



*Published by Jackson Energy Cooperative • McKee, Kentucky*

## The power behind your power

**W**ith spring around the corner, it brings with it the showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages. While Jackson Energy strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes.

However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst—co-op lineworkers.

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a



Jackson Energy Service Technician Mike Truett, 1st Class Line Technician Brandon Keyton and Service Technician Kris Cunagin geared up and ready for whatever the day holds. Photo: Lisa Baker

critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job even more complex.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts that can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews can use their laptops and cell phones to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our community, Jackson Energy lineworkers are responsible for keeping 5,762 miles of lines in 15 counties working, in order to bring power to your home

and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While some of the tools that lineworkers use have changed over the years, namely the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession. It is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high-voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any time of the day or night. During ice storms, tornadoes, wildfires or thunder storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power. At Jackson Energy, we appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.

## SPOTLIGHT

Lisa Baker, Editor

Published by Jackson Energy

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Jackson Energy

*Working for You*

## Looking forward to a new spring

This month marks one year since the coronavirus pandemic upended our lives. Now, the deployment of vaccines provides hope that life can eventually return to normal and the annual promise of spring takes on special



PASKO MAKSIMADOBIE STOCK

meaning as crocus and daffodils poke their heads out.

Throughout the pandemic, Jackson Energy has diligently worked to provide you safe and reliable electricity.

Meanwhile, the change of seasons is also accompanied by several safety considerations. March can come in like a lion; tree limbs can break and street signs take flight with high wind gusts. Now is a good time to inspect your property for dead trees or overhanging branches near structures, and loose roofing materials. Please contact Jackson Energy if you notice any tree limbs in contact with power lines, and do not attempt to clear them yourself.

As the weather turns warmer, it also inspires an increase in outdoor work, both on the job and at home. Awareness of electrical safety can help ensure these activities do not result in injuries and deaths.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International ([www.ESFI.org](http://www.ESFI.org)) provides several important reminders:

- Ladders—even those made of wood—that come into contact with a power line can prove fatal. Keep all ladders at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
- Unplug outdoor tools and appliances when not in use.

- Inspect power tools and appliances for frayed cords, broken plugs and cracked or broken housing. Repair or replace damaged items.
- Water and electricity do not mix. Avoid damp conditions—including wet grass—when using electricity.

Safety remains the top priority at Jackson Energy, and our safety culture is crucial to ensuring that our entire co-op family, from our line technicians to the members at the end of the line are safe and sound. You can find more safety tips on page 41 of this issue of *Kentucky Living*.

As we look forward to a safe, healthy and prosperous 2021, know that all of us at Jackson Energy are committed to serving you.



Carol Wright  
President & CEO

# Plant responsibly to keep your power flowing

There's nothing quite as beautiful in nature as trees. Their buds mark the coming of spring. They provide shade and shelter in the summer. In the fall, their brilliant colors paint the landscape.

We love trees, except for those growing under or too close to Jackson Energy power lines.

When there's stormy weather in the forecast, those natural beauties can become enemies.

Trees are one of the leading causes of electrical power interruptions. Just a single limb that comes into contact with a power line can blink lights or cause an outage.

Maintaining reliable electric service is a top priority at Jackson Energy. That's why we regularly trim and clear plant

growth that can potentially cause an outage or hinder power line repairs by co-op line technicians.

Jackson Energy has a 20-foot easement on each side of our power lines (a total of 40 feet). This easement serves as a buffer from encroaching limbs and vegetation that can interfere with electric service for you and your neighbors. That same area also allows us to access our wires and poles for maintenance and repairs.

We're doing all we can to manage plant growth and avoid service interruptions caused by overgrown vegetation. But we need your help, too.

If your spring plans include planting a tree, shrub or other ornamental, remember to first

look up and be mindful of the location of power lines. Don't plant anything in the 40-foot easement zone.

Remember: That tiny sapling you are planting will one day be a fully mature tree. For example, an oak tree can grow 8 feet in just one year if rain is abundant. Use the guide pictured on this page to determine the right planting spot so your prized tree won't cause power line conflicts when it matures.

Jackson Energy is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power. We'll do our part with regular tree clearing. And we hope you'll do your part—for yourself and your neighbors along the line—by planning ahead and planting responsibly.



RANDY BUCKNAM

# SPRING INTO FARM SAFETY

Know what to do if electrical contact occurs

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## IF YOU'RE INSIDE THE MACHINERY WHEN COMING IN CONTACT WITH A DOWNED POWER LINE:

- **If you can, drive safely away**, about 40 feet from the downed power line and the source of electricity.
- **If you can't drive or you are injured**, it's best to stay where you are until help arrives.
- **If a life-threatening situation arises**, jump out on both feet without touching machinery and ground at same time. Shuffle with feet together on ground until 40 feet away.
- **Once you're outside the machinery, call 911** and ensure that no bystanders come within 40 feet of machinery.



IMAGE/ADJOBE STOCK

SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE.

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### WHAT IS SMARTHUB?

SmartHub is a web and mobile app that allows you to take control of all aspects of your utility account. Pay your bill, manage your use and contact us with service issues quickly and easily online or on your mobile device.



Manage Your Account



View and Pay Your Bill



Monitor Usage 24/7



Report Service Issues



Receive Important Updates

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### SMART USAGE

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