

CURRENTS

JNEC's June 2026 Newsletter

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Celebrating Old Glory



Flag Day is June 14. This lesser-known and lesser-celebrated holiday, established by Congress in 1949, pays tribute to a great and meaningful symbol.

Most of us know that the 13 red and white stripes and the field of 50 stars represent the original 13 colonies and the current 50 states. But there's much more to learn about Old Glory.

Recognizing that a new nation needed a new flag, Congress passed the country's first flag law June 14, 1777: "Resolved, that the flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson paved the way for the observance with a proclamation addressing his concerns about "forces within and forces without that seemed likely to draw us away from the happy traditions of united purpose and action of which we have been so proud." The proclamation urged Americans to "give significant expression to our thoughtful love of America."

The red on the flag represents valor and bravery; white symbolizes innocence and purity; and vigilance, justice and perseverance are represented by blue. The stripes are symbolic of rays of sunlight, and the stars reference the heavens.

The oft-told story of President George Washington asking Betsy Ross to create the first flag unfortunately can't be substantiated. The Betsy Ross House, a museum in her honor, promotes her story but encourages visitors to decide whether it's historical fact or well-loved fiction.

As originally written in 1892, the Pledge of Allegiance read: "I pledge allegiance to my flag and the republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Congress added the phrase "under God" to the pledge in 1954.

While only Pennsylvania recognizes Flag Day as a state holiday, we wish you a happy Flag Day and encourage you to take time to acknowledge the significance as America celebrates its 250th birthday this year.

5 Ways To Reduce Use During Extreme Heat

During periods of extreme heat, the demand for electricity can skyrocket, placing additional strain on the grid. By working together to lower our electricity use, we can conserve energy when it matters most. Here are five effective ways to lower use at home.

- Raise your thermostat setting a few degrees. Every degree reduces cooling energy use.
- Cook with smaller appliances like microwaves or air fryers to save energy and reduce heat gain in the kitchen.
- Keep blinds, curtains and shades closed during the hottest part of the day to block direct sunlight.
- Use fans to circulate air, which can make you feel cooler without needing to lower the thermostat.
- Shift activities that require a lot of energy consumption to off-peak hours when demand is lower.

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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***

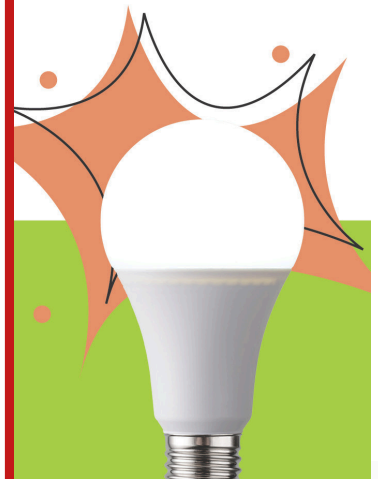
Hurricane Preparedness Online Resources:

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



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Running multiple major appliances at the same time—like your dishwasher, laundry machines and oven—can spike energy demand and strain the electric grid, especially during peak hours (typically late afternoon to early evening). Instead of stacking appliance use, spread it out throughout the day or shift chores to off-peak hours when energy demand is lower. This not only helps improve overall efficiency but can also reduce your energy costs. A simple habit change, like doing laundry in the morning and running the dishwasher overnight, can make a meaningful difference for both your wallet and energy reliability.



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

