

JAMUP

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

SIEC vegetation management plan



Paul Jackson
Director of
ROW Management

Trees and powerlines are both very important assets to our community. Trees provide habitat for wildlife, beauty, shade and wind protection,

while powerlines provide us with heat, lights and appliances. Unfortunately, the two may end up in conflict. Many outages are caused by trees growing into powerlines. Your co-op is doing its best to take a proactive approach to eliminate these problems before they happen.

Currently, SIEC is trimming on a maintenance cycle of five to six years. This means that the same trees are being trimmed every five to six

years if they are near powerlines. We are also in the process of reducing this cycle with new techniques. Traditionally, most of our trimming maintenance has been

accomplished with bucket trucks, Fecon style mowing and low volume herbicide. **Nancy Keistler**

In December 2017, we started using mailers to inform members of upcoming tree maintenance and herbicide application. Either it was stated on your bill or on a postcard. This way you are notified with line maintenance plans.



Also, during the end of 2017, we added a side trimmer to our routine maintenance equation. What is a side trimmer (pictured) you may ask? It is a piece of machinery with a 75-foot extendable arm with a circular saw blade attached at the end. It is mainly used in cross-country sections of line that would be difficult to trim with a traditional bucket truck. The work can be performed a lot faster and safer than the ordinary method of trimming.

The limbs that are dropped by the side trimmer will be mowed by a Fecon style mower a short time later. A Fecon style mower is a skid steer on rubber tracks with a cleated drum attached to the front that grinds limbs and downed trees into wood chips.

Bucket trucks are still used in yards and other sensitive areas. In some cases, the only option to trim or fell a tree is manual climbing. No matter what the job requires, we have the resources to get the it done.

After right of ways are trimmed and cleaned up, we follow up with a low volume herbicide one or

two years later. The herbicide used is a foliar spray that is applied by professionals and only targets species that could cause future problems to powerlines and poles.

SIEC's right of way vegetation management program is headed in the right direction as it is vital in providing safe and reliable electricity. We all

need to work together to achieve this goal. Ultimately, we want to keep your lines clear of trees and your lights on. If you have any questions, please call Paul Jackson at 800-762-1400 ext. 203.




Notice

During 2019, SIEC forestry and contract crews will perform trimming, herbicide application, and clearing of trees and brush in power line rights-of-way in the following substation areas:

-  Cobden
-  Forman
-  Dongola
-  Mill Creek

Low volume foliar herbicide application will occur selectively throughout all the service area during the summer months.

During 2019, SIEC engineering technicians and line construction and contract crews will be performing pole inspection, testing, and pole changeouts in the following substation areas:

-  McClure
-  Karnak
-  Mill Creek
-  Lick Creek

Your substation area is listed on your monthly billing statement.

Note: Areas of tree trimming or clearing, herbicide application, pole testing, and pole changeouts may be added in other areas if the need arises or plans are altered.

Notice to members requesting poles or guy wires to be relocated

The cooperative receives many requests from members to relocate poles and/or guy wires. The reasons for requested relocations vary, and many members do not realize that they need the pole or guy wire moved until after their new construction projects have started. The co-op will, at its discretion, relocate poles and/or guys at the request of the member at the member's expense.

Please "look up" before starting to build that new building or driveway, planting that tree or erecting that antenna. Don't create a safety hazard where cooperative facilities must be moved. In the event a member creates a safety hazard that causes the co-op to modify its poles or facilities, the member shall pay for the cost of the relocation or modification. Please contact the co-op's engineering department if you have any questions on relocation of facilities.

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For Outages Call:
800-762-1400 • 618-827-3555

Downed and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to 35 ft. away - so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item - this will not prevent injury or death!



Source: ESFI.org

Be ready when Mother Nature strikes

When Mother Nature strikes this winter, make sure you're ready. Hundreds of Americans are injured or killed in the winter months due to car accidents on slippery roads and in home fires caused by improper use of heaters. In addition, winter storms create a higher risk of hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning and heart attacks due to overexertion.

Because winter brings its own set of challenges, Safe Electricity reminds you to prepare for extreme weather and to stay home during and after storms.

Be ready

Prepare for massive snowfall, blizzards or ice storms that could last for days at a time. Tune in to local radio or TV stations for the latest winter storm updates. In addition, use a cell phone to stay informed by signing up for weather alerts. Have a portable charger and extra batteries on hand. Also, have a battery-operated radio available (with extra batteries) to listen for updates.

In preparing for a storm, be sure to:

- Consider special needs or medical issues in your household; have a supply of medications.
- Have a supply of non-perishable food as well as plenty of drinking water and a first-aid kit.
- Prepare for weather events year round by keeping a checklist of items to have on hand. Have as many of these essentials ready and

in one place in case a storm happens without warning.

- As the winter months approach, prepare your home with proper insulation, caulking and weather stripping. Learn how to keep pipes from freezing. Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups.

Stay inside

Stay home during snow and ice storms and wait until roads are cleared. This may sound obvious, but some think whatever they had planned is too important to miss. Whatever the commitment, it's not worth getting into an accident or getting stranded.

If you drive in extreme conditions, do not leave your car to look for help. Your car should be equipped with several items such as a first-aid kit, portable car charger and batteries, blankets, water, snack food, a windshield scraper, extra warm clothing, tire chains, canned and compressed air with sealant for tire repair, booster cables, emergency flares, and road salt and sand for traction.

If you're home during an outage, please know we will restore power as fast as possible without compromising safety. Do not turn on the stove for heat. It's not safe. Instead, use blankets, sleeping bags and warm coats. You can also use an up-to-code fireplace or portable heaters when used correctly.

When it comes to portable heaters, follow all instructions for use and:

- Don't place clothing on or near a portable heater
- Don't put a portable heater on the counter or other surface
- Don't leave it unattended
- Don't place on rugs, near paper or anything else that could ignite. Make sure there is 3 feet of unobstructed area

Linda Sorrell

When using a portable generator, never use it indoors and make sure it is not close to windows, doorways or air-intake vents. Do not use it in an attached garage, even with the doors up. Never touch it with wet hands or use in areas with rain, snow or standing water.

For additional safety tips, go to SafeElectricity.org.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your hot water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save 7 to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Source: energy.gov



Office closure notice

Our office will be closed on Monday, January 15 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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KEEP SAFE **AND WARM** THIS WINTER



When the chill of fall and winter set in, be aware of **potential fire hazards that are lurking in your home**. Whether keeping warm with heat from your furnace, space heater, fireplace, or electric blanket, **Safe Electricity offers these tips to prevent a fire in your home:**



Have your furnace inspected annually.

Always place your space heater on a **steady surface** and away from curtains, tablecloths or other flapping fabrics. Use a space heater with an automatic shut-off switch.



Be sure your **chimney is clear** before each use, and cover your fireplace with a screen to keep children and pets away from flames.



Inspect electric blankets for scorch marks or visible damage regularly.

For more **tips on fire prevention**, visit



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 Bree with your account number at **800-762-1400** to claim your prize.