

# SAFETY ABOVE ALL ELSE

“Safety” is a universal word that is mentioned often and used loosely. Communities large and small as well as companies across all industries are committed to safety. In May, electric cooperatives across the country promote safety awareness to coincide with National Electrical Safety Month.

Safety is a serious issue, especially when it comes to electrical safety. For, Jump River Electric Cooperative (JREC), it’s our number-one priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, JREC has created a culture of safety by putting our employees’ safety and that of the community above all else. At its essence, JREC mission is to provide safe, affordable, and reliable electricity to its member-owners. At the end of the day, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to our member-owners, but equally important, we want to return our workers home safely to their loved ones. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance.

## Following Leading National Safety Standards

Working with electricity is inherently dangerous, especially for lineworkers. JREC’s focus is keeping employees and the community safe around electricity, and it is no accident that safety is a top priority at JREC. We are committed to a culture of safety that is integral to our daily operations. This commitment to safety isn’t new to JREC. In 1965, JREC was the first Wisconsin electric cooperative to become accredited under the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP).

RESAP is a national program that follows specific guide-



lines and protocols for electrical safety that are considered leading practices. Our lineworkers are required to wear personal protective 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 from electrical shock. Our lineworkers follow specific protocols when dealing with electricity and have regular meetings where they receive safety training.

## Keeping the Community Safe

Because we live and work in the community we serve, we care about our neighbors. JREC conducts electrical safety demonstrations in schools and for community events.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, each year thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents, and electrocution in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. There is much you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity.

“It is critical that the public understands their home’s electrical system and the safety concerns associated with the latest residential technologies before bringing them into their homes,” explains Jim Anderson, JREC general manager. “With newer technologies, such as solar panels, electric vehicles, and more electrical gadgets, people need to ensure they have an electrical system that’s compatible with the increased load.”

Don’t attempt electrical DIY projects or overload your outlets. Report downed power lines, unlocked substations, or possible electric hazards. If you would like JREC to provide a safety demonstration at your school or community event, please contact Denise at 715-532-5524. Be mindful when it comes to electrical safety. Pause and take the extra time to plug into safety.

## Youth Leadership Congress



UW–River Falls | July 25–27, 2018



The annual **WECA Youth Leadership Congress** is a dynamic three-day event for youth leaders across Wisconsin to develop their **leadership skills** while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of **cooperative businesses**. If you’re a **sophomore or junior**, check with your high school guidance counselors for information about this summer’s Youth Leadership Congress on the campus of UW–River Falls **July 25–27**.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

The 80th Annual Meeting of the Membership will be held September 29, 2018. Director elections will be held for districts 1, 5, and 6; any resolutions submitted will be considered at this meeting. If you are interested in serving on the Rules & Resolution Committee, please contact Tammy at 715-532-5524 by June 22.

- **June 22** – Deadline to notify Tammy if you are interested in serving on the Rules & Resolution Committee.
- **July 16** – Director Nomination Petitions due. Members who reside in districts 1, 5, and 6, and are interested in serving as a director must submit their director petition by this date.
- **July 16** – Resolutions to be considered at the annual meeting must be submitted by this date.



National Safe Boating week is May 19–25, which is just in time as local lakes and rivers will be filling with boats, swimmers, and watercraft. Safe Electricity offers precautions to take while out on the water, not only this week but throughout the summer.

- Check the weather report before heading out. Delay your plans if bad weather is expected. Some 64 percent of lightning fatalities happen during outdoor recreation activities, notably water activities and sports. Remember the phrase “When thunder roars, go indoors.” Stay out of the water until 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder is heard.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Always look for overhead power lines before boating or fishing. Make sure you are casting a line away from power lines. Do not move a mast or antenna up when your boat is near a power line. Always be aware of changing water levels that can alter the distance between your boat and a power line.
- If the boat comes in contact with a power line, do not enter the water. The water around the boat could be energize. Stay in your boat and avoid touching anything metal until help arrives or until your boat is no longer in contact with the line.
- Do not swim around docks or marinas with shore electrical power. If you are in the water and feel the tingle of electrical current, shout out to let others know, try to stay upright, make yourself smaller by tucking your legs up, and swim away from the current. Do not head for a boat or metal dock ladders to get out.
- If you see someone in contact with electricity in the water, do not immediately jump in to help. Throw them a float, then try to eliminate the source of electricity immediately by turning off the shore power connection.
- To help prevent the risk of electricity entering the water, have your boat and dock electrical systems checked regularly and make sure your electrical outlets have Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs).

For more information on staying safe in the water, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



## LIFE BEFORE ELECTRICITY... AND THEN AFTER

Jump River Electric Cooperative will be celebrating 80 years of service to our member-owners this coming November. As we look back at our history, we are asking members who remember the early years of the cooperative and what life was like before electricity to share their stories of what a difference it made once electricity was brought to their home or farm. Please call Denise at 715-532-5524.

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## LEARNING FROM LIGHTNING LIZ AND NEON LEON

### JREC presents electrical safety demonstrations to area schoolchildren

JREC presents high-energy, educational electrical safety demonstrations to our local area elementary schools each year. Lightning Liz, Neon Leon, and Oscar Meyer hotdog are the characters used throughout the demonstration and are truly “the stars of the show.” The cooperative was able to make this presentation to around 550 students this past March.

Our focus during this demonstration is to illustrate the electrical hazards found outside and inside. We also provide safety tips on a variety of topics, from flying a kite to climbing a tree outside, to the hazards of overloading outlets and using a toaster inside. Oscar helps us demonstrate how to be safe in an auto accident.

Our vision is to not only train the children and adults in attendance on how to be safe around electricity, but to encourage them to share their training with others in their lives so that the overall impact of this training is even greater. If you have a child in first or third grade and they attend one of our local schools, please ask them about what they learned during this demonstration.



JREC lineman Scott Sedivy presents an electrical safety demonstrations to one of our local area elementary schools.

## SUMMER SAFETY FOR KIDS

- Fly kites in large open spaces away from overhead power lines.
- Always check trees for nearby power lines before climbing. Choose another tree if lines are close by.
- Keep long tools like pool skimmers stored and secure when not in use. They can be long enough to reach electrical lines connected to the home.
- Ensure all outdoor outlets have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to help prevent electric shock.
- Recognize the green metal boxes in yards contain electrical equipment and are not toys.

To learn more about safe outdoor play visit:

Safe  
Electricity.org

## YOU COULD WIN \$50 IN OUR 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL POSTER CHALLENGE!

Area Youth—are you up for a challenge? Grab your art supplies and participate in our 16th annual poster contest in tribute to May being National Electrical Safety Month. Create a poster that depicts ways to be safe around electricity and submit it to our Ladysmith office by dropping it off or mailing it to the address on the entry ticket below. Please follow these guidelines:

- Poster must depict how you can be electrically safe at home, outside, or at school.
- You must be between the ages of 5 and 14 to enter.
- Complete the drawing ticket and attach it to the back of the poster.
- Submit poster by June 6, 2018.

Four \$50 cash prizes will be awarded, one contest winner per age category. Age categories are as follows:

5–7 years of age • 8–10 years of age • 11–14 years of age

Winning posters will be featured in JREC’s local pages of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* magazine.

### Poster Entry Ticket

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Member Acct. \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Return to JREC, P.O. Box 99, Ladysmith WI 54848



## WE SAY

# THANK YOU



Thank you to all those who are currently serving and have served in our military forces. In May, there are three days set aside for Americans to pay tribute to these men and women who have given so much for our country.

First May 11, is Military Spouse Appreciation Day. We sometimes forget about those who are left behind to “hold down the fort.” Let’s not do that this year and instead, remember to thank them for what they do, or better yet, find out if there are any needs they have that you can help them with while their spouses are off serving our country.

Next, we celebrate Armed Forces Day on May 19, before closing the month with Memorial Day on May 28. The first Armed Forces Day was celebrated on Saturday, May 20, 1950. The theme for that day was “Teamed for Defense,” which expressed the unification of all military forces under one government department. According to the U.S. Department of Defense, the day was designed to expand public understanding of what type of job was performed and the role of the military in civilian life.

Armed Forces Day was a day for the military to show “state-of-the-art” equipment to Americans. It was also a day to honor and acknowledge Americans in the armed forces. Parades, open houses, receptions, and air shows were held at the inaugural Armed Forces Day. Armed Forces Day is still celebrated nationwide today and is part of Armed Forces Week.

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who

died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal Memorial Day holiday in 1971, evolving to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings, and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season. Did you know? Each year on Memorial Day a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3 p.m.

### The Significance of Poppies

Have you ever wondered what the significance of poppies is to our veterans? The poppy, in Europe and the United States, quickly became a symbol of the fallen military after the publication of “In Flanders Field.” The opening line refers directly to the sight Lt. Col. McCrae witnessed as he, a physician, walked among the crosses laid out to mark the site of so many who died for their countries, with poppies growing among the graves. Poppies are also a resilient flower. The poppy can lay dormant for many years in the soil only to reappear in great numbers, covering fields that have lain bare for many years previously. This also held significance for Lt. Col. McCrae as he wrote of the heroes who appeared in great numbers to come to the aid of others against oppression and tyranny during this Great War, and who would lie dormant until their call was heard again.

In 1918, Moina Michael wrote another poem that was a tribute to Lt. Col. McCrae’s accounting of the death on Flanders Field. Her poem, together with her promotion of using the poppy as the official symbol for the remembrance of the fallen, created what is now an iconic symbol of history that many do not know the story behind. Thanks to her enthusiasm, poppies became the symbol of the American Legion. (Sources: [timeanddate.com](http://timeanddate.com), [history.com](http://history.com), [usmemorialday.org](http://usmemorialday.org))



**NEW OFFICE HOURS**  
for the Ladysmith headquarters building

The office is now open  
Monday – Friday  
from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.



**JREC offices will be closed**  
**Monday, May 28, for**  
**Memorial Day.**

**We wish you a safe and**  
**holiday weekend.**

### James Anderson, General Manager

1102 W. Ninth St. North, P.O. Box 99, Ladysmith, WI 54848  
715-532-5524 • [www.jrec.com](http://www.jrec.com)

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