

JACKSON ENERGY



WORKING FOR YOU



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Our lives are on the line

The safety of our members and our employees is a top priority at Jackson Energy, especially during dangerous times. When storms impact our area, we rush to your aid as soon as weather conditions allow our lineworkers to travel and make repairs safely.

Our line crews take necessary precautions before they work on downed power lines. First, they verify a circuit has been de-energized, and that proper switches are opened and tagged to isolate the circuit from the system. We place ground chains on the circuit—on both sides of workers—to make sure the line cannot be energized while work is being done.

But even after these measures, our workers' lives remain in your hands.

Jackson Energy is proud of our outstanding safety record, but sometimes, no matter how many steps we take to keep everyone safe, the very people we are there to help unknowingly put our lives—and their own—in danger.

Portable generators, widely used when power lines are down, can prove fatal to lineworkers and your neighbors when used improperly.

A generator connected to a home's wiring or plugged into a regular household outlet can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone who comes in contact with them—even if the lines seem de-energized.

And Jackson Energy employees are not the only ones in danger when a portable generator is used improperly. Generator owners themselves may be at risk of electrocution, fire injury, property damage or carbon monoxide poisoning if they do not follow the necessary safety rules.

Portable generators can be very helpful during outages. But we urge you to follow these safety guidelines when using one:

- **Read and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.** Never cut corners when it comes to generator safety.
- **Always plug appliances directly into generators.** Connecting the generator to your home's circuits or wiring must be done by a qualified, licensed electrician who will install a transfer switch to prevent backfeeding.
- **Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords.** Make sure extension cords are free of cuts or tears and the plug has three prongs. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage.
- **Ensure your generator is properly grounded.**
- **Never overload a generator.** A portable generator should only be used when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances.
- **Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.**
- **Keep the generator dry.**
- **Always have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby.**



JI GOJIN/ADOBE STOCK

- **Never refuel a generator while it is operating.**
- **Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring unless your home has been wired for generator use.** This can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including lineworkers making repairs.

Another option is a GenerLink device that allows our members to connect their portable generator directly to their electric panel. The device also provides backfeed protection which keeps us safe.

Jackson Energy personnel will install these devices. The meter must be pulled—which only we can do. The cost of the GenerLink devices includes the device, cord and installation. For any questions and for pricing information, contact Chad Mashburn at (606) 364-9210.

We encourage you to protect the well-being and safety of your family during outages, and safeguard those who come to your aid during emergency situations. When we work together for safety and the good of our communities, we all benefit.

Lisa Baker, Editor

Published by Jackson Energy

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Food for thought

Quality of life in the kitchen and beyond

If you've been a co-op member for any length of time, you already know that Jackson Energy has a different kind of business model than your typical utility. We don't just bring you electricity. We're all about making life better in the communities we serve.

The kitchen is one place co-ops have long been focused on improving quality of life. In this special food-themed issue of *Kentucky Living*, we're excited to celebrate the way food brings us together in co-op communities across the state—and it's the perfect opportunity to take a moment and think about electricity in the kitchen.

It's hard to believe today, but there was a time when electric ranges were new to kitchens in rural Kentucky. So were electric powered dishwashers, mixers, food processors, coffee pots and microwaves. Jackson Energy is proud to help power the basic devices that we all take for granted, but are so important to our daily activities.

For people everywhere, food is a powerful part of the way we understand ourselves. That's certainly true in our area as well. Whether we're celebrating or going through a tough time, we know we can count on friends, family and neighbors to show up with food. It's just part of who we are. That's why, for more than 75 years, beloved family recipes—typed on a computer or preserved on a well-worn scrap of paper—have been saved, shared and celebrated in the pages of your *Kentucky Living* magazine.

We've always been focused on safety and energy efficiency as well, which is why we provide regular tips to help you make the most of your kitchen while saving money on your electric bill. For example, did you know using a microwave can save energy compared with using the oven? And, especially during warmer months, using countertop appliances can save energy while also avoiding heating up your kitchen. You can always count on us to remind you about safety—for example, the importance of testing your ground fault circuit interrupter outlets in the kitchen. These regular safety and energy efficiency tips are just one more way we're committed to improving your quality of life, in the kitchen and beyond.

All of us at Jackson Energy hope you enjoy this special food issue of *Kentucky Living*. And we'd love to hear from you, too. If you have a great family recipe you'd like to share, submit it online at KentuckyLiving.com/submit-a-recipe.

By President & CEO
Carol Wright



Safety trailer demonstration

Education on safety is one of the most important things we can do for our employees, our members and our communities. Public safety is a commitment Jackson Energy takes seriously. With close to 6,000 miles of electric lines covering seven counties, we make it a priority to educate our members and our communities about safety issues concerning power lines.

One way we take that commitment to our communities is by using our high voltage safety trailer, which is used to demonstrate the potential dangers of contacting overhead and underground electrical lines and electrical equipment attached to those lines.

Spectators can see firsthand what you should do, and not do, from a safe distance and under the watchful eyes of Jackson Energy's electrical experts.

Those observing the safety trailer demonstration can witness the flash of an electrical arc that is hotter than the surface of the sun, learn about electrical faults and other dangerous situations, and especially learn how to avoid them.

Trained first class line technicians use the trailers to depict some of the most common causes of power outages, such as animals contacting equipment or tree branches falling on lines, as well as the hazards first responders face when approaching vehicles that may be in contact with live wires.

The crews also highlight the importance of avoiding contact between

electrical lines and common household objects including ladders and kite strings. The trailer includes much of the same electrical equipment seen in neighborhoods such as power lines, transformers, and equipment taking overhead power into underground systems. Instructors simulate contact between objects and the trailers' 7200-volt power lines, causing bright and startling electrical arcs that demonstrate the dangerous power of electricity.

The trailer was designed to show the intensity of live electric lines and how they present a potential danger for anyone who encounters them. Seeing is believing, and this type of demonstration is the best teacher in educating the public, from elementary-aged students to first responders.

"We provide safe, reliable electric service to more than 53,000 members, and we emphasize the *safe* part of that," says Safety Director Thomas Nichols. "We have put a lot of miles on this trailer, educating students, our contractors, first responders and the general public about what they can do to protect themselves and their loved ones around electricity."

The trailer and accompanying safety program is available to fire departments, state highway transportation departments, first responders, local schools and other civic groups and businesses.



Students at Friendship Christian School in McKee-Jackson County watch First Class Line Technician Marlon Coffey and Safety Director Thomas Nichols demonstrate the dangers of live electric lines and how to be safe around them during their school's career week. Photos: Lisa Baker



Keep utility poles clear

Yard sale signs, no trespassing signs, basketball hoops, satellite dishes—even member-owned lights—all pose a dangerous risk to utility workers. It's more than dangerous—it can be life threatening.

These items, along with the nails, staples and tacks used to hang them, can cause snags and tears in the utility workers' safety boots and rubber protective gear, which is the first line of protection from electrical shock in the event of an accident. They can also injure workers despite the safety gear they wear to avoid contact with rough edges.

Anyone posting items on utility poles is also at risk of exposure to thousands of volts of electricity pulsing overhead. For your safety, always stay at least 20 feet away from utility poles.

Utility workers' jobs are dangerous enough—please do your part to help them stay safe by not attaching anything to utility poles.

Due to safety concerns, Jackson Energy has the responsibility and the right to remove any item from our utility poles and Jackson Energy is not held liable for any damages that may be caused to such items.



DEANADOBIE STOCK

Welcome cyclists



KELLY BURTON

Jackson Energy employees and family volunteered to help welcome more than 600 cyclists during the 16th Redbud Ride.

Cyclists came from all over Kentucky and surrounding states to take in the beautiful scenery along four routes ranging from 24 to 100 miles through Laurel, Jackson and Rockcastle counties.



JAMIE STRONG

Top, Jackson Energy employees Cindy Wilson, left, April Renner, Jessica Grimes and Taylor Moore welcome cyclists to a snack break along the Greenmount route in Laurel County. Above, Brent Jackson, Brittany Montgomery, Pamela Gray and her son, Jacob Gray, set up along state Route 89 at the Jackson-Rockcastle county line.

Have a safe Father's Day

Keep Father's Day happy by keeping dad safe, even as he tries out his new electric gifts.

Warn your dad that home repairs can be a dangerous undertaking when electricity gets involved, so he needs to use care with electrical equipment and steer clear of power lines.

A bit of common sense and caution while working outside this spring and summer can keep everyone safe. Some tips:

- A ladder—even a wooden one—can cause a fatal shock if it touches a power line.
- Inspect every power tool to determine

if it is still in working order. Turn each one on and then off as you listen to the sound of the motor.

- Inspect power tools and cords for frayed or broken wires and cracked cases before plugging them in.
- Unplug outdoor tools and appliances when you're not using them. Store them out of reach of children.
- Wait for things to dry off before working outdoors after it rains. Even damp grass can be dangerous when using electricity.
- When carrying ladders, aluminum siding, poles and other long objects, look up! More than 20% of people who



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die in electricity-related home repair accidents have touched a power line with a ladder or building material.

- If extension cords are hiding under rugs, move them as covered cords can overheat and start a fire. Cords are designed for temporary use—so put them away.
- Keep your projects at least 20 feet away from power lines.