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## We're ready for storm season. Are you?

**N**ow that summer is in full swing, like many of you, we welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather. Summertime brings many of our favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, afternoons on the water and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

But summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. These potential weather events can cause destruction to our electrical system, but Jackson Energy crews are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines.

We encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends



MEREDITH BLACHE

the listing of items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for additional resources.

Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of nonperishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).

Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.

Ensure your first aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.

Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.

Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major

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## SPOTLIGHT

Lisa Baker, Editor  
Published by Jackson Energy

A Touchstone Energy<sup>SM</sup> Cooperative 

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### REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

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Clover Bottom

Jackson Energy

*Working for You*

# A bolt of safety

It's not a surprise to see a note in this space about being safe around electricity. It's something Jackson Energy preaches and teaches every day. From our lineworkers who work in this highly charged environment to each one of us being careful in our own homes, we stress safe electricity.

Though we can control the flow of electricity through the power grid we carefully maintain, none of us can control lightning.

The last full week of June marks National Lightning Safety Awareness Week, and we hope you will clip out this information from our friends at the National Weather Service and keep it handy for the next time you hear thunder rumbling through our area.

Kentucky is in a region that experiences more lightning than the rest of the country. Of the 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes in the United States each year, about 500,000 are in Kentucky.

Of the 300 people struck by lightning in the U.S. each year, about 30 people are killed and others suffer lifelong disabilities. Most of these tragedies can be prevented.

No place outside is safe when a thunderstorm is in the area. Get inside as soon as you hear thunder. Run to a substantial building or hard-topped vehicle as fast as you can. If you can't get to a safe building or vehicle:

- Avoid open areas. Don't be the tallest object in the area.
- Stay away from isolated tall trees, towers or utility poles.

Lightning tends to strike the taller objects in an area.

- Stay away from metal conductors such as wires or fences. Metal does not attract lightning, but lightning can travel long distances through it.

- If you are with a group of people, spread out. While this actually increases the chance that someone might get struck, it tends to prevent multiple casualties, and increases the chances that someone could help if a person is struck.

Our experience at Jackson Energy teaches the importance of having a safety plan. Safety is no accident. Before our crews embark on any job, they discuss a safety plan. Before you plan an outdoor event or gathering, make a lightning safety plan. Know where you'll go for safety and ensure you'll have enough time to get there.

I admit this is easier said than done, but consider postponing activities if thunderstorms are forecast. Monitor the weather. Once outside, look for signs of a developing or approaching thunderstorm such as towering clouds, darkening skies or flashes of lightning.

If you hear thunder, it's time to get to a safe building or vehicle.

From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a safe and wonderful summer.



Carol Wright  
President & CEO

# Welcome back, Summer Games



TIM WEBB

**W**e are happy to report that Kentucky's Special Olympics Summer Games are back. COVID-19 concerns forced cancellation of the 2020 games, but this year's event is happening.

Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have taken a leading role in supporting the games for eight years now. We are a leading sponsor for the competition set for June 5 on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University.

"The 2021 games will be limited to a single day of competition, and many protocols will be observed to protect participants' health and safety," says Trish Mazzoni, president and CEO of Special Olympics Kentucky. "What we love most about the games remains unchanged, however."

More than 1,000 special athletes from throughout the commonwealth will again have the opportunity to compete with their peers in five sports: aquatics, bocce, rhythmic gymnastics, soccer and track and field. And nearly 500 volunteers will be there to help the games run smoothly.



TIM WEBB

Supporting the summer games gives us an opportunity to remind the world about the principles we adhere to as a cooperative. In particular, it allows us to demonstrate our commitment to the communities we serve.

"Special Olympics is community-driven and predominantly a volunteer organization, so it's a great fit for co-op support," says Carol Wright, president and CEO of Jackson Energy.

When the games were last held, nearly 100 Touchstone Energy co-op representatives were there. Working at the games is an annual

family affair for some.

"Even after working all day, you feel better than when you arrived," says Susan Woods, office supervisor of Jackson Energy, explaining why she enjoys volunteering at the games. "It's very rewarding to see the level of effort and the heart of the participants, and the special moments that occur throughout the day."

It's a pleasure to be a part of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and to once again be supporting Special Olympics' single biggest competitive event. Let the games begin ... again!



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appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Be sure your generator has an automatic transfer switch to keep power from backfeeding onto Jackson Energy's lines that could cause injury or death to our linemen.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings, and download our SmartHub app to stay abreast of power restoration efforts and other important co-op news and information.

We hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At Jackson Energy, we recommend that you act today because there is power in planning.

Have a great summer and stay safe.



# CHECKOUT

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while shopping or getting gas.



You can now pay your electric bill - **cash only**- at any of the locations listed above

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There is a \$1.50 convenience fee associated with this service



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