

# SPOTLIGHT

JONES-ON SLOW EMC—POWERING HOMES SINCE 1939



MAY 2022

## Plug Into Safety May is Electrical Safety Month

Electricity is something we often take for granted. Because it's so intertwined into our daily lives, from powering smartphones to providing lighting in even the most obscure locations, we can often forget the dangers that come with it. When not properly installed or respected, there are significant risks of injury or fire from electrical hazards. That is why we highlight National Electrical Safety Month during the month of May.

Each year, 35,000 home fires are the result of an electrical malfunction. It's important to be aware of the warning signs of

an overloaded electrical system. Here's what to look for:

- Frequent tripping of circuit breakers or blowing of fuses
- Dimming of lights when other devices are turned on
- Buzzing sound from switches or outlets
- Discolored outlets
- Appliances that seem under-powered

With thousands of electrical malfunctions every year, how can you avoid overloading circuits in your home? An easy first step is to understand what's actually on the

circuits in your home. You should make sure that a qualified electrical professional performs your home's electrical installations and labeling. Another responsible change would be to reduce your electrical usage through energy-efficient appliances and lighting.

Learn more about electrical safety by visiting [joemc.com](http://joemc.com).



### Unless You Are a Polar Bear

When the weather gets hot, our inner "Polar Bear" appears, making the air conditioner the hardest working appliance. We rely on our cooling system at home or the office for day-to-day comfort. For that reason, it's imperative to have your HVAC system serviced before it starts getting too warm and humid.

Most members can expect to see their bills increase during the summer months as their air conditioners run longer and harder to cool the home to their desired temperature. Experts suggest setting your thermostat to 78 degrees in the summer to keep energy consumption as low as possible. Unless you're part polar bear, you don't need to have your air conditioner at 64 degrees!

You should also inspect and replace your return filters monthly if needed. Failing to change your air filters can cause your air conditioner to run longer and become less efficient. An efficient air conditioner means more money in your pocket due to lower electric bills.

PLUG  
INTO  
SAFETY



Even when disconnected from the home, solar panels can still generate electricity and cause electric shock. Stay safe. Keep a 10-foot distance from all solar panels.

## Restoring Power Safely and Efficiently

We do our best to avoid them, but there's no way around it: *power outages occasionally happen.*

Outages are rare for most co-op members and only last a few hours. But when major storms like hurricanes impact our area, extended outages are unavoidable.

So when the power goes out, how do JOEMC crews know where to start working? How do you know if your outage has been reported? We've got answers to these questions and more, and it all starts with a safe, efficient plan for power restoration.

When the lights go out, and it's safe for our crews to begin the restoration process, they start by repairing power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible. Though we can't control the weather, we can prepare for it. JOEMC keeps a supply of extra equipment on hand so we can quickly get to work in the event of an outage. When widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be out in the

field, simultaneously working to repair damage at numerous locations. We also coordinate with nearby co-ops to bring in additional crews when necessary.

*Though we can't control the weather, we can prepare for it.*

A proactive approach to maintenance helps minimize the chance of prolonged outages; this is why you see Jones-Onslow EMC crews periodically trimming trees and clearing vegetation near rights-of-way. Trimming improves power reliability for our entire community. We love trees too, but it only takes one overgrown limb to knock out power for a whole neighborhood. In addition to managing vegetation, we regularly inspect utility poles, power lines, and other critical equipment to maintain a more reliable system.

If you experience a power outage, don't assume a neighbor reported it. It's best

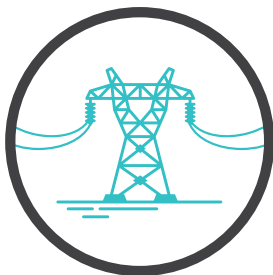
to report the outage yourself, and we make it easy to do. The quickest way to report an outage is through our website, <https://joemc-trouble.sienatech.com>, or call 910-353-1940. In addition to reporting outages, JOEMC implemented a new text outage alert system; this allows members to receive text messages regarding outages in their area and the restoration process.

If you have a medical condition requiring electrical equipment, please let us know and always have a backup plan. This plan could include a portable generator, extra medical supplies, or moving to an alternate location until power is restored. If you plan to use a generator for backup power, read all safety information and instructions before use.

Mother Nature can be unpredictable, but as a member of Jones-Onslow EMC, you can feel confident knowing we're standing by, ready to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

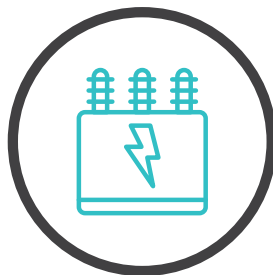
## The Steps to Restoring Power

When a major outage occurs, our crews restore service to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible – until everyone has power.



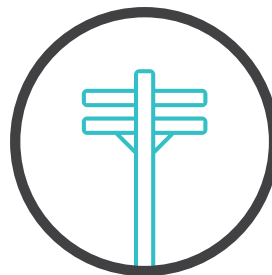
### 1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines

These lines carry large amounts of electricity. They rarely fail but must be repaired first.



### 2. Distribution Substations

Crews inspect substations, which can serve hundreds or thousands of people.



### 3. Main Distribution Lines

Main lines serve essential facilities like hospitals and larger communities.



### 4. Individual Homes and Businesses

After main line repairs are complete, we repair lines that serve individual homes and businesses.

## Area Students Headed to D.C. this Summer

Four high school juniors— Brianna Azok (Swansboro High), Cameron Askins, Pearl Floyd, and Makena Johnson (all from Jacksonville High) will be heading to our nation's capital this summer for a visit. They will represent JOEMC at this year's Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Each year, more than 1,800 student leaders from electric cooperatives like ours visit Washington, D.C., to learn more about our nation's capital, interact with elected

officials and have fun meeting students from across the country. As a community-focused organization, we are proud to invest in our future local leaders through the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. And all travel costs are covered by JOEMC!

Students were selected through an essay contest available at public high schools in our area. An independent panel of judges selected the winners.



Cameron Askins



Brianna Azok



Pearl Floyd



Makena Johnson

## SAFETYFIRST

### Are You Prepared?

It may feel like the 2021 hurricane season just ended, however the 2022 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:**

1. Outline a communications and evacuation plan for your family. If you have pets or any livestock, include them in your plan.
2. 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
3. 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 and real-time weather and traffic information.
  4. Sign-up now if you are not part of our outage text alert program! Also, keep our outage reporting number and email handy: **(910) 353-1940** and **joemc@joemc.com**. And, don't forget to connect with us online at **joemc.com** or on social media to stay informed about outages and other storm information.



### Strawberry Whipped Wonder

*If you've been longing for hot weather, this dessert tastes like summer, chocolate dipped! With its creamy, icy strawberry center, dark cookie crust and billowy topping, it'll be a wonder if this dessert lasts long!*  
[www.carolinacountry.com](http://www.carolinacountry.com)

Serves 12

#### Ingredients

- 4 cups fresh strawberries
- 1 can (14-ounce) sweetened condensed milk
- ¼ cup lemon juice
- 1 tub (8-ounce) Cool Whip, thawed and divided
- 8 Oreo chocolate sandwich cookies, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted
- Magic Shell® Chocolate Flavored Topping, optional

#### Directions

1. Line an 8x4-inch loaf pan with foil. Mash 2 cups of strawberries in a large bowl. Stir in condensed milk, juice and 2 cups of Cool Whip. Pour into pan. Top with combined chopped cookies and butter. Press into mixture. Cover and freeze at least 6 hours.
2. To serve, invert onto plate. Remove foil. Drizzle Magic Shell if desired. Frost or dollop with remaining Cool Whip. Top with remaining strawberries, sliced.



## Tree Trimming Improves Service for All

One of the things I love best about our community is the natural beauty surrounding us. We are fortunate to have so many trees that offer beauty, shade, and a habitat for birds and other wildlife. I'm sure you appreciate our community for many of the same reasons.

At JOEMC, we strive to balance maintaining beautiful surroundings and ensuring a reliable power supply by keeping power lines clear in rights-of-way (ROW).

While we recognize and appreciate the beauty of trees, there are three main benefits to tree trimming in ROW areas. However, before touching on the main reasons, let me explain what a "right-of-way" is and how it may impact you. A right-of-way is the land we use to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines. Right-of-way enables the co-op to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder the power line installation, maintenance, or operation. ROW areas are typically on public lands or located near a business or home. Regardless, JOEMC must be able to maintain the power lines above and below the ROW. The overall goal of our vegetation management program is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our community. Proactive vegetation management benefits co-op members in three tangible ways.

**SAFETY** First and foremost, we care about our members and put their safety and our lineworkers' safety above all else. Overgrown vegetation and trees pose a risk to power lines. For example, trees touching power lines in our members' yards can pose a grave danger to families. If children can access those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor like a tree. A proactive approach also diminishes the chances of fallen branches or trees during severe weather events, making it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.



Jones-Onslow EMC  
CEO Jeffery T. Clark

### **RELIABILITY**

One of the most significant benefits of a smart vegetation management program is reliability.

Strategic tree trimming reduces the frequency of downed lines causing power outages. Generally speaking, healthy trees don't fall on power lines, and clear lines don't cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keep lines clear to promote reliability.

We also use data and technology to maximize the efficiency of our operation, which includes our vegetation management plan. Cooperative crews manage unwanted vegetation on the right-of-way utilizing various methods that are periodically evaluated for safety and environmental impact. JOEMC uses an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) approach, which includes mechanical (equipment such as tractors and chain saws) and chemical methods.

**AFFORDABILITY** As you know, Jones-Onslow is a not-for-profit cooperative, which means we strive to keep our costs in check to keep our rates affordable. This extends to our approach to vegetation management. If trees grow too close to power lines, the potential for expensive repairs also increases. Effective tree trimming and other vegetation management efforts keep costs down for everyone.

Our community is a special place. We appreciate the beauty trees afford, but we also know our community depends on us to provide reliable energy. Through vegetation management, we are better able to keep the power lines clear, prepare for future weather events, and secure the reliability of the grid. If you would like to read more about our ROW maintenance program, go to [www.joemc.com/customer-service/safety/right-of-way-maintenance/](http://www.joemc.com/customer-service/safety/right-of-way-maintenance/). ❖

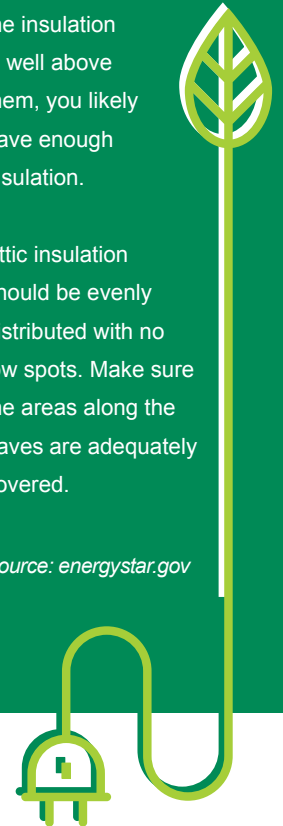
### Energy Efficiency

#### Tip of the Month

Even in summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists (meaning you can easily see your joists), you should add more. If you can't see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation.

Attic insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Make sure the areas along the eaves are adequately covered.

Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)



**Our offices will be closed on May 30<sup>th</sup> for Memorial Day.**



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