



Published by Jackson Energy Cooperative • McKee, Kentucky

Common reasons for power outages

Power outages are never convenient. Sometimes, it's no mystery why we are left in the dark when lightning and thunder rattle windows and walls. Other times, an outage may come out of the blue.

The length of time it takes to restore power will vary by the cause. Most electric cooperatives attempt to share outage information through social media platforms. Here are some of the most common reasons your cooperative might be facing outages.

Weather. The most common cause for power outages is Mother Nature. A heavy build-up of ice and snow on power lines, poles and equipment can bring them down.

Wind also causes widespread damage. High winds following a heavy ice storm can be particularly devastating.

Extremely hot weather can cause unusually high demand that can overburden transformers and other electrical equipment causing them to fail.

Lightning strikes can cause major damage to electrical equipment, transmission towers, wires and poles. If the lights go out in the middle of a thunderstorm, lightning is probably the culprit.

Trees. During high winds, snow and ice, tree limbs can snap or entire trees can topple onto power lines.

Accidents. A vehicle hitting a utility pole can break the pole and knock lines down from their overhead perch. Excavation work can disturb buried electric service lines causing an outage. Always call 811 before any gardening or digging project.

Animals. Squirrels, snakes and other small animals and birds can climb on poles and electrical equipment which may cause a short circuit or equipment to shut down.

Vandalism. People shooting at insulators and transformers is still a sad cause for power outages in rural areas.

Thieves also steal copper wire and other pieces of electrical equipment. Both acts of vandalism can be extremely costly and deadly.

Planned outages. If Jackson Energy is performing maintenance



or upgrading its equipment, we may need to temporarily turn off the power. The cooperative will try to notify members of a planned outage. This is why it's always a good idea to make sure your cooperative has your updated contact information.

If you experience an outage, alert your cooperative. While most co-ops have upgraded to digital systems that automatically detect outages, others still rely on notification from their customers before they come out to investigate the cause and restore power.

SPOTLIGHT

Lisa Baker, Editor

Published by Jackson Energy

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Jackson Energy

Working for You

The power behind your power

You've likely noticed Jackson Energy's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors and in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know that to become a journeyman lineworker, it can take more than 7,000 hours of on-the-job training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment



Jackson Energy Service Technician Kris Cunagin works on a transformer. Photo: Lisa Baker

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, our lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 60 feet tall.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present hazards can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10

requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the many challenges, Jackson Energy's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their homes and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later.



April 11th

LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

We thank lineworkers for their courage and commitment to powering our community.

NRECA

That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Jackson Energy has 43 lineworkers who are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 5,788 miles of power lines in 15 counties. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life

of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 11, and follow "#ThankALineworker" on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.



Carol Wright
President & CEO

TREE TRIMMING SAFETY

Trimming and removal of trees can be dangerous work

Consider these common dangers before attempting a tree trimming project on your own:

ELECTROCUTION: If there's a chance power lines might be involved at all, always call your electric utility first. Even when you think there's room, if the wind blows a limb into a power line as you're trimming it, you can be electrocuted.

FALLING: Always make sure you are using appropriate safety harnesses and ropes. Before climbing, inspect the tree to make sure no power lines run through or near the tree.

BEING STRUCK: Improper cutting can cause the tree to fall where you hadn't planned. Always have two escape routes planned in case the tree starts going the wrong way.

OVERESTIMATING: You can be seriously injured or killed if you overestimate your abilities.



JOE IMEL

LINEMAN TRAINING CENTER

Scholarship Application



**Jackson Energy Cooperative
is proud to offer one full
scholarship for the
Lineman Training Center
at Somerset Community College**

Scholarship presented by:



**Applications must be received at the Jackson Energy Office
or submitted online by May 27, 2022**

**Applicants must complete this form or apply
online to be considered for the scholarship.
The scholarship amount will not exceed \$4,200.**

1. Applicants must be at least a senior in high school.
2. Applicants shall enroll in the Somerset Lineman Training Center and begin the program by October 2022. The applicant chosen for the scholarship shall also acquire their CDL permit before beginning the program.
3. Applicants, their parents or legal guardians must be a Jackson Energy member and their primary residence or business served by the cooperative.
4. Students who apply for the scholarship will be required to interview with a Selection Committee consisting of Jackson Energy personnel.
5. Scholarships will be paid directly to Somerset Community College—Lineman Training Center.
6. Applicants must not be a member of the immediate family of an employee or director of Jackson Energy. Immediate family is defined as a spouse or a child of an employee or director.
7. Applicants shall not be previous winners of the Jackson Energy Scholarship Essay Contest.
8. Entries must be legible. Any entry that is not legible will be disqualified.

**Complete application and return, or apply online
at jacksonenergy.com/scholarship-programs.**

Applicant's Name:

Name of Person (and relation if applicable) on the electric bill:

Account #:

Date of Birth:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Applicant's Signature:

Return to:

**Jackson Energy Cooperative
Attn: Lineman Scholarship Program
115 Jackson Energy Lane, McKee, KY 40447**