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Safety tips before, during and after the storm

Storm season is in full swing. Many summer storms have the potential to produce tornadoes—they can happen anytime, anywhere and can bring winds over 200 miles per hour.

In April, a video of NBC Washington chief meteorologist Doug Kammerer went viral. During a live broadcast, Kammerer called his teenage son to warn him of a tornado that was headed straight for their home. Knowing the kids were likely playing video games and not paying attention to the weather, he told them to head straight to the basement. Kammerer debated if he should call his family on-air, but he knew it was the right thing to do. Luckily, the kids made it safely through the storm.

As adults, we understand the importance of storm safety, but younger children and teens may not realize the dangers storms pose. That's why it's so important to talk to your family and have a storm plan in place. Here are several tips to share with your family:

Before the storm

Talk to your family about what to do in the event of a severe storm or tornado. Point out the safest location to shelter, like a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of your home. Discuss

the dangers of severe thunderstorms; lightning can strike 10 miles outside of a storm. Remember: When you hear thunder roar, head indoors.

Make a storm kit. It doesn't have to be elaborate—having a few items on hand is better than nothing at all. Try to include items like water, nonperishable foods, a manual can opener, a first-aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries, prescriptions, baby supplies and pet supplies. Keep all the items in one place for easy access if the power goes out.

During the storm

Pay attention to local weather alerts and understand the types of alerts. A thunderstorm or tornado watch means these events are possible and you should be prepared; a warning means a thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted in your area and it's time to take action.

If you find yourself in the path of a tornado, head to your safe place to shelter, and protect yourself by covering your head with your arms or materials like blankets and pillows.

Practice Storm Safety

Have a plan in place and make a storm kit.

Listen to local alerts and know where to shelter.

Stay off the roads if trees and power lines are down.



NRECA

After the storm

If the power is out, conserve your phone battery as much as possible, limiting calls and texts to let others know you are safe or for emergencies only.

Stay off the roads if trees, power lines or utility poles are down. Lines and equipment could still be energized, posing life-threatening risks to anyone who gets too close.

Wear appropriate gear if you're cleaning up storm debris on your property. Thick-soled shoes, long pants and work gloves will help protect you from sharp or dangerous debris left behind.

Summer can bring severe, dangerous weather. Jackson Energy wants to make sure your family is prepared and knows what to do when a storm strikes.

SPOTLIGHT

Lisa Baker, Editor
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Jackson Energy

Working for You

You help make Summer Games special

The countdown is on for a very special event. As a Jackson Energy member, you're playing a role in making it possible.

As one of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, Jackson Energy is a platinum sponsor of the 2022 Special Olympics Kentucky Summer Games. That means we are the largest supporter of the state Summer Games.

About 1,200 athletes will compete at the June 3-4 event on the Eastern Kentucky University campus in Richmond. This is the 51st edition of the games—more than a half-century of touching the lives of many Bluegrass State residents, including fellow electric cooperative members.

Among those participating is 16-year-old swimmer Kaden Lear of Nicholasville. He's been training since January to compete in freestyle and breaststroke events. His family is a member of Blue Grass Energy.

This is the 15th year Amanda Bass has participated in Special Olympics competition. She'll compete as a member of the Grant County Titans soccer team.

Participating in Special Olympics is a family affair at the Bass home, which is served by Owen Electric Cooperative in Williamstown. Mom Beverly will be among the nearly 500 volunteers cheering on athletes at the games. About 100 of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy employees and their families will also be there.



Track and field competitor Matthew Helton, 17, of Richmond hopes to be a top finisher in the 200-meter and 400-meter dash. But winning a medal isn't the real prize, says his dad. "I've seen him have more confidence in himself," says Cesar Meija, a member of Blue Grass Energy.

Very few of the athletes participating in the Summer Games care about whether there's an award waiting at the finish line. This event is more about smiles and cheers. That's why I'm pleased that Jackson Energy chooses to improve the quality of life in our communities and state through a Special Olympics sponsorship. Best wishes to all those from Jackson Energy's service area who are participating in the Summer Games. Your co-op is cheering you on!



Carol Wright
President & CEO

Be aware of warm-weather scammers

Your electric cooperative will never send anyone to your house to ask you if you need work done. And when someone does come for a legitimate reason, you'll see logo attire, a truck with the cooperative's logo on it and valid identification. If third-party service personnel are doing maintenance work, they can also provide valid identification and verification that they are doing work on behalf of the co-op.

Springtime is scam season. Don't be surprised if you get telephone calls, uninvited visitors looking for work and loads of door hangers offering landscaping, roofing, painting and home-repair services.

Your best bet: Say no to all of them. If you need work done around your house, visit the website of the state agency responsible for licensing contractors or join a contractor referral network that recommends only contractors who are licensed, insured, bonded and experienced.

A few other tips:

- Be wary of contractors with out-of-state license plates or detachable, magnetic company signs on their trucks. These could be "travelers," who follow the warm weather from state to state and hire themselves out as home-improvement contractors. They're almost always unlicensed in your state, and if you discover a problem with their work later, they'll be long gone.



PRESSMASTER/ADOBESTOCK

- Do not pay in cash, and do not pay up front. Instead, work out a payment schedule that allows you to pay in increments as the work is completed.
 - Get bids from three reputable companies before you start. If you get one offer that's way lower than the other two, something is probably amiss.
 - Don't fall for these two lines: "I just finished a job at your neighbor's house, and I'll give you a good price if you hire me today because I'm already in the neighborhood" or "I have leftover materials from a job I just did, and I'll sell/install them here for a deep discount because I don't need them."
- Hiring contractors can be expensive. Don't waste your money on one who's not licensed and legitimate.

School days of safety



Above, 1st Class Line Technician Dwight Robinson demonstrates the dangers of electricity in different scenarios to eighth-graders at Jackson County Middle School. Photo: Nikki Browning



Right-of-way Supervisor Eric Glovier participates in Career Day at Hazel Green Elementary School. Photo: Brent Jackson

BOATING SAFETY

Stay safe when setting sail

Electric safety is as important on the water as it is on the land. It's important to stay at least 10 feet away from electric power lines and other electricity sources when you are out on a boat. **Remember, water and electricity are a deadly combination.**

OTHER MARITIME MUST-DO'S

- If your boat accidentally comes in contact with a power line, whatever you do, don't jump in the water. Stay on board and don't touch anything made of metal. Don't leave the boat until it has moved away from the power line.
- If you notice a tingling sensation while swimming, the water could be electrified. Get out quickly, avoiding metal objects like ladders.



STEM Goes Red in eastern Kentucky

The American Heart Association once again hosted its STEM Goes Red event in eastern Kentucky and Jackson Energy was proud to be one of the sponsors. The goal of the event is to encourage young ladies from local school districts to explore opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math.

STEM Goes Red featured breakout sessions throughout the day on topics ranging from robots to CPR training to civil engineering. Students from Clay, Knox and Laurel counties had the opportunity to explore hands-on activities, learn from professional leaders in the community and dream big about their futures.

Economic projections indicate that there could be nearly 3.5 million unfilled STEM jobs nationally by 2025. The STEM employment gap is further compounded by persistent diversity challenges, as women and minorities comprise 70% of



Jackson Energy President and CEO Carol Wright, left, participates in a panel discussion. Students heard firsthand of Wright's experiences, accomplishments and the challenges she encountered and overcame in the STEM field of engineering. Photos: Lisa Baker

college students, but less than 45% of STEM degrees.

The STEM Goes Red experience inspired, empowered and armed these students with the resources they need to pursue their dreams and live healthy lives themselves.

Jackson Energy, along with our partners in the STEM community in eastern Kentucky, took advantage of the opportunity to encourage and elevate tomorrow's female leaders to drive groundbreaking innovations in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

