

CURRENTS

JNEC's February 2025 Newsletter

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Be Ready for Storm Season

Preparedness is the Best Defense

Spring is on our doorstep and like many of you, many of us are looking forward to more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy warmer weather. Springtime brings many of my favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, time spent working in the garden and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

Unfortunately, spring and summer can also create the perfect conditions for severe storms.

Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative crews are always prepared and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area. When severe storms cause power disruptions, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines.

We would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, including canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from potential power surges and will also help prevent overloading circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored.

If you plan to use a portable generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative's Facebook page for restoration updates.

Severe storms can occasionally bring down power lines. If you see a downed line, always assume it's energized and never approach it. If flooding occurs, never walk through areas where power lines could be submerged.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and lessen the impact of the storm's effects.

Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings and follow us on Facebook for the latest power restoration updates. If you experience an outage, please don't report it on Facebook. Call our outage reporting number at 409-423-2241 or 800-231-9340--this is the fastest way to let us know if your power is out.

We hope we don't experience severe storms over the spring and summer months, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative, we recommend that you make a plan today--because storm preparedness is always our best defense.

Why Is My Electric Bill More Than My Neighbor's?

You have a TV, microwave, electric range, cooktop, refrigerator, heat pump, and computer. So does your next-door neighbor. So why is your electric bill almost twice as high every month?

Consider: How well are your walls insulated compared to your neighbor's? Do you take longer, hotter showers? Are you cooking complicated meals or baking from scratch while your neighbor opts to microwave? Does the TV keep you company even when you're not watching it?

Just as no two families are alike, no two electric bills are alike. Comparing your monthly statement to anyone else's would be like comparing your weekly grocery tabs. It's unlikely that any two families will spend the same amount on food because tastes and habits differ.

Think about the conveniences you might be willing to pay for that your neighbor isn't. Are you more comfortable sleeping in an extra-cool house on summer nights? Maybe your neighbor's thermostat setting is a few degrees warmer at bedtime.

The best way to lower your electric costs is to use energy more efficiently before the bill comes. If your neighbor's bill is lower than yours, ask for some tips about how to save money by conserving energy around the house.

Operation Round Up

A Successful Membership Program in 2024

To Join Operation Round Up call JNEC at 409-423-2241 or 800-231-9340 and tell our Member Service Representative that you want to be in Operation Round Up!

Operation Round Up is an innovative community service fundraising program. Beginning in January 2002, a voluntary and exciting member-funded program supporting worthwhile projects in our communities was implemented at Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative, Inc. (JNEC). Operation Round Up funds are spent locally. An Operation Round Up committee consisting of members representing each district in JNEC’s service area decides how donations are distributed.

Operation Round Up is successful with over \$65,750.00 distributed in 2024. Since 2002, JNEC members have contributed over \$1,652,373 to their local communities. Every month, your additional pennies, nickels, and dimes are added to this special fund that helped in 2024. The following local community activities and projects throughout JNEC’s service area:

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| BUNA PUBLIC LIBRARY | EVADALE LITTLE LEAGUE |
| NEWTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT | BUNA LITTLE LEAGUE |
| BUNA FFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION | TROUT CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT |
| DEWEYVILLE 4H CLUB | BON WIER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT |
| JASPER HS OPERATION GRADUATION | JASPER COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM |
| FRIENDS OF THE KIRBYVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY | BURKEVILLE 4H |
| DEWEYVILLE 4H & FFA ALUMNI | THE RENEWAL PROJECT |
| DEWEYVILLE PROJECT GRADUATION | ROGANVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT |
| EVADALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT | NEWTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY |
| DEWEYVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT | NEWTON FAIR BUYERS COMMITTEE |
| KIRBYVILLE WOMEN’S CIVIC CLUB | JASPER COUNTY JR LIVESTOCK FOUNDATION |
| GREATER JASPER SHARE | EAST TEXAS PREGNANCY HELP CENTER |
| KIRBYVILLE LITTLE DRIBBLERS | BEECH GROVE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT |
| NEWTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY | SANTA’S TOY BRIGADE |
| WILDCAT 4H | BUNA LITTLE DRIBBLERS |
| DEWEYVILLE YOUTH BASKETBALL | CHAMPION OAKS RANCH |
| NEWTON FOOD SHARE | EAST TEXAS MUTUAL AID |
| EVADALE OPERATION GRADUATION | SOUTHEAST TEXAS FIRST RESPONDERS |
| HUGHES CENTER OUTREACH | KIRBYVILLE YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE |
| BUNA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT | JASPER COUNTY TRI-COMMUNITY VFD |
| | MASA HOPE & COMMUNITY OUTREACH |

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Scammers will try anything to deceive utility customers, including a tactic that claims customers have overpaid their bill. If you receive a call, text or email from someone claiming you overpaid a utility bill and need to provide your banking or credit card information to receive a credit, it’s likely a scam. In most cases, your utility will apply a credit to your account to cover future charges or refund an overpayment with a mailed check.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams



SPACE HEATER SAFETY

Plug it directly into an outlet. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which can overheat.

