

# SPOTLIGHT

JONES-ONSLOW EMC—POWERING HOMES SINCE 1939



MAY 2021

## May is National Electrical Safety Month

This month, make electrical safety a priority. Help your family avoid dangerous situations by taking a few easy precautions.



### Make sure to turn off AND unplug.

Appliances, tools, and other devices are still connected to electricity when they are plugged in. Turn off, then unplug all portable electric devices when you're finished using them. When unplugging, make sure to hold the plug, not the cord. Also, never touch electrical appliances with wet hands or use them near sinks, tubs, toilets, or showers.

**Be smart about outlets.** Don't overload power outlets, power strips, or surge protectors, and use bulbs that match the wattage indicated on light fixtures. Use Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets in any area where water and electricity may come into contact, including kitchens, bathrooms, garages, and outdoors and test these monthly to ensure they are working correctly.

**Use cords properly.** Extension cords should only be used temporarily. Inspect electrical cords often for broken connectors or fraying. Throw away worn cords to

eliminate the possibility of shock, short circuit, or fire. Don't attempt to repair damaged cords with tape.

**Keep a safe distance.** Never go near a power line. If you encounter a downed line, leave the area immediately, notify your cooperative, and avoid driving over downed lines. 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.

JOEMC is dedicated to educating people of all ages about electrical safety and providing you with electricity that is as safe and reliable as possible. For more safety tips and information, visit [joemc.com](http://joemc.com) or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.

## Do we have your email address?

We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our business operations, which is why we need your help.

By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the most reliable electric service you expect and deserve. Part of this contact information includes your email address.

Providing your email address allows JOEMC to notify you of:

- outages
- co-op events
- savings programs
- and much more

Emails are easy to view quickly from almost anywhere and often alert you in a more timely manner than a paper notice or phone call. To update your account, call us at 910-353-1940.



## ENERGYEFFICIENCY

### Keep Cool this Summer— FIVE TIPS FOR HEAT PUMP MAINTENANCE

Like all heating and cooling systems, proper maintenance remains the key to efficient heat pump operation. The difference in electric use between a well-maintained unit and a severely neglected one can range from 10 percent to 25 percent!

Here are a few heat pump maintenance items you should do in the early spring to get your heat pump ready for summer:

**Switching your thermostat from HEAT to COOL** - there should be a switch on your thermostat with three settings: HEAT, COOL, and OFF. Before you do anything, turn the switch to COOL mode, so you don't forget to do it later!

**Make sure your fan is set to AUTO** - in addition to the HEAT, COOL, OFF switch on your thermostat, there should be another one labeled ON and AUTO. While you're adjusting the first switch, make sure this one is set to AUTO. This will prevent the fan from running

constantly, instead of letting it turn on and off as necessary to keep your home comfortable as efficiently as possible.

**Check your air filters** - dirty filters can wreak havoc on your heat pump, reducing its efficiency and potentially causing a complete breakdown. Remember to change your air filters every month to three months, depending on how often you run your unit. This is an easy and inexpensive way to help keep your heat pump unit running efficiently.

**Set the right temperature** - during the summer, every degree higher you set your thermostat can save you as much as 3-5 percent on your electric bills! Setting your thermostat as high as it is

comfortable will help you save money and increase the life of your heat pump. For best results, install a programmable thermostat to optimize cooling and efficiency!

**Schedule heat pump maintenance** - if you want your heat pump unit to run as efficiently and effectively as possible all year long, the best thing to do is have your system inspected before starting the cooling season and again before the heating system. These preventative inspections give a heat pump expert a chance to ensure that your system runs properly and fix any minor issues before becoming major problems!



## COMMUNITYFOCUS

### Are you a local business owner?

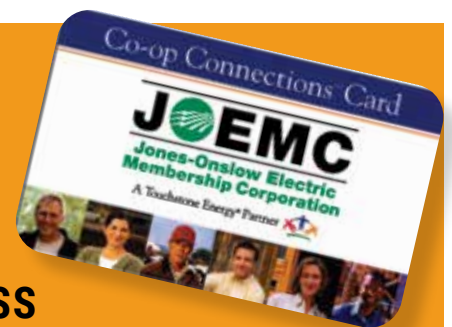
Are you interested in receiving FREE marketing and advertising AND increasing customer traffic to your location? Then Co-op Connections is for you! All it takes is signing up for the Co-op Connections® Program and providing JOEMC members with a discount (of your choosing) at your business.

To learn more, visit [joemc.com/cooperative/community-programs/co-op-connections](http://joemc.com/cooperative/community-programs/co-op-connections) or contact JOEMC's Assistant VP of Community & Public Relations, Paula Redick, at (910) 577-6350 or [predick@joemc.com](mailto:predick@joemc.com).



# GO BEYOND THE CARD.

## BE A PARTICIPATING BUSINESS IN THE CO-OP CONNECTIONS® PROGRAM.



# Prepare Now for Hurricane Season



While it may feel like the 2020 hurricane season just ended, the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season is quickly approaching and will officially begin on June 1. 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 has exposed our community to the impact of these storms firsthand in recent years.

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

- Make sure all of your contact information is up to date with JOEMC, including email addresses.
- Outline a communications and evacuation plan for your family. If you have pets or any livestock, include them in your plan.
- Sign up for local weather alerts and warnings. You can also visit **ReadyNC.org** or download the free ReadyNC app for tips for preparing for natural disasters, as well as real-time weather and traffic information.
- Create an emergency kit that includes:
  - Important documents sealed in a watertight plastic bag
  - Cash
  - Enough non-perishable food, water, and medication for at least three days
  - First-aid kit
  - Battery-powered radio
  - Flashlight
  - Extra batteries
  - Personal hygiene items
  - Extra clothes and blankets
  - 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)**.

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



## Quick Monkey Bread Rolls

Prep Time: 10 mins

Cook Time: 15 mins

Servings: 10 rolls

### Ingredients

- 1 can (12 oz) refrigerated butter-milk biscuits, such as Pillsbury Grands Jr.
- 6 tablespoons butter, melted
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ cup maple syrup

### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray 10 muffin cups with nonstick baking spray with flour. Set aside.
2. Cut biscuits into thirds. Pour melted butter into a medium bowl. In another medium bowl, stir together sugars and cinnamon. Dip biscuit pieces into butter, then dredge in sugar mixture. Place 3 biscuits pieces into each muffin cup.
3. Bake until puffed and golden brown, 12 to 15 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes. Run a knife around edge of cups; remove rolls. Drizzle with maple syrup.

## Improving Grid Resilience



Jones-Onslow EMC  
CEO Jeffery T. Clark

Last year's Atlantic hurricane season broke records with a total of 30 named storms, 12 of which made landfall in the United States, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The storm season's severity made headlines and garnered significant attention until the tropics settled, the weather cooled and new issues dominated headlines.

But at JOEMC, we did not forget. Our focus on improving the resilience of the electric grid is a year-round effort. We take steps daily to ensure the electric grid can quickly and effectively recover from storms and other threats so our members have the reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity they depend on.

The electric grid has evolved substantially in recent years and will continue to change as new advancements transform the ways co-ops and other utilities transmit power and our members use it. Digital technology is also making an unprecedented level of energy monitoring and communication possible, which ultimately benefits you by alerting us to issues on the grid and enabling tools that allow you to be more aware of your energy use.

On today's modern grid, power no longer moves in a linear path from cooperative to member. Instead, it includes a wide variety of resources and technologies spread throughout the grid, like a spider web. Many of these distributed energy resources stem directly from members like you, including smart thermostats and water heater controls, residential solar, and even electric vehicles. JOEMC and

the state's other electric cooperatives are also pursuing a range of innovative energy solutions, from microgrids to solar and storage, that further enhance grid flexibility and efficiency.

Using a sophisticated energy management platform, we are carefully coordinating and dispatching these interconnected resources to meet electricity demand and balance traffic on the grid, improving reliability and helping manage costs by offsetting the need to build traditional power plants.

We are also undertaking other measures that increase grid resilience and strengthen our infrastructure against storms, including physical enhancements and the introduction

of system redundancies that help prevent outages from occurring. These include a commitment to system-wide maintenance of our substations and distribution lines as well as our focused efforts on maintaining a clear right-of-way.

All of these efforts are part of our ongoing commitment to building a brighter future for the people, businesses and communities we serve. To learn more about the electric grid and how we prepare for and respond to storms, visit [joemc.com](http://joemc.com).

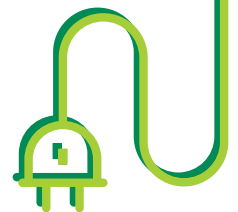
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are part of our  
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brighter future...*

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat.

The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause your air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Source:  
[www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



**Our offices will  
be closed Monday,  
May 31, for  
Memorial Day.**



[www.joemc.com](http://www.joemc.com)