

CURRENTS

JNEC's December Newsletter

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Time for a New Water Heater?



With an average annual cost of \$400–\$600 for a household to heat water, choosing the best replacement is important. When selecting a new water heater for your home, the two key factors are capacity and energy efficiency.

There are five types of water heaters in most areas.

Conventional storage water heaters offer a ready reservoir of hot water that, when sized correctly, is adequate for everyday use most of the time. These are typically lower in cost and have a life expectancy of 10–15 years. The major disadvantages of this type are potentially running out of hot water and standby heat loss. Sizing the tank correctly for your home and insulating the tank can help mitigate these issues.

Tankless or demand-type water heaters heat water directly without the use of a storage tank. This type of water heater is designed to provide an adequate supply of hot water without running out when adequately sized. This type of system is more expensive, but the life expectancy is 20-plus years. They're more energy-efficient than storage-type heaters, and, depending on the amount of hot water your home uses, you could save \$100 or more a year in energy bills. However, sometimes the energy savings don't pay for the cost of purchase and installation. The limited flow rate of hot water means simultaneous, multiple uses of hot water can push a tankless system to its limit.

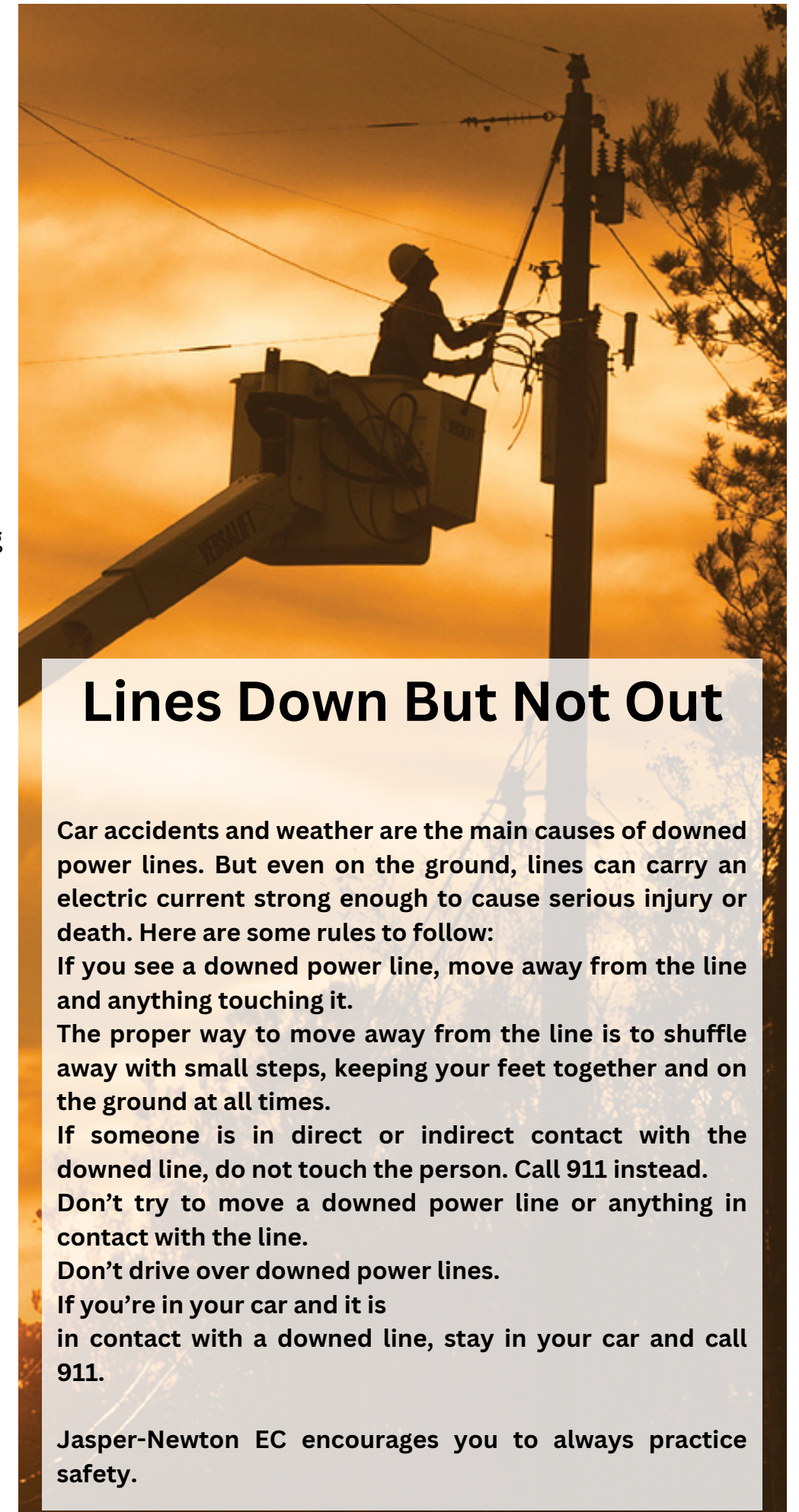
Heat pump water heaters move heat from one place to another instead of generating heat directly for providing hot water, resulting in high efficiencies and significant cost savings. Their purchase price is a higher as well, and the life expectancy is 10–15 years. They're two to three times more energy-efficient than a storage tank heater, with an Energy Star-rated system saving almost \$300 a year on electric bills. Performance is dependent on installation location, and heat pump systems exhaust cold air, increasing the load on home heating systems during cold months.

Solar water heaters use the sun's heat to provide hot water, but they are the most expensive type of water heater and have a 20-year life expectancy. They're 50% more efficient than gas or electric water heaters but may require a backup system for cloudy days or times of high demand.

Tankless coil and indirect water heaters use a home's space heating system to heat water. Comparable in price to a tankless system, they have the shortest life expectancy at 10–11 years. They offer lower installation and maintenance costs but are typically an inefficient choice for homes in warmer climates.

When selecting a replacement water heater for your home, it's important to not only look at the purchase cost but also the installation, operating and maintenance costs to determine if it's worth investing in a more efficient system.

About 27 million households in the U.S. have a water heater that's more than 10 years old, so it's a good idea to do your research early to know which replacement will best fit your needs.



Lines Down But Not Out

Car accidents and weather are the main causes of downed power lines. But even on the ground, lines can carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or death. Here are some rules to follow:

If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and anything touching it.

The proper way to move away from the line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times.

If someone is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, do not touch the person. Call 911 instead.

Don't try to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line.

Don't drive over downed power lines.

If you're in your car and it is in contact with a downed line, stay in your car and call 911.

Jasper-Newton EC encourages you to always practice safety.

*Merry
Christmas*
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

EAST TEXAS RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH SEMINAR

East Texas Rural Youth Seminar (ETREYS) Program was developed to enhance leadership and problem-solving skills in a positive learning environment on the campus of East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas. The program also promotes the Cooperative philosophy, ideals and values among young people and builds loyalty for the program. ETREYS is scheduled for June 10-14, 2024

To learn more, visit www.jnec.com

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away.

For maximum energy savings, look for smart thermostat models with the ENERGY STAR® label.

Source: Dept. of Energy



YOUTH TOUR | ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

PICTURE YOURSELF IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



FROM MUSEUMS AND MEMORIALS to the majestic US Capitol and Supreme Court, there's a little bit of something for everyone in Washington, D.C.

Join more than 150 other Texas Teens on this weeklong summer adventure

Youth Tour 2024 is planned for June 16-23, 2024



To learn more, visit www.jnec.com



JNEC Scholarships

Scholarship applications are available on JNEC's website at www.jnec.com. Applications will also be in area high schools in December and January. The deadline for returning scholarship applications is February 9, 2024.

Fourteen scholarships are available from Jasper-Newton Electric Education Fund in 2024 as follows:

- Two (2) - Four Year, \$4,000 scholarships at \$500 per semester
- Eleven (11) - One Year, \$1,000 scholarships
- One (1) - One Year, \$1,000 scholarship



RESOLVE TO SAVE ENERGY

Make a home energy resolution
and reap the benefits all year long!