

CURRENTS

JNEC's October 2023 Newsletter



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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Electricity Load Shedding and What It Could Mean to JNEC Members

Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative's ("JNEC") service territory is located within two different Regional Transmission Operators ("RTO"), Midcontinent Independent System Operator ("MISO") and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas ("ERCOT"). MISO and ERCOT are responsible for ensuring that the supply of electricity is sufficient to meet customer demand for electricity to JNEC's service territory or distribution system.

When an event occurs that prevents the sufficient supply from all generation resources, both RTOs will implement Emergency Operating Procedures. During a power emergency, when the electric supply cannot meet customer demand for electricity, and all other operational options have been exhausted, the demand for electricity must be reduced to avoid uncontrolled blackouts. As a last resort, the RTOs will instruct electric utilities to implement controlled customer outages to reduce the customer demand for electricity on the electric grid. This is referred to as load-shed and will last until the RTOs resolve the power emergency.

Typically, before calling for controlled customer outages, an RTO takes steps to reduce the demand on the electric grid by requesting customers to reduce electric usage voluntarily. Electric utilities, including JNEC, are obligated to immediately implement load shed procedures when an RTO instructs.

During member load shed events:

- All members should assume their power could go out without advanced warning. Efforts will be made, as much as possible, to provide advanced notification of pending outages, but circumstances do not always allow that to happen.
- Members designated as priority/critical load are not guaranteed an uninterrupted supply of electricity, including residential members dependent on electric-powered medical equipment. All critical/priority members are responsible for arranging alternate sources of power should a localized outage or load shed event occur. Anyone dependent on electricity for life-sustaining equipment should have a backup plan in the event they experience a power outage.
- Residential members interested in applying to be considered priority accounts should contact a Member Service Representative at 409-423-2241 or 800-231-9340. You may also access a priority account form at www.jnec.com/content/forms.
- JNEC will prioritize continuity of service for certain members whose service is critical to the community during an emergency or those whose service provides crucial support to the integrity of the electric system during an emergency. Critical load business members who provide crucial services can contact the Engineering Department of JNEC at (409) 423-2241 or 800-231-9340.
- A load shed event is an emergency order issued by an RTO caused by the lack of electricity being generated or distributed to electric utilities. Because multiple factors may cause load-shedding orders, JNEC may not have the information to notify individual members if they may lose power, when they may lose power, or how long the load-shed event may last.
- In extreme power emergencies, a retail transmission operator may require electric utilities to shed large amounts of load over long periods of time. In these instances, electric utilities like JNEC may not have the ability to rotate outages without risking the stability of the entire electric grid. When this happens, some members may be without power for an extended period of time. These outages are critical for ensuring the integrity of the electric grid and preventing a system-wide blackout, which could be long-lasting and have a significant impact on all aspects of life.
- Electric utilities are required to continue to comply with an RTO's controlled customer outage instructions until the RTO determines that outages are no longer required.
- In the event of load shedding, members are encouraged to conserve energy usage to alleviate stress on the electric grid. The Public Utility Commission of Texas provides information to the public on how to reduce electricity use at times when voluntary and/or involuntary load-shedding events may be implemented. www.puc.texas.gov/consumer/facts/save.aspx Regardless of the nature of the load-shedding event, JNEC is committed to ensuring the safe and reliable delivery of electricity to our members. While JNEC may not control the issues or conditions that have required the order to shed load, we will attempt to minimize the impact on our members safely and responsibly.

JNEC is committed to providing safe and reliable power to its membership. Although the conditions leading to a load shed event may be out of the control of JNEC, we will work around the clock and do everything in our power to restore electricity as quickly as possible. Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative, Inc., is a distribution electric cooperative that provides electricity to more than 23,700 meters in five counties.

Hurricane Preparedness

Hurricane Season is June 1- Nov. 30.

Preparedness Checklist:

- ✓ **Make an Evacuation Plan.** Find activated evacuation routes here: DriveTexas.org or by dialing (800) 452-9292. Call **2-1-1** to find out if you live in an evacuation zone.
- ✓ **Sign-Up for Emergency Alerts.** Make sure your device is enabled to receive Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs).
- ✓ **Prepare an Emergency Supply Kit.** Learn how to build an emergency kit here: <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>
- ✓ **Review Your Home Insurance Policy.**
- ✓ **Register with State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR):** <https://stear.tdem.texas.gov/> or by dialing **2-1-1** if you live in evacuation zone and:
 - have a disability or medical needs and do not have a car or other vehicle to use in an evacuation.
 - have a disability or medical needs and do not have friends or family to help in an evacuation. ****STEAR Registry information collected is confidential****

Hurricane Preparedness Online Resources:

Texas Division of Emergency Management Website: www.tdem.texas.gov
Texas Department of State Health Services: www.texasready.gov
American Red Cross: www.redcross.org
U.S. Department of Homeland Security: www.ready.gov
Office of the Texas Governor Greg Abbott: www.gov.texas.gov



Preparación para Huracanes

La temporada de huracanes es del 1 de Junio al 30 de Noviembre.

Lista de verificación de preparación:

- ✓ **Haga un Plan de Evacuación.** Encuentre rutas de evacuación activadas aquí: DriveTexas.org o marcando (800) 452-9292. Llame **2-1-1** para averiguar si usted vive en una zona de evacuación.
- ✓ **Regístrese para recibir alertas de emergencia.** Asegúrese de que su dispositivo esté habilitado para recibir Alertas de Emergencia Inalámbricas (AEI).
- ✓ **Prepare un estuche de Suministros de Emergencia.** Aprenda cómo construir un estuche de emergencia aquí: <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>
- ✓ **Revise su póliza de seguro de hogar.**
- ✓ **Regístrese en el Registro de Asistencia de Emergencia del Estado de Texas (RAEET):** <https://stear.tdem.texas.gov/> o marcando el **2-1-1** si vive en una zona de evacuación y:
 - tiene una discapacidad o necesidades médicas y no tiene un automóvil u otro vehículo para usar en una evacuación
 - tiene una discapacidad o necesidades médicas y no tiene amigos o familiares para ayudar en una evacuación. **** La información recolectada del Registro RAEET es confidencial ****

Recursos en línea para la preparación en caso de huracanes:

Sitio web de la División de Administración de Emergencias de Texas: www.tdem.texas.gov
Departamento de Servicios de Salud del Estado: www.texasready.gov
Cruz Roja Americana: www.redcross.org
Departamento de Seguridad Nacional de los Estados Unidos: www.ready.gov
Oficina del Gobernador de Texas Greg Abbott: www.gov.texas.gov



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know ceiling fans can make a room feel 4 degrees cooler?

To save energy through ceiling fan use, remember to raise your thermostat a few degrees while fans are turned on. Ceiling fans can help improve comfort year-round. In the summer, operate ceiling fans in a counterclockwise direction. Reverse the direction to clockwise during winter months and set fans on a low speed so warm air can circulate from the ceiling to the lower levels of the room.

Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not spaces. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: Dept. of Energy



JNEC
JASPER-NEWTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE