CURRENTS

JNEC's February 2023 Newsletter



BE PROACTIVE IN PREVENTING ELECTRICAL FIRES

Take steps to help prevent electrical fires by identifying possible issues before they occur.

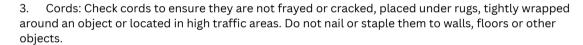
When assessing your home, the first step is to hire a qualified electrician to check all wiring to ensure it is up to code and that the electrical system can handle the demands of your electronics, appliances, lights and other electrical needs. Beyond that, watch for possible issues as they arise.

Symptoms of issues include flickering lights, discolored outlets and switch plates, damaged cords,

frequently tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses. Check these electrically related items in your home:

- 1. Electrical outlets: Check for loose-fitting plugs and loose wall receptacles. Replace missing or broken wall plates. If you have young children, install tamper-resistant outlets if your home does not have them. Avoid overloading outlets with adapters and too many appliance plugs.
- 2. Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs):
 Make sure GFCIs are installed in your kitchen,
 bathrooms, laundry room, workshop, basement,
 garage and outdoor outlets. GFCIs help protect against electrical shock. Use the Test and Reset buttons

garage and outdoor outlets. GFOIS nelp protect against electrical snock. Use the Test and Reset buttons monthly to ensure that they are working properly.



- 4. Extension cords: These are not intended to be permanent solutions, so use them temporarily. If you find that you need more electrical outlets, consult your electrician.
- 5. Light bulbs: Verify that your light bulbs are the intended wattage for the lamp or fixture they are in.
- 6. Appliances/electronics: If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or gives you an electrical shock, it is time to discard it and replace it with a new version. Use surge protectors to protect expensive electronics. Make sure your appliances and electronics are placed in dry locations.
- 7. Circuit breakers/fuses: Check that circuit breakers are working properly. Fuses should be properly rated for the circuits they protect.
- 8. Electrical wiring: If an outlet is not working, it may be an indicator of unsafe wiring. Also, check for loose wires and lighting fixtures. Listen for popping or sizzling sounds behind walls. If light switches are hot to the touch or lights spark and flicker, immediately shut them off at the circuit breaker and contact a qualified electrician to make repairs.
- 9. Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs): AFCIs, which monitor the flow of electricity throughout your home, should be properly installed. If an AFCI detects any abnormality, it shuts the system off to prevent a fire. Upon inspection, an electrician can assess whether your home is properly protected.
- 10. Service capacity: If fuses blow or trip frequently, you may need to increase the capacity of your electrical service or add new branch circuits. Contact a qualified electrician.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Washing windows and screens is a great way to practice energy efficiency during spring cleaning. Clean windows and screens make your home brighter by allowing more sunlight in, reducing the need for lamps and fixtures.

Clean screens
also allow more
fresh air in the
home when
the windows are
open to recycle
indoor air. Natural
light and clean
air are energy
savers, and
they enhance
overall health and
productivity.

Source: energy.gov



Operation Round Up A Successful Membership Program in 2022

To Join Operation Round Up call JNEC at 409-423-2241 or 800-231-9340 and tell our Member Service Representative that you want to be in Operation Round Up!

Operation Round Up is an innovative community service fundraising program. Beginning in January 2002, a voluntary and exciting member-funded program supporting worthwhile projects in our communities was implemented at Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative, Inc. (JNEC). Operation Round Up funds are spent locally. An Operation Round Up committee consisting of members representing each district in JNEC's service area decides how donations are distributed.

Operation Round Up is successful with over \$51,250.00 distributed in 2022. Since 2002, JNEC members have contributed over \$1,503,873 to their local communities. Every month, your additional pennies, nickels, and dimes are added to this special fund that helped in 2022. The following local community activities and projects throughout JNEC's service area:

BUNA PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT BUNA FFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DEWEYVILLE 4H CLUB BUNA OPERATION GRADUATION 2022 FRIENDS OF THE KIRBYVILLE **PUBLIC LIBRARY DEWEYVILLE 4H & FFA ALUMNI DEWEYVILLE PROJECT GRADUATION 2022 NEWTON COUNTY ESD #5 DEWEYVILLE VOLUNTEER** FIRE DEPARTMENT KIRBYVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE **DEPARTMENT** KIRBYVILLE CHRISTIAN OUTREACH THE HELPING PLACE KIRBYVILLE FFA ALUMNI KIRBYVILLE OPERATION **GRADUATION 2022 NEWTON COUNTY PUBLIC** LIBRARY **EAST TEXAS BAPTIST ENCAMPMENT NEWTON FOOD SHARE**

EVADALE OPERATION

GRADUATION 2022

HUGHES CENTER OUTREACH

JASPER COUNTY 4H COUNTY COUNCIL TROUT CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT **BON WIER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT** JASPER COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSFUM **BURKEVILLE 4H** THE FOOD MINISTRY SALVATION ARMY-NEWTON SERVICE UNIT **ROGANVILLE VOLUNTEER** FIRE DEPARTMENT **NEWTON COUNTY PUBLIC** LIBRARY **NEWTON FAIR BUYERS** COMMITTEE JASPER COUNTY JR LIVESTOCK FOUNDATION KIRBYVILLE LITTLE LEAGUE EAST TEXAS PREGNANCY **HELP CENTER BEECH GROVE VOLUNTEER** FIRE DEPARTMENT SANTA'S TOY BRIGADE **BUNA LITTLE DRIBBLERS** CHAMPION OAKS RANCH EAST TEXAS MUTUAL AID SOUTHEAST TEXAS FIRST **RESPONDERS** KIRBYVILLE YOUTH SOCCER

LEAGUE

JASPER COUNTY TRI-COMMUNITY VFD MASA HOPE & COMMUNITY OUTREACH BUNA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

