

**SPOT**  
LIGHT

JOEMC Member Newsletter      May 2020



A Touchstone Energy® Partner 

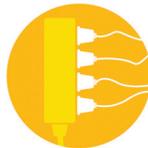


## Stay Safe While Using Electricity

*Safety is the highest priority for Jones-Onslow, and as your local energy partner, we encourage our members to make safety a priority too. May is National Electrical Safety Month, but it's also important to take safety precautions year round. Here are some simple tips:*

### DO:

- Unplug it. Appliances, tools and other devices are still connected to electricity when they are plugged in, even if they are turned off. Turn off AND unplug all electric devices when you're done using them.
- Inspect it. Examine electrical cords often for broken connectors or fraying, and throw away any worn cords. Buy only cords that have been approved by an independent testing laboratory. Also watch your wattage and only use light bulbs that don't exceed the maximum wattage listed on your lamp or fixture.
- Check it. Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets should be used in any area where water and electricity could mix—including kitchens, bathrooms, garages and outdoors—and should be tested monthly. You should also check your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors once a month to ensure they are working properly.



### DON'T:

- Overload it. Overloaded electrical circuits can cause residential fires. Never use extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliances. All major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall outlet, and you should only plug one heat-producing appliance into an outlet at a time.
- Extend it. Extension cords are not a permanent solution. If you're using extension cords regularly, you may need extra outlets and should contact a licensed electrician.
- Touch it. Never go near or drive over a power line. If you encounter a downed line, leave the area immediately and notify us at (910) 353-1940. Never place ladders, poles or other items near power lines, and don't fly kites or drones near lines or substations. Teach children not to put their fingers in electrical outlets, use child-proof outlet covers and keep appliances and cords away from children. Also, never touch electrical appliances with wet hands or use them near sinks, tubs, toilets or showers.

REMEMBER & HONOR  
*Memorial Day*  
Our offices will be closed on  
Monday, May 25.

For more safety tips and information, visit [joemc.com](http://joemc.com), or follow us on our social media channels. ♦

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY

## Stay Out of Hot Water: Operate a Pool or Hot Tub More Efficiently

While your swimming pool or hot tub can be a great place to unwind, you may tense up again when you get your power bill. There are a few things you can do to keep bills in check...starting with regular maintenance.

**F**or pools, keep the pump and strainer baskets clean and back-wash the filter according to the manufacturer's recommended specifications. For hot tubs or spas, be sure to change old or dirty filter cartridges.

Take a look at the pool pump and how you operate it. Make sure the pump is properly sized by a pool professional. And remember, it's more economical to keep the pool clean by manually removing most debris and keeping the chemistry at the right level than by constantly recirculating water. Experts suggest using a timer to operate the pump six hours a day and gradually increase the

run time if needed.

Heating can extend the pool season as well so if you do decide to heat your pool, consider an energy efficient heater such as a heat pump water heater or solar pool heater. The cooler you set the temperature, the less energy you use.

To reduce the cost of operating a hot tub or spa, start with an energy efficient model. Make sure your insulated cover is still in good condition and isn't water-



logged. Adding a floating blanket can decrease the amount of heat lost and for energy efficiency, set the thermostat to 96 degrees Fahrenheit during warm weather and no higher than 102 degrees Fahrenheit when it's colder. ♦



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

When the weather is nice, put your grill to use! During summer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors. Visit [joemc.com](http://joemc.com) for more energy efficiency tips.

## COMMUNITY IMPACT

### JOEMC Installs Two Level 2 EV Charger

North Carolina's electric cooperatives are investing in communities throughout the state and expanding the availability of electric vehicle charging stations—a move that will create one of the biggest cooperative-owned networks in the country.

**A**s part of this project, Jones-Onslow recently had two EV charging stations installed on their system. The first, at the co-op headquarters in Jacksonville, will be available to the public when they visit the office. The station will also “fill up” Jones-Onslow's new all-electric vehicle, a 2020 Chevrolet Bolt that has been given the nickname “Kermit” in a social media contest. The second charging station, installed at the Hampton Inn in Sneads Ferry, will allow guests of the hotel to charge their electric vehicles while visiting the community while on vacation.



Both stations can charge two vehicles simultaneously and, at this time, both stations will be available for use by vehicle owners at no cost.

“Topsail Island and the surrounding area is a popular travel destination, and an electric vehicle charging station will simply be an added benefit to visitors,” said JOEMC's CEO Jeff Clark. “EVs offer numerous opportunities to both drivers and communities, and

we want to do everything we can to encourage their adoption and make it easier for EV owners to travel throughout our state.” ♦

# KEEPING YOU SAFE

## Prepare Now for Hurricane Season

While it may feel like the 2019 hurricane season just ended, the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season is quickly approaching and will officially begin on June 1. In recognition of this, May 3-9 has been designated as Hurricane Preparedness Week, and JOEMC encourages all our members to prepare now for potential storms.

North Carolina is one of the leading states for overall damage from hurricanes, and living on the coast as exposed our community to the impact of these storms firsthand in recent years.



### Here are some things you should do BEFORE hurricane season starts:

- Outline a communications and evacuation plan for your family. If you have pets or any livestock, include them in your plan.
- Create an emergency kit that includes:
  - o Important documents sealed in a watertight plastic bag
  - o Cash
  - o Enough non-perishable food, water and medication for at least three days
  - o First-aid kit
  - o Battery-powered radio
  - o Flashlight
  - o Extra batteries
  - o Personal hygiene items
  - o Extra clothes and blankets
  - o Food and other supplies for pets
- Connect with us online at [joemc.com](http://joemc.com) or on social media to stay informed about outages and other storm information. Keep our outage reporting number and email handy: (910) 353-1940 and [joemc@joemc.com](mailto:joemc@joemc.com).
- Sign up for local weather alerts and warnings. You can also visit [ReadyNC.org](http://ReadyNC.org) or download the free ReadyNC app for tips for preparing for natural disasters, as well as real-time weather and traffic information.

Visit [joemc.com/outages](http://joemc.com/outages) and click on the **STORM RESOURCES** icon for additional storm safety information and tips. ♦

## Avoid the BIG GREEN BOX

Pad-mounted transformers are safe for your neighborhood, but **never play on/near them or plant/dig too close to the equipment**. Use these safety tips as a guide:

### PLAY SAFE

Never play on or near pad-mounted transformers.



### STAY SAFE

Contact us if something seems out of place.



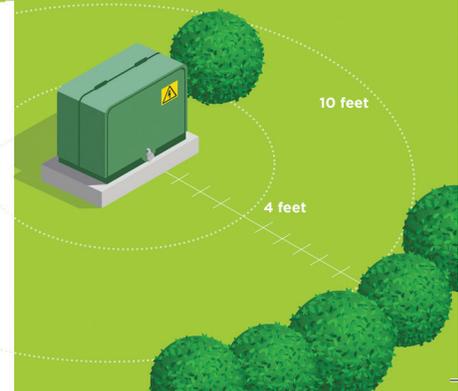
### DIG SAFE

Never dig near pad-mounted transformers.



### PLANT SAFE

Shrubs and structures should be 10 ft. away from transformer doors and 4 ft. away from the sides.



# KEEPING YOU INFORMED

## Safety Is ALWAYS First at JOEMC

Safety is a universal word that is often mentioned and used loosely. Communities large and small, as well as companies across all industries, are committed to safety, and sports leagues take safety seriously. Unfortunately, when it counts, steps to keep the public, workers, athletes, and loved ones safe are often ignored in the interest of expediency or convenience.



As we continue to navigate the impact of COVID-19, JOEMC will continue to make safety its NUMBER ONE priority. By implementing remote working procedures and closing our lobbies to walk-in traffic, we are doing our part to protect our communities, while also making sure that key personnel is in place to continue operations and provide you with high-quality service seamlessly. Our member service representatives are available to assist you by phone, and field personnel has implemented new scheduling and physical distancing practices as they persist in their steadfast efforts to maintain our critical infrastructure.

In our business, safety takes on another meaning and its one that we practice every day. Our commitment to electrical safety is not empty talk. Over time, your cooperative has created a culture of safety by putting our employees' safety and that of the community above all else. At its essence, JOEMC's mission is to provide safe, affordable, and reliable electricity to its members. We strive to deliver affordable and reliable power to our members, but equally important, we want to return our workers home safely to their loved ones. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication, and vigilance.

The safety of our employees is critical. They create value within our organization and are our most valuable resource. How we protect them is indicative of our values and practices. The electrical industry presents many hazards; energized lines, heavy mechanical forces, and unpredictable working conditions. Mitigating these hazards through best industry practices and strategic job planning ensures that we are operating in the most efficient possible way.

Next, as we build and maintain our power system, we consistently go beyond industry minimums and design with a heightened focus on public safety and workability. Further, our rigorous quality control and inspections programs identify areas of concern, which are then quickly addressed. As a result, our low-cost, reliable, and friendly service is delivered safely.

Finally, operating safely translates into cost savings for our members. When losses are minimized, and we save on insurance premiums, we retain resources to re-invest in our power system. This supports both our reliability and our ability to keep rates at their lowest possible level.

We are grateful to be a part of your community and honored to provide electricity and services that power your life. Please remember, we are here for you, just as we always have been, and always will be. We look forward to continuing to work together to meet our challenges with strength, determination, and unity.

Jeffery T. Clark | CEO



## Chocolate-Covered Strawberry Brownies

### Ingredients:

- 1 box brownie mix, plus ingredients called for on box
- 1 ½ cup halved strawberries
- 2 ⅓ cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup heavy cream

### Directions:

- 1) Preheat oven to 350° and line an 8x8 pan with parchment paper.
- 2) Make brownie: Prepare brownie batter according to package instructions. Pour batter into prepared pan and bake until a toothpick inserted into the middle comes out with only a few moist crumbs, 25 to 30 minutes. Let cool completely in pan, then top with strawberries.
- 3) Make ganache: Place chocolate chips in a medium, heatproof bowl and set aside. Heat heavy cream in a small saucepan over medium heat. When bubbles begin to break the surface around the edges of the pan, turn off the heat. Pour the hot cream over chocolate chips. Let sit for 5 minutes, then whisk constantly until the sauce is smooth. Pour over the strawberry layer.
- 4) Refrigerate brownies until the ganache has set, about 15 minutes. Slice into squares and serve cold.

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