

# JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

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SAFETY GEAR

FEBRUARY 2023 | IN THIS ISSUE

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# SAFETY FIRST

Whether traveling for vacation or business, sometimes my trips involve a flight. The airline attendants give a safety demonstration at the start of each flight. They'll show you how to use a seat belt, where the emergency exits are located and even how to use the floatation device under your seat. Luckily, I've never had to dash through an emergency exit on a plane - but if I do, I'd know where to go.

It's obvious that these airlines take safety seriously. I hope it's obvious that we do, too.

Nothing is more important to us than the safety of the men and women who perform their job in hazardous conditions. Because electricity is integrated into everyone's daily lives, it's easy to lose sight of how dangerous it can be. Our safety training ensures those hazardous conditions are properly managed so that they don't turn into dangerous conditions.

We keep safety a priority and all Jackson EMC employees participate in monthly safety meetings. We emphasize the importance of employees being mindful of their surroundings, following safe work practices and procedures, and keeping their co-workers and the public safe, too.

Our goal is to restore power quickly, but safely. That means we don't take shortcuts and may mean it takes a little longer to restore power while our crews work safely around downed power lines, trees, limbs and other debris. At the end of the day, we want our crews to be safe and for everyone to go home safely to their families.

Being a lineman is a tough job. It's also a rewarding job. It's a great feeling to see the lights come back on at the end of a hard day. And our crews are well trained and well prepared for the hazards they face. Just like a fireman, they wear lots of protective

gear to keep them safe. Ever wonder what linemen wear to protect them from the hazards of the job? In this issue of *JEMCO News*, you'll see the gear our linemen wear to protect them from high voltage electricity and to help prevent injuries. Each item serves a purpose. Above all, it's a matter of safety first.

We also celebrate safety milestones and we're fortunate to be recognized by our peers for our safety excellence.

**Have a story to share about our linemen? Email me at [chip@jacksonemc.com](mailto:chip@jacksonemc.com).**

**Chip Jakins, President/CEO**

## 4 Places to Install Outdoor Security Cameras

Security cameras are the most popular form of home security. With so many options to choose from, EMC Security offers you tips on where to place cameras outside your home for optimal protection.

Security cameras add a layer of protection, but they're not a replacement for monitored home security systems. EMC Security offers professional monitoring, along with a selection of security cameras.



### BY THE FRONT DOOR

Having a security camera near the front door allows you to:

- See your kids arriving home from school;
- Identify if someone at the door is a friend, neighbor or solicitor;
- Keep an eye on packages;
- Prepare your dogs when there's a visitor.



### ON A GATE OR FENCE

If your property is gated, or a portion of your fence isn't visible from your house, installing a camera near the gates will ensure you can see your entire fence line. Also, if there's a fallen tree on your property, certain cameras can send you a notification.



### BY THE BACK DOOR

A camera with a view of the back door is important if your home is surrounded by wooded areas, which may make it easier for potential burglars to approach your home before being seen.



### GROUND FLOOR WINDOWS

One of the most common entrances for burglars is a ground floor window. A visible security camera pointing to your ground floor windows will deter potential burglars.



CALL EMC SECURITY AT **770-963-0305** OR VISIT **EMCSECURITY.COM**.

# What Members Are Saying

## MEMBERS ARE THE ❤️ OF OUR SERVICE

We love hearing from members! We recently asked members on social media to share their favorite thing about being a member of Jackson EMC. From member service to community service, we heard great things. We're honored to serve you!

-  **Amanda Smith Sailors**  
I love that JEMC is truly invested in the communities you serve. From scholarships and grants, to partnering with the local school systems, to operation roundup, you give back to and care about the communities and people you serve.
-  **Phil Schroder**  
Power was restored in hours this summer after a very violent storm. I also don't mind the surprise check in the mail each year.
-  **Donna Dacus**  
Always available when needed and great customer service! When technician comes out they are always courteous and polite.
-  **Tammy Fox Johnson**  
When we were having power issues at our home, Jackson EMC came out set up a temp until they could get out and fix the problem. I giggled about our "souped up hand trucks". But no other company would have been out here so fast. Customer service was so understanding and helpful as well.
-  **Lori Ayers Samples**  
JEMC employees are top notch, and the customer service is great. I am so glad our area is served by JEMC.
-  **Top fan Tressa Dodd**  
I am a school counselor and I love how JEMC is always so willing to participate in our educational days. JEMC also gives back to many great causes right here in our hometowns.
-  **Phil N Amber Whisnant**  
Never had a problem. Jackson EMC is the best.

## Let's Connect

You can connect with us — and learn more about what's happening at Jackson EMC — by following us on social media.

 [facebook.com/jacksonEMC](https://facebook.com/jacksonEMC)

 [@jacksonEMC](https://twitter.com/@jacksonEMC)

 [@jackson\\_EM\\_C](https://instagram.com/@jackson_EM_C)

 [Jackson EMC](https://in/Jackson EMC)

 [youtube.com/JEMCTV1](https://youtube.com/JEMCTV1)



# Not Your Typical Dress Code

## A LOOK AT LINEMAN SAFETY GEAR

**Linemen must have the right gear to do their jobs. Our crews wear specialized gear every day when they work on lines to protect them in the unlikely event of coming in contact with electricity.**

“Being a lineman can be one of the most dangerous jobs in the country, which is why it’s important each day involves putting on the right safety gear for added protection,” said Steve Chambers, Jackson EMC’s director of safety and training. “Besides the gear, linemen also have to be mentally aware of the surroundings and the people working around them in order to work safely. Their gear, along with their training, are big aspects of keeping linemen safe.”

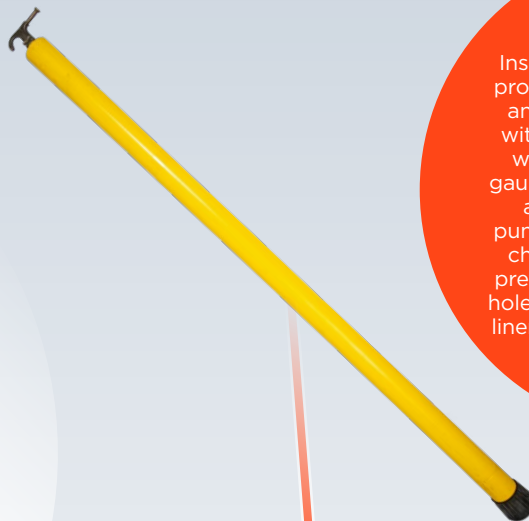
Our linemen follow strict rules to ensure they get home safely. Whether the weather is extremely hot or frigid, their gear helps protect linemen as they help bring you safe and reliable electricity. Our crews wear this gear anytime they’re on a job site.

## Learn What's On A Power Pole

Have you wondered about the equipment on a power pole? Along with power lines, a pole typically includes additional equipment to bring you safe, reliable electricity.



Scan QR code to learn about some of the basic equipment on a power pole.



### Insulated Gloves:

Insulated rubber gloves provide protection against electric shock and burn. Gloves are tested to withstand 30,000 volts and are worn inside leather gloves, or gauntlets, that protect the rubber against cuts, abrasions and punctures. Gloves are tested and changed out every 60 days to prevent wear and tear. A tiny pin hole in a glove could be fatal for a lineman working on an energized power line.

### Flame Resistant (FR) Clothing:

Specialty-made FR clothing protects against flashes from dangerous electric arcs, which are sudden charges of electricity.

### Hot Stick or Extendo Stick:

Typically made of insulated, high-voltage-tested fiberglass, these sticks can extend up to 40 feet to help linemen safely perform various jobs while working on energized power lines. This equipment is used in many maintenance tasks or during outages to disconnect and reconnect various line sections.

**Hard Hat:** A hard hat protects linemen from electrical hazards and falling objects. Hard hats are insulated.

**Safety Glasses:** Protective glasses block linemen's eyes from electrical flashes or foreign objects. Safety glasses must be worn on job sites.

**Hand Line and Hoist or Pulley Block:** This rope hangs from a pole's crossarm and is strong enough for any job, from hoisting equipment to life-saving missions. The signature piece of a hand line, the hoist or pulley block, is used to raise and lower heavy equipment.

**Rubber Sleeves:** These are worn to protect linemen from incidental contact with power lines. The rubber sleeves are made to withstand up to 30,000 volts of electricity.

**Secondary Safety:** An additional safety device that's used when linemen climb around an attachment to a pole, such as lines. This allows increased fall prevention while working on a wooden pole.

**Climbers and Gaffs:** Climbers are strapped below the knee. A spike or "gaff" at the bottom near their boots allows linemen to hook into a wooden power pole to climb.

**Equipment Belt:** A belt allows linemen to carry almost all the tools they need to get the job done on a pole.

**Tool Pouch:** Along with a ditty bag, a tool pouch also hangs from a lineman's equipment belt to carry various tools, like pliers and wrenches.

**Ditty Bag:** This canvas bag hangs from the lineman's belt and holds nuts, bolts, connectors and other items that linemen may need on the job.

\$82,500 IN GRANTS AWARDED IN DECEMBER

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded **\$82,500 to organizations during its December meeting.**

**ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:**

**\$15,000 to Salvation Army—Athens**, serving Clarke, Madison and Oglethorpe counties, for its emergency shelter and feeding program, which provides shelter and meals to individuals and families in crises.

**\$15,000 to Salvation Army—Gainesville**, serving Banks, Barrow, Hall and Jackson counties, for its emergency shelter and feeding program, which provides shelter and meals to individuals and families in crises.

**\$15,000 to Salvation Army—Gwinnett**, for its Financial Emergency Services Program, which provides rent and mortgage assistance to Gwinnett County residents in need to prevent homelessness and stabilize families in crises.

**\$10,000 to Eyes of Love Lighthouse Mission Inc.**, a Buford-based grassroots ministry that collects and distributes clothes, food and furniture to needy families in Barrow, Gwinnett and Hall counties, to help with rent on the building housing the mission's inventory.

**\$10,000 to Family Promise of Hall County**, a community effort to end the cycle of family homelessness, for its Little Steps Day Care program that provides free, temporary child-care while parents search for employment.

**\$8,000 to South Enotah Child Advocacy Center Inc.**, for its trauma-focused therapy for child abuse victims in Banks, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson and Lumpkin counties.

**\$5,000 to Lydia's Place**, in Athens, for its Elevate program, an educational independent living skills program for students ages 17-24 in Barrow and Clarke counties who have experienced foster care or homelessness.

**\$4,500 to Lumpkin County Family Connection**, to purchase food for its Backpack Buddy program, which provides 6 meals, snacks and drinks each week to children identified by Family Advocacy as food insecure.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY FOR A GRANT, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION](https://www.jacksonemc.com/foundation).

## Community Impact **Food to Kids Madison County**

As a former educator, **Ellen Cowne** is familiar with the struggles some students face when they leave school and go home each day. For some children, the meals they receive at school may be the **only food they're provided**, and they may not be guaranteed a meal on the weekends.

"It broke my heart that we had so many children who were in that situation," said Cowne, the secretary of Food to Kids Madison County.

Food to Kids Madison County **serves 89 children** enrolled in the county's elementary schools by providing a **weekend meal bag**.

The nonprofit organization delivers bags filled with **6 meals, snacks, fresh fruit and juice** for students identified as food insecure each week. The Jackson EMC Foundation recently awarded a **\$15,000 grant** for its weekend back pack program.

"We know that a hungry child doesn't learn as well," Cowne said. "If we can serve these children, they can make better grades and have better opportunities."

Food to Kids receives its food supplies from the **Northeast Georgia Food Bank**. Volunteers help package bags for students and deliver them to schools each week. "Our teachers and counselors have been heroes helping to identify children who would qualify for the program," Cowne said.

Grants from the **Jackson EMC Foundation** have been instrumental to support the program, she said. Cowne also credits volunteers from the **Rotary Club of Madison County** and the school system for supporting Food to Kids.



# Winter Energy-Savings Tips

Extremely cold weather can drive up your energy use – and your monthly bill. You can reduce the impact of winter weather by changing some of your energy habits. One of the principles of cooperatives is education for members, which includes ways to help you save energy.

“We encourage our members to use a programmable or smart thermostat to help regulate their energy use,” said Christy Queen, Jackson EMC’s director of residential marketing. “Making small changes can add up to savings, especially during months with extreme temperatures.”

## Looking to save energy this winter? Follow these ideas:



Set your thermostat to **68 degrees**. As a rule of thumb, your heating cost will **increase 3%** for each degree above 68 degrees. When the weather outside is extremely frigid, your HVAC may operate longer to keep your home warm.



Do **full loads** when you use **clothes washers, dryers** and **dishwashers**.



Check and/or replace air filters **every 1-2 months**. Dirty or clogged air filters restrict airflow and cause your compressor to work harder, **increasing costs**. Clean filters **save 5-15%** on your electric bill.



**Turn off** or **unplug** unused appliances or lights.



Only set your thermostat to **“emergency heat”** in the event **the heat pump is not working**. It should only be used in the case of system failure while awaiting repairs.



FOR MORE ENERGY-SAVING TIPS, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/WAYSTOSAVE](https://www.jacksonemc.com/waystosave).

## Cooperative Solar

## New Program Makes It Easy to Get Solar Energy

Are you interested in solar energy at your home, but you don't want to install solar panels? Jackson EMC's Cooperative Solar program is an easy way to benefit from receiving solar energy without the long-term commitment and risk of ownership or maintenance.

This new program allows you to purchase solar energy blocks to get electricity generated at our off-site solar facilities. You can purchase solar energy blocks from Jackson EMC at a monthly rate.



YOU CAN LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP FOR COOPERATIVE SOLAR AT [JACKSONEMC.COM/RENEWABLES](https://www.jacksonemc.com/renewables) OR CALL US AT **1-800-462-3691**.



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YOUR COMMUNITY.**

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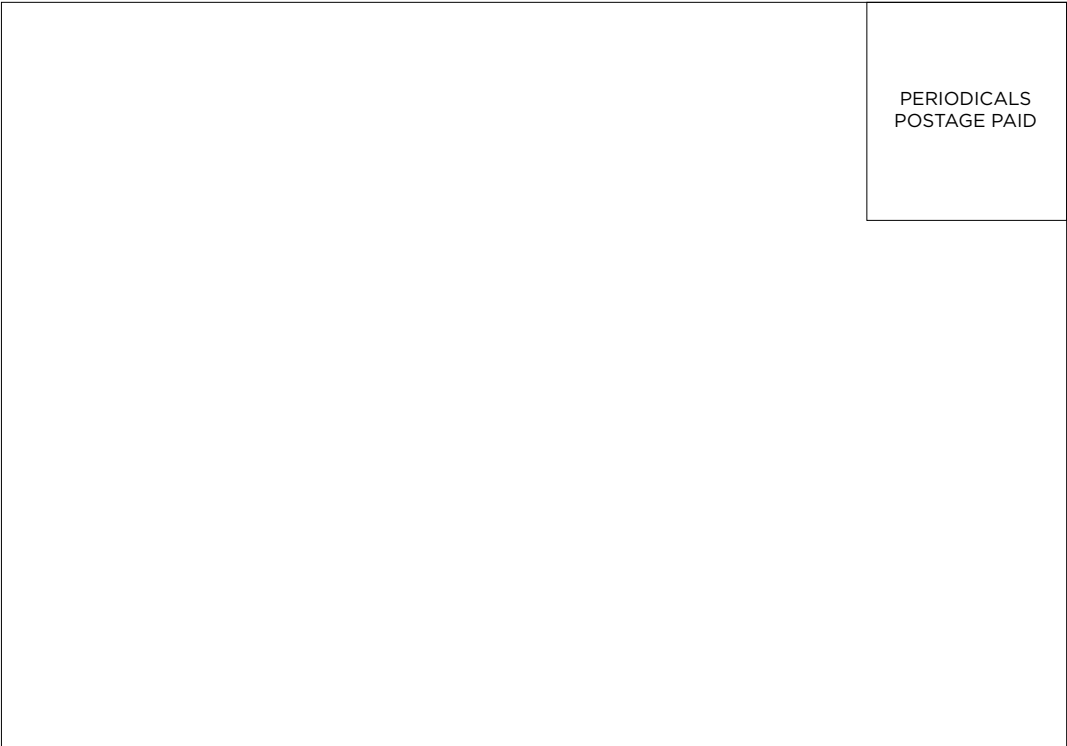
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# Have an Award-Winning Recipe?



**We love getting your favorite recipes to share in *JEMCO News*. Is your recipe worthy of a prize? If so, send it to us.**

We select a winning recipe to feature in future issues of *JEMCO News*. Winners receive a prize package that includes a pressure cooker/air fryer combo and other kitchen goodies from Jackson EMC.

We've been sharing recipes from the community since the **Watt's Cookin' on the Line** cookbook debuted in 1965.

Members say they've shared the cookbook with family and friends, and during special occasions.

*"I received this cookbook as a wedding present in 1986,"* said Michelle Loudermilk, whose aunt in Hall County gave her the cookbook. *"I have used this thing to the point the cover has come off, but I still love it! I have notes on the inside of the cover and have to just make sure they are all together."*

**TO SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE, SEND YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER TO:**  
Cooperative Cooking, Jackson EMC, P.O. Box 38, Jefferson, GA 30549, or send an email to *JEMCO News* editor Kerri Testement at [recipes@jacksonemc.com](mailto:recipes@jacksonemc.com).