

Norris Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

News

Planned outage notification call list

If you depend on life support equipment, contact Norris Electric.

Norris Electric does its best to keep the power on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. Yet despite our best efforts, outages do occur. For most members, this is an inconvenience, but for those who depend on electricity to power life support equipment, an outage can present a real challenge. In storm related incidents, Norris Electric cannot be responsible for health-related equipment. To protect yourself, be prepared by installing a generator or having some other form of backup plan.

While most outages are weather related, a few are planned in advance

for maintenance and construction purposes. For instances of a planned outage, Norris maintains a Planned Outage Call List for those members with a verified medical necessity. These members receive notification in the event of a scheduled power outage.

If you or a relative depend on electrically powered life support equipment and would like to be put on the call list for medical reasons, it is necessary for the member to fill out a form and have your doctor sign off on it.

It is important to stress that by being placed on the planned outage call list, **Norris is in no way**

guaranteeing uninterrupted power supply. Members must make personal arrangements for both unplanned and planned outages.

To be placed on the Planned Outage Call List for medical reasons, send an email to: billing@norriselectric.com or call 877-783-8765 and we will mail you a form to be filled out by you and your doctor.

Please note it is the member's responsibility to keep all contact information updated with Norris Electric.

Congratulations!



Norris Electric would like to Congratulate Julie Girhard on her retirement. Julie started working for Norris Electric in 1977 in the keypunch department. She became Payroll/Benefits clerk in 1988 and held that position until her retirement. Julie plans to be a full time Grandma, travel, quilt and simply enjoy life. We wish her well in her retirement and we will miss her exuberant personality around the office!

Norris Electric would like to say "Congratulations" to John Bogard on his retirement of 40 years. John began working for Norris Electric on July 28, 1974. John's first position was on the pole change out crew and he ended his employment as Forestry Supervisor. John has been a huge asset to NEC and will be greatly missed. We wish John well in his retirement.



Plant trees safely

Spring is right around the corner and this is the time when many of us start to plant trees. Trees provide many aesthetic, environmental and economic benefits but everyone needs to be aware of the dangers and risks created when trees grow into power lines.

Take the time to research tree selections and choose the right tree for the right place, especially when it comes to power lines. Trees and wood in general can potentially conduct electricity and can create a safety hazard if grown close to electric lines. Power outages or interruptions in service can occur when branches come into contact with overhead lines. Electrical arcing and sparking from a wire to a nearby branch can also cause fires.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

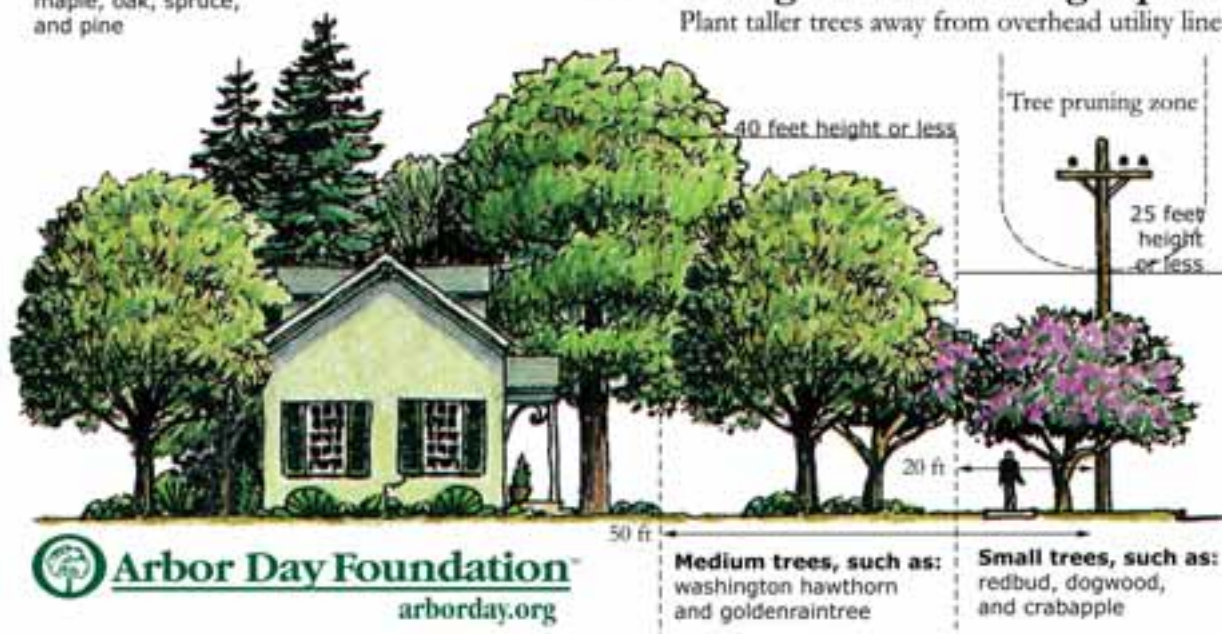
Planning a home improvement job? Planting a tree? Installing a fence or deck? WAIT! Here's what you need to know first: **Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job.**

Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call – even small projects like planting trees and shrubs. The depth of utility lines varies and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area. Digging without calling can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm you and those around you and potentially result in fines and repair costs. Calling 811 before every digging job gets your underground utility lines marked for free and helps prevent undesired consequences.

Tall trees, such as:
maple, oak, spruce,
and pine

Plant the right tree in the right place

Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines



Norris Electric Cooperative • 8543 N. State Highway 130 • Newton, Illinois 62448 • 618-783-8765

Office hours: Monday — Thursday 7:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m

Clearing for reliability

By Meghaan Evans

There are many ways that Norris Electric provides you with safe, reliable electric service. One of the most common – and crucial – ways is referred to as right-of-way clearing (or vegetation management).

A right of way (ROW) refers to a strip of land underneath or around power lines that your electric cooperative has the right and responsibility to maintain and clear. Trees must grow at a distance far enough from conductors where they will not cause harm to individuals or disruption to electrical service. Specifications can vary, but a general guideline of maintaining a safe ROW is 15 feet of clearance on either side of the primary conductors and 20 feet of

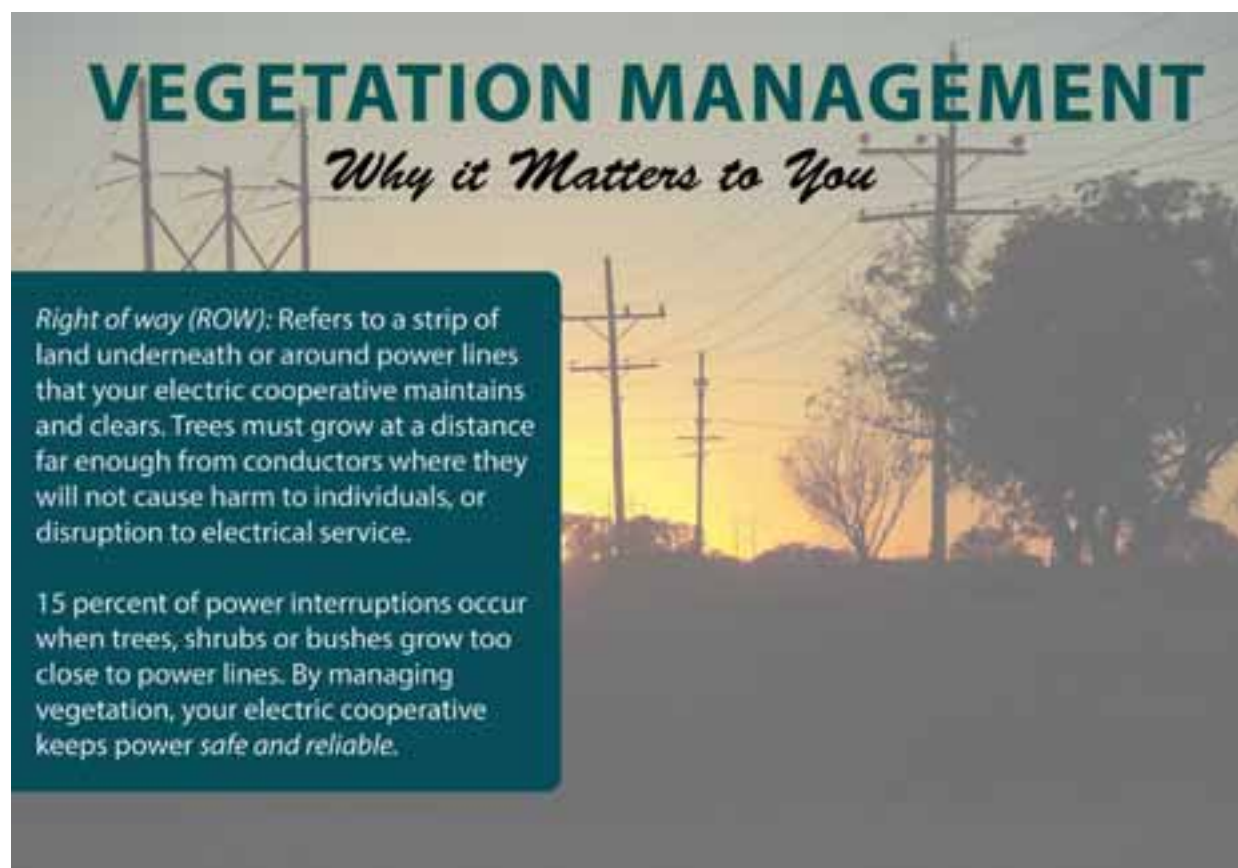
overhead clearance above the highest wire on the pole.

Clearing the ROW is critical to keeping our members' lights on. An average of 40 percent of power interruptions occur when trees, shrubs or bushes grow too close to power lines.

If a tree encroaches on this safe distance, our vegetation management team will trim back branches and brush using chainsaws, bucket trucks, tree climbers, brush chippers and mowers. Chemical control methods can also be used as a way to support the growth of low growing plant species that will outcompete the tall trees growing beneath power lines.

ROW clearing also keeps your family safe by ensuring that tree branches do not become energized due to close contact with a downed power line. Power lines can carry up to 34,500 volts, and an energized tree branch is incredibly dangerous – even deadly. Be mindful when around trees close to power lines, and make sure your children know that climbing trees near power lines is extremely dangerous.

ROW clearing is also critical to ensuring that we provide members with affordable electricity. Staying ahead of the game keeps us from having to come out after a storm to restore power due to fallen trees.



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Why it Matters to You

Right of way (ROW): Refers to a strip of land underneath or around power lines that your electric cooperative maintains and clears. Trees must grow at a distance far enough from conductors where they will not cause harm to individuals, or disruption to electrical service.

15 percent of power interruptions occur when trees, shrubs or bushes grow too close to power lines. By managing vegetation, your electric cooperative keeps power *safe and reliable*.

Like us on Facebook
and Twitter



Find us on
Facebook

twitter 

Did you know...

You can view your monthly and hourly use online?



This time of year some members are calling asking why their electric bill is so high. By looking at your usage meter, you may be able to identify why. For example, one member identified a new portable electric heater, and another a live-stock tank heater. Not only can you look at your monthly use but you can narrow it down to hourly use as well. Members can view daily temperatures along with kW hours used. Access to this knowledge will help you to understand your electric consumption and how to better control use.

To check your use, log on to www.norriselectric.com. Under "My Account" select "Manage My Account." Once you log in, click on the "My Usage" tab and you can view your graphs.



MY APPLIANCES AREN'T THE ONLY ENERGY STARS IN MY HOUSE.

I'm saving just by using more efficient settings on my ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.

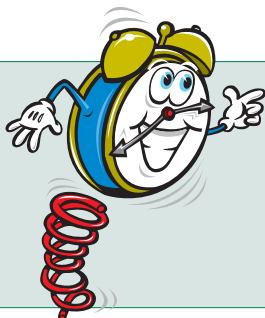
TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Source: EnergySavers.gov

Your home works hard for you. Consider giving it an energy checkup. Hire a professional energy auditor to diagnose where your house could be losing energy and where you can start saving money. Auditors check for air leaks, inspect insulation, survey heating and cooling equipment and more. After making efficiency upgrades, you could save 5-30 percent on your energy bills!



Daylight savings time

Daylight savings time changes March 8.

Don't forget to move your clocks ahead one hour.