where a vehicle has been, speeding alerts and will alert if vehicles or assets are leaving a designated area.

"My daughter recently received her driver's license, and like any concerned parent, we wanted to know where she was and that she was safe. I installed the device in minutes, and it provides great peace of mind." - Sugar Hill, GA

EMC Security 2014:



11.9

SECONDS

Average Response Time



201,674

TROUBLE SIGNALS

Acted on by the Monitoring Center



255

ACTUAL BREAK-IN OR INTRUSIONS



157

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Where Paramedics are Dispatched to Assist



54

FIRES

Where Fire Department is Dispatched



15

OTHER ACTUAL EMERGENCIES

Panic alarms set off by homeowner, low or high temperature, water sensors or carbon monoxide alarms.

WOOD WALKING

By April Sorrow, Editor

In scorching heat and arctic blasts, linemen suit-up from head to toe, protecting themselves in the unlikely event one of those wires might be live. The voltage running through power lines can create an electric arc about four times as hot as the sun's surface. And the human body is one of the best conductors. Burns from these arcs can be fatal – even from several feet away.

“That adds so much to the work: the danger,” said Tim Sweat, a journeyman lineman with 35 years of experience who is now JEMC director of job training and safety.

Every action on the line is dictated by a strict set of rules designed to keep workers safe. He said it takes seven years for someone to move through the ranks from apprentice to journeyman. “The goal is for everyone to get back home safe.”

To ensure they get home safely, Sweat says he looks for applicants who are dependable, trustworthy and have a strong work ethic.

“A lineman’s mentality is to get the lights back on, and safety rules can slow them down. It takes discipline to put those features in place and you have to be disciplined to be safe on this job,” he said. “At the end of the day you are absolutely exhausted; covered in dirt and sweat. It’s a demanding job, but the satisfaction and reward is there every day.”



Texas Co-op Power magazine contributed to this diagram.

A LINEMAN'S GEAR:

1. HARD HAT: A hard hat provides insulated protection against electrical hazards and protects the head from blows and falling objects.

2. INSULATED GLOVES: Insulated rubber gloves provide protection against electric shock and burn injuries – these are tested approximately every 60 days to withstand 30,000 volts. They are worn inside leather glove protectors, or gauntlets, that protect the rubber against cuts, abrasions and punctures.

3. CLIMBERS/HOOKS: Contoured leg shafts are made of aluminum or steel and hold the gaffs securely in place next to the lineman's boots. Climbers are strapped on just below the knee and also around the boot holding them in place.

4. EXTENDO STICK: Typically made of insulated, high voltage-tested fiberglass, and extendable up to 40 feet, extendo sticks help linemen safely perform a variety of jobs while working on energized power lines.

5. FINGER: Numerous tools are attached to an extendo stick's universal head. The attachment shown is called a finger and can be used for opening or closing fuses, or breakers.

6. GAFFS: Two-inch razor-sharp steel points on the shaft of the climbers/hooks for climbing poles. Only the tips dig into the wood, helping linemen climb more safely and efficiently.

7. SAFETY GLASSES: Linemen must wear protective goggles or glasses, whether working on electrical lines or clearing right-of-way. This protects their eyes from loose debris and other hazards, including electrical flashes.

8. FIRE-RESISTANT CLOTHING: While our linemen do everything possible to prevent them, unexpected fires can happen. Fire Retardant clothing will self-extinguish, reducing injury due to burns.

9. EQUIPMENT BELT: Think of it as the lineman's suitcase, with clips, loops and D-rings providing the ability to carry virtually every tool he might need when working on the pole.

10. DITTY BAG: This canvas bag hangs from the lineman's belt and literally holds the nuts and bolts (and connectors, etc.) that linemen need for any number of jobs.

11. SAFETY STRAP: When a lineman reaches the top of a pole, he unhooks one end of his safety strap from his lineman's belt, loops the strap around the pole and rehooks the strap to the D-ring on the other side of his belt. Having “buckled off” he can now safely work with both hands free.

12. BOOTS: A lineman's boots help prevent linemen from stabbing themselves in the leg or foot. A raised heel on the boot helps keep the climber positioned correctly when climbing, and a steel shank built into the sole provides extra support for the feet when on the pole.

13. HANDLINE: Complete with steel clips and a pulley block, this rope is hung on the pole and is strong enough for any job – from routine hoisting of material to lowering a lineman to the ground in a life-threatening situation.

14. HANDLINE BLOCK: Linemen can't carry everything up a pole, and the handline block – a main component of the handline – is used to raise and lower heavy equipment.

15. TOOL POUCH: This bag also hangs from the side of the lineman's belt normally carrying 9-inch lineman's pliers and a 10-inch adjustable wrench.

Hoisted 50 feet in the air in a bucket negotiating potentially deadly cables to get your lights back on are your Jackson EMC linemen. They respond to outages caused by storms or squirrels 24/7, 365.

And in the worst of conditions, these “wood walkers,” outfitted with 50 lbs. of tools and safety gear, scale up the poles with a pair of spikes on the sides of their boots.

Listening to a group of linemen talk, you’ll hear about how a crew saved a man’s life who’d crashed into a power pole, turned the lights back on for a family that had been in the dark for weeks, replaced the sod on a customer’s lawn after a truck dug it up and slept alongside a couple hundred men in a gym while restoring power for a community in need. What matters most to them? Family: theirs and yours. Here are some of their stories.

KEITH CAMP



Journeyman Lineman, Lawrenceville
@ JEMC: 17 years

Tallest Pole Climbed: 70 feet

Best Part: Family. You have to trust your brothers, I call them. You have to know that each other knows how to do their part of the job. Not only am I a lineman, but my wife and kids are too. It is a big family thing. I believe my father-in-law didn't even like me until he found out I was a lineman.

About Storms: When most people are wanting to be inside the comfort of their home, that's when we do the most work. I knew that when I took this job. When Hurricane Katrina hit we worked to get the power back on for them. To see the gratitude in their eyes and excitement when the lights came on, that was a good feeling.

To Customers: People really appreciate us: they try to pay us. I tell them, “this is my job and I’m just glad I can help.”

JOSE SALGADO



Journeyman Lineman, Gainesville
@ JEMC: 13 years

Tallest Pole Climbed: 65 feet

Best Part: The comradery. When you have kids, everyone knows (Salgado just became a dad for the fourth time).

Working the Line: I get to see the sun set and rise from the top of a pole. And, the stars at night and the satellites so bright in the sky. It is really beautiful. Not everyone gets to see that.

On Climbing: It was scary the first time. I was shaking the whole time.

JEREMIAH NASH



Journeyman Lineman, Jefferson
@ JEMC: 15 years

Tallest Pole Climbed: 60 feet

Working the Line: When I started they said you’ll learn something new every day; I’m still learning. We tend to be first responders a lot of times because of the kind of job we have. There’s been a couple wrecks where we were one of the first to arrive, and I never thought I’d see that in this job.

About Storms: You never know what you are running into until you get there. We don’t know where we are going to sleep or what we’re going to eat. We went to Louisiana and people had been out for weeks. We got to tell them, “we are getting this power back on today.” That is a great feeling.

On Climbing: A lot of the time we are climbing in the worst conditions, with ice on one side of the pole, or they are leaning due to a storm.

To Customers: If you are on JEMC, you own this company, and I work for you.

RODNEY BLACK



Journeyman Lineman, Neese
@ JEMC: 25 years

Tallest Pole Climbed: 80 feet

About Storms: Most of the time when I work a storm, the things that run through my mind are my boys. A blizzard hit March 13, 1993; my son was born February 4. I gathered my wife, a bunch of firewood, and went to work. I left her at home with no power and a one-month old baby. I can think of maybe once I got to spend any time playing in the snow with my boys, because I was working.

On Climbing: It is natural to have a little fear of heights; everybody does. But, you can’t have a drastic fear and do this job. The more you climb the easier it gets.

MedLink Georgia

MedLink Georgia provides medical care to people who lack access to services due to cost, transportation or a lack of providers through its network of community

health centers. Primary care centers are located in Banks, Barrow, Franklin, Hall, Madison and Oglethorpe counties.

"We offer top-quality care, whether or not you have insurance," said Angela Rouse, director of public policy and community services for MedLink Georgia. "My grandmother was a patient here in Madison County, and I had no idea that they had a sliding fee scale. She didn't need the financial assistance; she was a patient because she had a good doctor and great medical care. I had no idea we offered all of these services until I came to work here."

The Jackson EMC Foundation granted \$15,000 to MedLink Georgia in January for required upgrades to its practice management and electronic health records system. These funds will be

used to pay for part of the costs to transition to a fully integrated electronic health record system for its centers.

"This upgrade will give patients access to their medical records through the patient portal," Rouse said. "By the first of June, patients should be able to schedule appointments and receive medical reports and summaries."

The electronic health record system will combine records from multiple doctors; everything from immunizations and flu shots to lab results and x-rays. MedLink Georgia is in the process of becoming a patient-centered medical home, a national recognition that the community health centers meet quality guidelines, which includes involving the patient in their care. ▲



operationroundup

Jackson EMC Foundation awards more than \$107,000 in grants

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded a total of \$107,806 in grants to organizations during their January meeting.

Organizational Grant Recipients:

\$15,000 to Challenged Child and Friends, a Gainesville nonprofit organization providing educational, therapeutic, nursing and family support services to children with disabilities in all counties served by Jackson EMC, to support the Early Intervention Program that provides special needs children with classroom instruction, individualized therapy and nursing services.

\$15,000 to the Hall County Health Department to provide indigent women in Banks, Franklin, Hall and Lumpkin counties who would otherwise not receive medical care during pregnancy with prenatal care services, including diabetic supplies, prenatal vitamins and checkups, that limit risk factors for both mother and baby.

\$15,000 to MedLink of Georgia, a nonprofit primary medical care network serving all counties served by Jackson EMC which provides care to those who lack access to quality

medical care because of finances, transportation or few local physicians, to transition to an electronic practice management and health records system that will allow physicians and staff to better manage patient care.

\$15,000 to Peace Place, a domestic violence shelter in Winder, to help refurbish four apartments and two houses that serve as safe transitional housing for women and children in Banks, Barrow and Jackson counties who have survived domestic violence and are seeking to rebuild their lives, independently and free of abuse.

\$15,000 to Step by Step Recovery, a Lawrenceville community-based grassroots addiction recovery organization which provides a safe and structured environment for both men and women over six months to two years as they complete a 12-step program to deal with drug and alcohol addiction, to assist with rent for men's and women's units.

\$14,867 to Success by 6, a program of the United Way of Northeast

Georgia, to help print "Critical Years, Critical Needs" parenting manuals in English and Spanish that provide a resource guide on early childhood developmental needs and good child-care practices, along with board books, that are distributed to new parents through a partnership with St. Mary's Hospital, Athens Regional Medical Center and Barrow County Medical Center.

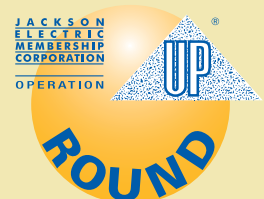
\$11,939 to Piedmont CASA, a nonprofit organization that uses community volunteers to provide a voice in Juvenile Court for the best interest of abused and neglected children in Banks, Barrow and Jackson counties, to recruit and train community volunteers. In 2013, the organization served 148 children.

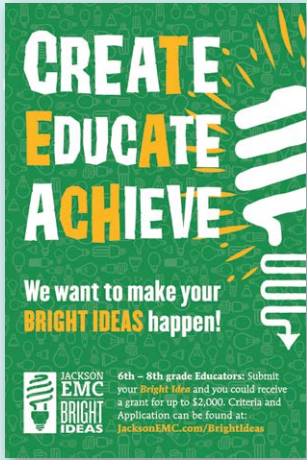
\$3,000 to iServe Ministries, a Jefferson grassroots organization that helps churches recognize community needs and helps get those needs met. iServe Ministries assembles the backpacks and food for its "Bags of Love" program. This

program serves disadvantaged students in Jackson and Madison counties by sending home enough food on weekends for family meals and snacks.

\$3,000 to Straight Street Revolution Ministries, a Gainesville nonprofit providing a support system to those in need in the community, to purchase food for its "BackPack Love" feeding program that sends disadvantaged students in Gainesville and Hall County schools home each weekend with food for family meals.

For more information about the Jackson EMC Foundation, or to apply for a grant, visit www.jacksonemc.com/jemcfoundation.





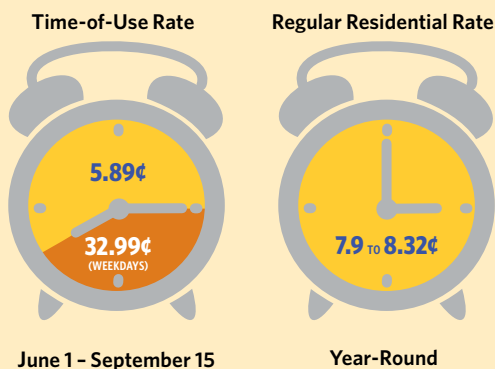
Have Any Bright Ideas?

Bright Ideas is a new grant program aimed at funding creative and innovative classroom projects for middle schools within the counties Jackson EMC serves. Educators in grades 6-8 can earn up to \$2,000 for classroom projects that would otherwise go unfunded.

Projects must directly involve the students, provide a creative learning experience through innovative teaching methods, provide ongoing benefits to the students, create opportunities for teamwork and support the continuous improvement of education in Georgia. For a complete list of guidelines, criteria and to apply for a Bright Ideas grant, see www.jacksonemc.com/brightideas.

Applications must be completed online by midnight Monday, June 1. Applications received by the early bird deadline, April 30, will be entered in a prize drawing for one of two \$250 Visa gift cards.

If you'd like to save money while conserving energy, our Time-of-Use rates may be for you.



Time-of-Use rates can save money for members who reduce their electric use during peak periods, specifically from 3 to 8 p.m. on weekdays between June 1 and September 15 when the electricity will cost 32.99 cents per kilowatt hour. To take advantage of potential savings, members should reduce use of air conditioning and electric water heaters.

Throughout off-peak periods, the cost for power substantially drops. During summer mornings, early afternoons and nights - and 24/7 the rest of the year - members on Time-of-Use rates pay only 5.89 cents per kWh. The normal residential rate is 7.90-8.32 cents per kWh.

To participate this summer, sign up by May 1; members who sign up after May 1 will begin Time-of-Use rates next summer.

**TIME
-OF-
USE
RATES**

Sign up
by May 1



TAKING CARE OF YOUR Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning

smartconnections

The HVAC system in your home is essential for creating a comfortable environment inside when the weather outside peaks at extreme temperatures in summer and winter.

There are some simple steps you can take to help your system run efficiently:

- **Check thermostat settings.** Set to 78°F in the summer and 68°F in the winter to stay cool and save money.
- **Change air filters.** Dirty filters use excess energy and can shorten the lifespan of the unit. Through our partnership with **Filterchange.coop**, you can have clean filters delivered to your door and have reminder emails sent once a month reminding you to change your filter.

It's also important to have a professional tune-up twice a year, ideally in the spring and fall.

Maintenance on an HVAC system can uncover faulty equipment in need of repair before the entire system breaks. It can also expose issues that are costing you money every month.

A typical maintenance check-up includes:

- **Tightening electrical connections** and measuring voltage and current on motors. Faulty electrical connections can cause unsafe operation of your system and reduce the life of major components.
- **Lubrication of all moving parts.** Parts that lack lubrication cause friction in motors and increase the amount of electricity you use.
- **Inspection of the condensate drain** in your central air conditioner, furnace and/or heat pump (when in cooling mode). A plugged drain can cause water damage in the house and affect indoor humidity levels.
- **Checking controls of the system** to ensure proper and safe operation. Check the starting cycle of the equipment to assure the system starts, operates and shuts off properly.

• Cleaning evaporator and condenser coils.

Dirty coils reduce the system's ability to cool your home and cause the system to run longer, increasing energy costs and reducing the life of the equipment.

- **Checking central AC refrigerant level** and adjust if necessary. Too much or too little refrigerant will make your system less efficient, increasing energy costs and reducing the life of the equipment.

- **Cleaning and adjusting blower components** to provide proper system airflow for greater comfort levels. Airflow problems can reduce your system's efficiency by up to 15 percent.

Tune-ups cost around \$85 for a home with one HVAC unit. Use our contractor network to find the best local experts, www.jacksonemc.com/contractors.

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
Suwanee, GA
(770) 963-0305 or
(706) 543-4009

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID

www.jacksonemc.com



www.twitter.com/jacksonemc



www.facebook.com/jacksonemc

WHAT'S COOKIN'?

"I got this recipe from an old friend some years back, and I've been making it ever since. The whole family loves this dish."

- James Waller - Nicholson, GA



Tater Tot Casserole

Instructions:

1. Brown meat and drain fat. To add a bit more flavor, add seasoning salt while cooking the meat.
2. In a casserole dish, mix shredded cheese, soup mix and browned meat.
3. Spread out in casserole dish and cover with sliced cheese.
4. Top it off with the tots.

Cook according to tater tot package instructions, usually 425°F for 20 minutes, or until tots are golden brown.

Serve and enjoy. Serves 4-10 depending on how much meat and tater tots are used.

Ingredients:

2-3 lbs. ground chuck
Dash seasoning salt. (optional)
At least 2 cups Cheddar cheese
8 slices of American cheese
2 cans cream of potato soup
(or whichever kind you prefer)
1 bag of tater tots (size depends
on how much you need)

Submit
Recipes to:

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