

# JAMUP

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



**David Johnston**  
General Manager

**C**hristmas season is upon us! Stores are filled with holiday decorations, streets shine bright with lights, and everyone will have that last gift to find! As the

last few weeks draw near, it is always a great time to reflect on what challenges we've overcome, the successes we

experienced, and the lessons learned in each, be present in spending time and making memories with loved ones, and look forward to goals that you plan to achieve in the future.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative has continued to be your trusted electric utility service provider while maintaining our core values such as "Concern for Community" and "Cooperation among <sup>Josh D Atkins</sup> Cooperatives." In the last 11 months, SIEC has continued our support of all education levels. SIEC continued the Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant program, which

gives a total of \$3,500 directly to seven local classrooms. We also awarded six scholarships throughout 2022 to local high school seniors totaling \$5,000. Financially is not the only way we support our local schools, however. Over the last year, multiple Live Line Demos have been presented to students, in an effort to educate them of the dangers associated with power lines. Students also get the chance to learn about the cooperative at events hosted by 4-H and the University of Illinois Extension Office throughout the school year and summer break.

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*The Directors and Employees of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative wish all our members a merry and bright holiday season, and we look forward to serving you and our community in 2023!*

David A. Johnston, Executive Vice President/General Manager

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## Stay safe during severe winter weather

### *Ice and other severe winter weather can result in power outages*

**W**hen severe winter weather hits, power outages can occur. Roadways can be dangerous. Do all you can to prepare your pantry, home and car for the next severe winter storm. Once you are ready, watch and listen for weather bulletins mentioning winter storms, blizzard warnings or wind-chill dangers.

#### Supplies for the storm

At home, have enough nonperishable food, water and medical supplies/medicines for 72 hours. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggest storing one gallon of water per person per day. Have cell phones and chargers, as well as backup charger sources, ready. Gather important documents and medical records. Protect your pets and make sure you have enough supplies for them as well. Also have these items ready: a first-aid kit, a flashlight and batteries, hand sanitizer, blankets and warm clothing.

#### Readying the house

Weatherproof your home ahead of winter by caulking windows and doors and looking for other air leaks that need attention. Inspect chimney flues for wood stoves or wood-burning fireplaces. Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on each floor of your home. Protect pipes from freezing.

#### Prepare your vehicle with an emergency kit

According to Consumer Reports, it can be cheaper to buy a prepared emergency kit than to purchase items individually. **ICL Source** A kit typically includes battery booster cables, an ice scraper, a portable shovel, flashlights, a signaling cone, backup batteries for the flashlight, roadside triangles, a reflective vest, a basic first-aid kit (add in what is needed for individual needs) and a cell-phone charger.

In addition, your car or truck should also be stocked with gloves, a blanket, a rain poncho, wipes, rags, boots and a hat. It cannot hurt to also have bottled water and nonperishable snacks in your vehicle in case you get stranded.

#### Prepare your vehicle

Complete annual maintenance, test the car battery and

cooling system, use winter tires and replace them if the tread is less than 2/32 of an inch, check tire pressure and wiper blades, add wiper fluid rated for less than minus 30 degrees and keep the gas tank at least half full.

Know that when the power goes out, we work hard to restore it safely and efficiently. For more information about electrical safety or storm preparation, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

Preparing for Storm Season?

## DON'T FORGET TO READY YOUR CAR

According to the National Safety Council (NSC), every vehicle should have an emergency supply kit onboard. Kits should be checked twice a year and expired items should be replaced regularly. Emergency supply kits should include:

-  Snowbrush  
Shovel  
Windshield washer fluid  
Cat litter for traction
-  Warm clothing  
Blankets  
Drinking water  
Nonperishable foods
-  Properly inflated spare tire  
Wheel wrench & tripod jack  
Jumper cables  
Fire extinguisher
-  Reflective triangles  
Reflective vest  
Brightly colored cloth (to tie on side mirror)
-  First-aid kit  
Flashlight and batteries  
Compass  
Car charger for cell phone

**SafeElectricity.org** Source: NSC

# BE SAFE DURING THE HO·HO·HOLIDAYS

## 10 TIPS TO HELP YOU STAY JOLLY



*Before you plan out your new holiday lighting scheme or repeat last year's festive design, keep these 10 safety tips in mind when decorating outdoors:*

- 1 Do not toss light strands up into the air. They could get too close to or come into contact with a power line.
- 2 Before using a ladder, always look up and assess all power line locations.
- 3 Carry a ladder horizontally when transporting it.
- 4 Keep at least 10 feet between yourself (and any item you are holding) and a power line.
- 5 Do not use staples or nails or tacks to secure light strands, cords, wires or extension cords.
- 6 String together no more than the number of strands recommended by the manufacturer.
- 7 Plug all lights and extension cords into GFCI-protected outlets.
- 8 Use lights and extension cords rated for outdoor use.
- 9 Do not use frayed, cracked or otherwise damaged cords, plugs or lights.
- 10 Use only lights and products certified by a reputable testing lab.

 **Safe Electricity.org**  
LEARN MORE AT:



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As I take this time to reflect, I am proud of the way our great members, dependable employees, and dedicated Board of Directors navigated the unforeseen pandemic of recent years and am very pleased to say, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative continues to be rural southern Illinois' trusted electric utility service provider. In August 2022, we held another successful Annual Meeting of Members at Shawnee Community College in Ullin, Ill. At this meeting, I was able to announce not only did we have a strong fiscal year, we were also able to retire nearly \$860,000 of capital credits, which means extra dollars returned to you, our member-owners!

Looking forward to the new year, SIEC is excited to be involved in a partnership with West Kentucky and Tennessee Telecommunications Cooperative (WK&T) to bring a new service to our service area – high-speed fiber internet! As many of you have probably seen or read in recent months, WK&T will deploy fiber-optic internet to a significant portion of our service territory. While the due diligence, planning and preparation has been a task similar to the initial electricity build-out in the 1930s, we are excited to be part of this project that will bring a much-needed aspect of economic development that many of our communities have longed for in recent years.

As Christmas approaches, bringing the end of one chapter and the beginning of another, I encourage each of you to slow down and be aware of the world around you. Soak in the hustle and bustle this season brings, and the memories that are created with those you love. Our team commits to be your trusted electric utility provider and to better serve you – our members! From all of us at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



## Member prize

In this issue of the JAMUP, we printed the names of three SIEC members who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit toward their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section and it's not part of the story, call Brent with your account number at **800-762-1400** to claim your prize.

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## SIEC continues efforts on fiber project

Many of you may have read about the partnership between SIEC and West Kentucky & Tennessee Telecommunications Cooperative, which aims to deliver high-speed broadband fiber-optic internet to portions of SIEC's service territory. As you may remember from our June edition of Illinois Country Living Magazine, Holly Lewis, who has been actively reaching out to members along the initial buildout by WK&T, began this specific step in the process. We are excited to announce Jim Woodward of Anna, Ill, has been added to the project and will also begin reaching out to many of our members to explain the process of bringing fiber to the homes within WK&T's already funded areas. Jim came down from Metro East Illinois to play football at Southern Illinois University in 1978 and has been a resident of southern Illinois since! He retired as the superintendent of Anna Jonesboro High School in 2014. Jim stated, "I've been in this area for over 40 years, and it's great that this service is making its way into rural southern Illinois. I am excited to be a part of that process."

As Jim makes his way from home to home, we ask that you welcome him as he helps us strategically implement this service to portions of our membership! Together with his hard work, along with our members' willingness to welcome this new technology into SIEC's infrastructure, it will go a long way in expediting the buildout of this project.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in your ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form.

Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes or other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

