

# JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS



*Give Your Home an*  
**ELECTRICAL**  
**SAFETY**  
*Checkup*

---

MARCH 2020 | IN THIS ISSUE

---

BE READY WITH SURGE PROTECTION WHEN LIGHTNING STRIKES  
TAKE YOUR JACKSON EMC ACCOUNT ON-THE-GO  
SIGN UP NOW FOR TIME-OF-USE RATE



# WE'RE FOCUSED ON SAFETY

Recently, a NASCAR driver was involved in a very bad accident near the end of a race. Thanks to the safety features in his car, the driver's injuries were not life threatening. For me, it was a great reminder about the importance of wearing my seat belt. Every time I get in a vehicle, part of my routine includes strapping on my seat belt. It's an old habit. But, you may recall a time when wearing a seat belt in a car wasn't required. Nowadays, it's common practice to use seat belts because we know they help save lives.

Strapping on a seat belt takes just a few seconds. To develop this habit, you must be consistent. Consistency matters because an accident can happen at any time. That one time you choose not to use a seat belt may be the time an accident occurs. It's practicing safe habits and making them routine, like the example of consistently wearing a seat belt, that allow us to drive safe every day. It's those same practices that allow our employees to do their jobs with safety and service in mind.

It's important that your electric cooperative set high expectations for employees when it comes to safety. Each month, all Jackson EMC employees – whether they work on power lines or at a desk – are required to attend safety meetings. That emphasis on proper training helps ensure the safety of our employees and the public. Our safety trainers cover different topics, like how to perform CPR, provide first aid or identify hazards in the workplace. Some of our employees have even used the skills they learned in their regular safety trainings to save lives outside of work.

For linemen working on our power lines and equipment, their jobs require the highest standard of safety. After all, working with electricity can be dangerous. Our focus on safety is to eliminate preventable accidents. At the end of the day, our goal is to send every employee home just as happy and healthy as they arrived at work that day. To do that, we can't take shortcuts. No step can be overlooked – not with our procedures, our processes,

or even our equipment. When a hole the size of a pinhead in a lineman's protective rubber gloves could be life threatening, you can rest assured their routine safety habits include a thorough inspection every time they use their gloves.

In our business, safety can't be overemphasized. Just as we remind our employees to be safe every day around electricity, we want you to give the same care and attention. This issue of *JEMCO News* has information on how you can check for electrical safety hazards in your home. Like our employees, we encourage you to be safe every day. Make it a habit!

**Have a story to share on the importance of being safe around electricity? Email me at [chip@jacksonemc.com](mailto:chip@jacksonemc.com).**

**Chip Jakins, President/CEO**

## BE READY WITH SURGE PROTECTION WHEN LIGHTNING STRIKES

**Lightning strikes can happen any time there's a storm. Electrical surges from lightning or power surges can damage or destroy household appliances and equipment.**

Jackson EMC offers surge protection to members to help protect against surges that could damage or destroy equipment and motor-driven appliances.

High-quality surge protectors are available from Jackson EMC, starting at \$17 each. An eight-outlet strip is available for \$88.

Surge protection for motor-driven appliances, such as HVAC units, refrigerators, garage door openers and water heaters is available through the Surge HELP® warranty program. Fees for this protection can be added to your monthly Jackson EMC bill. Coverage starts at \$5.75 a month for annual \$2,000 coverage.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
**[JACKSONEMC.COM/SURGE](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/SURGE)**

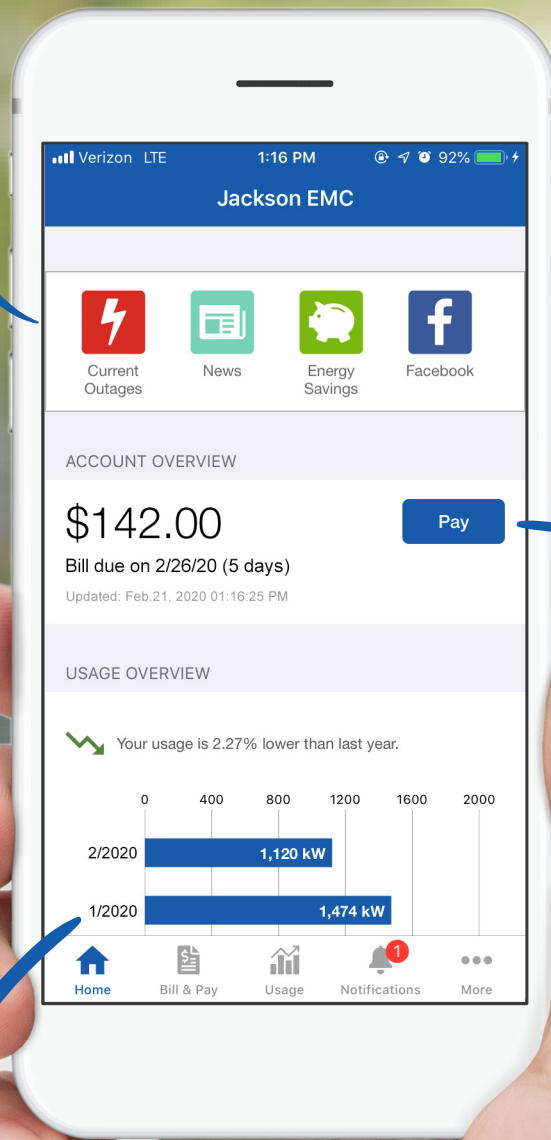
# Take Your **JACKSON EMC** ACCOUNT ON-THE-GO

With the MyJacksonEMC mobile app, you can easily and securely pay your monthly bill, monitor your daily energy use, report an outage and more. Download the MyJacksonEMC mobile app to put control of your account in the palm of your hand.

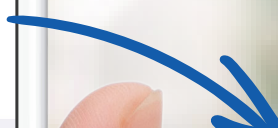
Download the MyJacksonEMC mobile app for free in the App Store® or Google Play™.



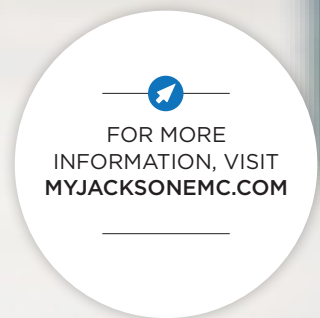
**REPORT AN  
OUTAGE**



**PAY YOUR  
BILL**



**TRACK  
YOUR ENERGY  
USE**





# Give Your Home an **ELECTRICAL SAFETY** Checkup

---

Just as your vehicle needs regular checkups to operate properly, so does your home's electrical system.

Electrical fires are a serious risk to your home. By checking switches, outlets, cords, appliances and the electrical panel, you're reducing the possibility of an electrical fire in your home. Always use a licensed electrician to complete work involving electrical wires, outlets and electrical panels.

Use this checklist to ensure you can identify and correct potential electrical hazards around your home before an electrical fire happens.



## SWITCHES & OUTLETS

Y N

### ARE ANY SWITCHES OR OUTLETS WARM TO THE TOUCH?

Unusually warm switches or outlets may indicate an unsafe wiring condition.

**TO FIX** Stop using these switches and outlets until they are checked by a licensed electrician.

Y N

### DO ANY SWITCHES OR OUTLETS MAKE CRACKING, BUZZING, OR SIZZLING SOUNDS?

Unusual noises from a switch or outlet may indicate an unsafe wiring condition, such as a loose electrical connection.

**TO FIX** Have a licensed electrician check these switches and outlets.

Y N

### DO PLUGS FIT SNUGLY INTO ALL OUTLETS?

Loose-fitting plugs can cause overheating and fires.

**TO FIX** Outlets without a snug fit should be replaced.

## ELECTRICAL PANEL

Y N

### DO YOU HAVE RECURRING TRIPPED CIRCUIT BREAKERS OR BLOWN FUSES?

Fuses and circuit breakers are safety devices on your home's electrical panel that help prevent overloading your home's electrical system and prevent fires. They stop the electrical current if it exceeds the safe level for some portion of your home's electrical system. Frequent blown fuses or tripped circuits can signify a serious electrical problem.

**TO FIX** Contact a licensed electrician immediately.

Y N

### DO YOU HAVE ARC FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS (AFCIS) ON YOUR ELECTRICAL PANEL?

AFCIs are advanced circuit breakers that provide greater electrical fire protection.

**TO FIX** Consider having a licensed electrician replace the standard circuit breakers with AFCIs. Then, be sure to regularly test the AFCIs.

## LAMPS & APPLIANCES

Y N

### ARE YOU USING THE APPROPRIATE WATTAGE LIGHTBULBS IN ALL LAMPS AND LIGHT FIXTURES?

An incandescent bulb with a wattage higher than recommended may overheat the light fixture, wiring or nearby combustible material, leading to a fire.

**TO FIX** Consider replacing incandescent bulbs with LED lighting, which emit less heat and minimize the risk of overheating.

Y N

### ARE ALL APPLIANCE CORDS PLACED SO THEY WILL NOT TOUCH HOT SURFACES?

Cords can melt or burn from excess heat. This can expose wires and lead to a fire or electrical shock.

**TO FIX** Move cords away from all heat sources, such as heaters, ranges, and toasters.

## ELECTRICAL CORDS

Y N

### IS ANY CORD CRACKED, FRAYED, OR OTHERWISE DAMAGED?

Damaged cords may have exposed wires that can be a fire and shock hazard.

**TO FIX** Do not use damaged cords. Replace the cord or the equipment.

Y N

### ARE CORDS ATTACHED TO ANYTHING WITH NAILS OR STAPLES?

Nails and staples can cut or pinch insulation or break wire strands, presenting a fire or shock hazard.

**TO FIX** Remove nails or staples. Check cord and replace if damaged.

Y N

### ARE CORDS PLACED UNDER CARPETS?

Cords can overheat if air cannot flow around them, creating a fire hazard.

**TO FIX** Move cords or carpets so the cords are not covered.

Y N

### DO YOU USE EXTENSION CORDS ON A PERMANENT BASIS?

Extension cords are designed for temporary use. Extended use may damage the cord, creating a fire and shock hazard.

**TO FIX** Have a licensed electrician install new outlets where needed or move equipment closer to an outlet.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOME ELECTRICAL SAFETY, VISIT THE ELECTRICAL SAFETY FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL'S (ESFI) WEBSITE AT [ESFI.ORG](http://ESFI.ORG).



in fall/winter. In beep baseball, batters and field players are visually impaired while sighted players serve as pitcher, catcher and field assistants. Batters listen for the ball to “beep” and swing as it crosses the plate. The AIRS Timberwolves have competed at the National Beep Baseball Association’s World Series each season since AIRS was established, including last summer’s series in Tulsa, Okla., says Roger who, at 72, is the oldest player in the national league.

Thanks to a recent \$7,500 grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation, AIRS purchased new adaptive equipment and uniforms, which enabled the organization to add players to their teams.

The wheelchair basketball team, Rolling Thunder, includes some players who are not confined to wheelchairs. Sometimes they play against teams whose players have no disabilities. “They use wheelchairs and play by our rules,” said Roger Keeney. After the University of Georgia football team competed with AIRS in wheelchair basketball, the score was Rolling Thunder, 40; UGA, 10.

“When the football players get up out of that chair, their attitudes about people with disabilities are changed forever,” said Roger Keeney. “Including non-disabled players helps change attitudes toward people with disabilities. That’s our focus: to change attitudes. If they change their views on disabilities, our isolation vanishes.”

Kim Keeney has cerebral palsy and uses an electric wheelchair. Her husband, Roger, is blind. The couple, however, does not let their disabilities define them—far from it. Instead, they operate Athens Inclusive Recreation and Sports (AIRS), a nonprofit organization that gets people like them moving and active and, as a byproduct, healthier and happier.

“To be healthy, you can’t sit at home and play video games; you have to stay active,” said Kim Kenney, AIRS program coordinator.

“In Georgia, one in four people in the general population deals with obesity,” said Roger Keeney, AIRS director. “But it’s three-in-four for people with long-term disabilities because they don’t have as many opportunities for fitness exercise. We offer that opportunity, which gives them independence, improved quality of life, and the life-affirming experience of playing their best as part of a team.”

The Keeneyes started AIRS in 2012. Today, the agency annually serves about 300 people with developmental, physical or intellectual disabilities by providing them an outlet for sports and recreation through adapted sports activities.

The adapted activities are seasonal with beep baseball played in spring/summer and wheelchair basketball and power soccer offered

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ATHENS INCLUSIVE RECREATION AND SPORTS (AIRS), VISIT [AIRS-GA.ORG](http://AIRS-GA.ORG).

## SIGN UP NOW FOR TIME-OF-USE RATE

Making small changes to when you use energy could help you save on your electric bill. And with Jackson EMC’s Time-of-Use rates, your commitment to energy conservation can go a long way to trimming your energy costs.

By signing up for Jackson EMC’s Time-of-Use rate, you can take advantage of a year-round lower electric rate by reducing your energy use between the hours of 3 and 8 p.m. on weekdays from June 1 to September 15.

Reducing your energy use during summer peak periods helps us control the higher costs of producing electricity in the summer. If you can shift using higher energy users—such as air conditioning and electric water heaters—to off-peak hours, the Time-of-Use rate may be for you.

For participating members, Jackson EMC installs a meter that logs all energy used

during peak and off-peak periods. During peak periods (3 to 8 p.m. on weekdays, excluding the Independence Day and Labor Day holidays, between June 1 to September 15), the cost of electricity per kilowatt hour will be 34.35 cents. During off-peak periods, the cost lowers significantly for Time-of-Use participants to only 7.35 cents per kilowatt hour. The normal residential rate is 8.81-11.66 cents per kilowatt hour. The monthly service charge for Time-of-Use members is \$26 per month.

**To participate this summer, sign up by May 1. Members who sign up after May 1 will begin Time-of-Use rates next summer. Register by calling 1-800-462-3691 or visiting your local Jackson EMC office.**


FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TIME-OF-USE RATE, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/TIME-OF-USE](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/TIME-OF-USE)



**REGULAR RESIDENTIAL RATE**  
(Year-Round)  
8.81¢-11.66¢



**TIME-OF-USE RATE**  
(June 1-Sept. 15)  
7.35¢ (8 a.m. to 3 p.m.)  
34.35¢ (3-8 p.m. weekdays)



**TIME-OF-USE RATE**  
(Sept. 16-May 31)  
7.35¢ (all hours)

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total

**\$91,504 IN GRANTS**

during its January meeting, including \$87,304 to organizations and \$4,200 to an individual.

**ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:**

**\$15,000 | Family Promise of Athens (Interfaith Hospitality Network),** in Clarke County, a network of 41 area congregations and more than 1,000 volunteers, for its Hospitality Shelter Program that provides temporary housing and services to homeless families in need, for a case manager and childcare while homeless parents work or seek work, and the Extended Network Program.

**\$15,000 | Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry,** in Gwinnett County, for its Emergency Assistance Program, which provides a safety net for clients dealing with difficult and often temporary circumstances by providing emergency food supplies,

shelter, prescription medications, and referrals to local clinics, enabling them to move toward self-responsibility.

**\$15,000 | Norcross Cooperative Ministry,** in Gwinnett County, for its Emergency Rental Assistance Program, which provides matching funds to assist clients with one month's housing costs.

**\$15,000 | Nothing but the Truth,** a Dacula faith-based organization dedicated to meeting needs in the community, to purchase food for the Weekend Food Bag Program that provides food for the weekend to Gwinnett County public school children who have been identified by counselors as food insecure.

**\$15,000 | Side By Side Brain Injury Clubhouse, Inc.,** a Stone Mountain nonprofit organization that helps individuals recovering from traumatic brain injury to regain employment and living skills, to provide rehabilitation services for adults from Gwinnett County who are permanently disabled by traumatic brain injury.

**\$7,304 | Jefferson Lions Club,** to purchase a spot vision screener for its Kidsight USA program in Jackson County, which provides trained volunteers to administer vision screenings to children in local schools.

**\$2,500 | Cresswind LL Veterans, Inc.,** a Gainesville-based nonprofit serving veterans and their families, for its Helping Others Program, which focuses on providing financial assistance, food, clothing, shelter and mentoring to needy and homeless veterans in Hall County.

**\$2,500 | Spirit of Joy Food Pantry,** in Flowery Branch, which distributes food to those in need in Banks, Barrow, Hall and Jackson counties, to purchase food.

**INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENT:**  
**\$4,200 to a disabled senior citizen** to replace a ramp and porch.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY FOR A GRANT, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION).

**MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS**

*Chocolate-Covered Cherry Cake*



**CAKE:**

- Vegetable oil spray, or Baker's Joy spray
- 1 box Devil's Food cake mix, or devil's food cake mix with pudding
- 1 can cherry pie filling (21 oz.)
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp. pure almond extract

**CHOCOLATE GLAZE:**

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup butter
- 1/3 cup whole milk
- 1 package semisweet chocolate chips (6 oz. or 1 cup)

**DIRECTIONS:**

Place rack in center of the oven and preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly mist a 13"x9" baking pan with vegetable oil spray. Set pan aside.

In a large mixing bowl, combine cake mix, cherry pie filling, eggs and almond extract. Blend with an electric mixer on low speed for one minute. Stop the machine and scrape down the sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula. Increase the mixer speed to medium and beat two more minutes. The batter should look thick and well blended. Pour the batter into prepared pan, smoothing top with spatula. Place the pan in the preheated oven.

Bake the cake for 30-35 minutes, or until it springs back when lightly touched. Remove the pan from the oven and set it on a wire rack. For the glaze, add sugar, butter and milk to a small saucepan and cook over medium-low heat, stirring constantly until it comes to a boil. Boil mixture, stirring constantly, for one minute. Remove the saucepan from the heat and stir in the chocolate chips. When the chips have melted and the glaze is smooth, pour it over the warm cake, covering the entire surface. The glaze will firm up as it cools. Cool cake for 20 more minutes before cutting and serving.

“It's an easy recipe. A friend gave me this recipe years ago.”

— MILDRED DAVIS,  
LAWRENCEVILLE



SEND US YOUR BEST RECIPES: [RECIPES@JACKSONEMC.COM](mailto:RECIPES@JACKSONEMC.COM) OR MAIL TO:  
COOPERATIVE COOKING | JACKSON EMC | PO BOX 38 | JEFFERSON, GA 30549  
FIND MORE RECIPES AT [WWW.JACKSONEMC.COM/RECIPES](http://WWW.JACKSONEMC.COM/RECIPES).

**YOUR POWER.  
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

A PUBLICATION FOR  
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

**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

825 Buford Dr  
Lawrenceville, GA  
(770) 963-6166

**EMC SECURITY**  
55 Satellite Blvd., NW  
Suwanee, GA  
(770) 963-0305 or  
(706) 543-4009

PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE PAID



@JacksonEMC



jacksonemc



jackson\_emc



jackson\_emc



Jackson EMC

[jacksonemc.com](http://jacksonemc.com)

# MOVE OVER

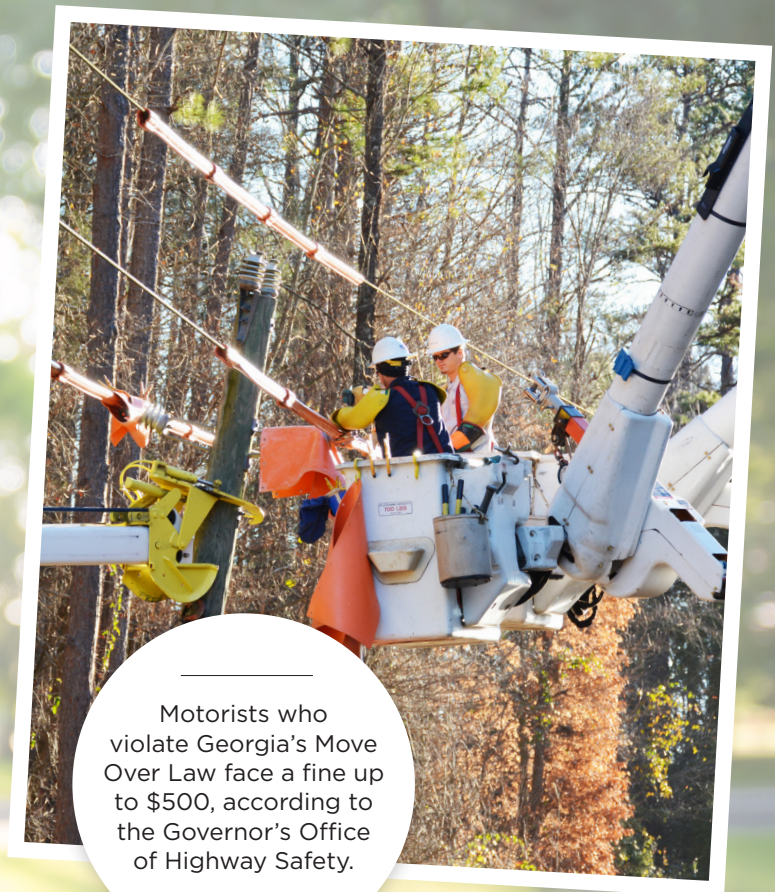
**TO KEEP CREWS, FIRST RESPONDERS SAFE**

When you see a utility vehicle parked on the side of the road working in an official capacity, you can help keep line crews safe by moving over a lane or slowing down and being prepared to stop.

Georgia is one of many states that requires motorists to move over a lane or slow down significantly when approaching vehicles for police, firefighters, EMS crews, Georgia DOT vehicles, HERO units, wreckers and utility crews actively working on the side of the road.

By moving over, you're giving workers the space they need to remain safe.

"Keeping our crews safe on the job so they can return to their families is a top priority," said Steve Chambers, director of Jackson EMC's job training and safety. "When motorists move over a lane, they're helping our line crews continue to work safely."



Motorists who violate Georgia's Move Over Law face a fine up to \$500, according to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.