



## The commitment of an electric lineworker

National studies consistently rank power line technicians among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason. Laboring high in the air, wearing heavy equipment, and working directly with high voltage, creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. However, electric lineworkers are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job.

Shelby Electric Cooperative's (SEC) line personnel are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings, or other important family milestones. If the power goes out, so do they.

To perform their jobs successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience, and each other to get the job done safely.

Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system at home. A lineworker's family stands behind their loved one's commitment to the greater

cause during severe storms and power outages. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be all the more difficult.

"As a lineman, my husband knows that the call to restore power can come at anytime and in all kinds of weather. Sometimes these outages mean he will be away from home for extended periods of time, and sometimes when he leaves, our power is also out," explained Becky Sloan, wife of lineman Nick Sloan. "We pray for their safety every day. Their jobs require support from us, their co-workers, and their co-workers' families. We look out for each other and it has become a support system, a true community."

Their hard work and dedication behind the scenes allows us to power up with just a flip of a switch. What better way to honor them than to say "Thank You" on their special day!

Monday, April 8 is Cooperative Lineworker Appreciation Day. We encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions

they make to our local community. If you see their family members, please offer them a thank you as well. Use **#ThankALineworker** on social media to show your support.

*Our committed lineworkers are pictured above. Left to right, front row: Lineman Nick Sloan, Apprentice Dalton Brown, Groundman Luke Morse, Foreman Brad Wright, Linemen Jamie Sharp, Nick Ray, and Nick Dunaway, Manager of Operations Terry Oldham, and Lineman Jerry Johnston. Back row: Linemen Cary Bryson, Blake Knearem, Matt Clark, Steve Darnell, and Andy McDonald, Apprentice Luke Brown, Lineman Jake Kull, Groundman Daric Austin, Construction Superintendent Brian Chevalier, and Linemen Adam Schrock, Roger Jones, and Blake Summers. Not present: Metering Foreman Dave White and Fleet Manager Craig Atteberry.*



Before line clearance



After line clearance

## Why do we have a right-of-way maintenance program?

One of the most efficient ways that Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) can provide reliable electricity to our consumer-members is through right-of-way (ROW) clearing and tree trimming. ROW refers to the portion of land under or

around power lines and equipment that SEC has the right and responsibility to clear and maintain. “Approximately 70 percent of SEC’s power interruptions occur due to trees interfering with the power lines,” according to Terry Oldham, SEC’s Operations Superintendent.

“When the wind blows, it can cause trees to come into contact with these lines causing your lights to blink. During storms, limbs could break and fall onto lines causing fuses to blow or reclosers to open. Even worse, a storm may cause a tree or heavy limb to fall and take down a power line and pole, which can create other issues. This is why utilities have ROW maintenance programs,” commented Oldham.

A clear ROW cuts down on annoying blinks and outages; it also makes it easier for linemen to access and fix other problems that may occur. Your cooperative seeks to provide you with safe, reliable electric service all year round. Our ROW maintenance program is just one more tool for us to achieve this.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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**Pay-by-Phone:**  
**1-855-385-9981**  
**www.shelbyelectric.coop**  
**twitter.com/YourCoop**  
**facebook.com/YourCoop**

**Office Hours:**  
**7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# 2019 Tree Trimming, Spraying, & Pole Inspection Schedule

## \*2019 Tree Trimming

Shelby Electric Cooperative’s tree trimming crew and contractors will be trimming trees in the areas of **L**, and **P**.

## \*2019 Spraying

Shelby Electric Cooperative’s spraying crew will be working in these areas **P**, **L**, **Y**, **A**, and **T**.

## \*2019 Pole Inspection

A contractor for the cooperative will be inspecting poles in the following areas **W**, and **S**.

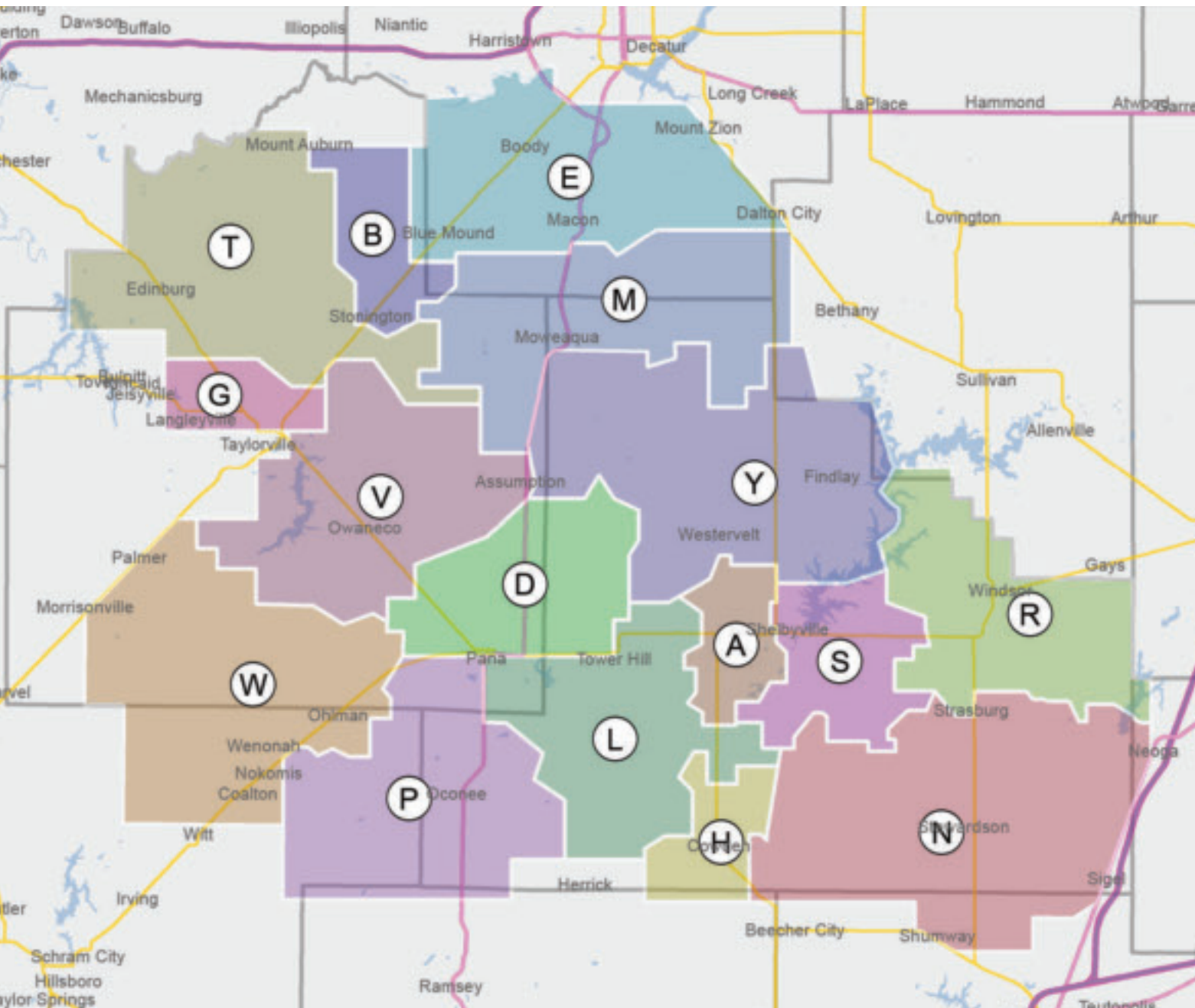
*\*These are our areas of concentration for 2019 but maintenance work will continue in other parts of our service territory.*



SEC's Operations Department maintains an annual schedule for tree trimming, spraying, and pole inspections (see our planned 2019 activities in graphic below). Any contract crews working for SEC will have magnetic signs on their vehicles that indicate they are working for the cooperative. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the cooperative at 217-774-3986 or toll free 1-800-677-2612.

Substation	Letter Associated
Airport	A
Blue Mound	B
Dunkel	D
Elwin	E
Grove City	G
Herrick	H
Lakewood	L
Moweauqua	M

Substation	Letter Associated
Neoga	N
Pana	P
Richland	R
Shelbyville	S
Taylorville	T
Velma	V
Wenonah	W
Yantisville	Y



REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

## Getting real with Marla and basements

April showers can often bring damp, or even worse, flooded basements and crawl spaces. *Never enter a flooded location unless you are sure the power has been disconnected.* Cords and outlets could be under water without your knowledge. Water and electricity do not mix.

Dehumidifiers are often the first line of defense against damp and musty conditions. However, using a dehumidifier may be similar to putting a band-aid on a broken bone. The better solution would be to determine and address the source of the moisture.

Preventative measures are often not considered until after a disaster strikes or a musty odor is noticed. Now is a great time to be proactive. Follow these tips to help keep moisture issues at bay:

- ◆ Clean the gutters. Blocked gutters will not allow water to flow away from the house.
- ◆ Install downspout extensions to direct rainwater away from the foundation.
- ◆ After a rain, check for puddles near the foundation. Landscaping should allow for the grade to slope away from the house on all sides.
- ◆ If you do not already have one, install a sump pump with a battery-operated backup.
- ◆ Check the sump pump regularly to ensure it is working.
- ◆ Make sure clothes dryers are vented to the outside of the home, not the basement or attic.

Basements can also leak energy. Appliances, such as dehumidifiers, may be turned on and forgotten. Run them only when necessary. Take time to change incandescent bulbs to LEDs. Check for gaps and holes around wiring, pipes, and vents. Your local hardware store can help you find the right caulk or spray foam to seal them up. Air ducts may also need to be sealed to keep the air you are paying for, to heat or cool your home, moving where you need it.

Your basement does not have to be a source of moisture and energy loss. Spring is a great time to get your “ducts” in a row!

~Marla Pruemmer,  
Communication Specialist

### Each year, the U.S. faces an average of:



100,000  
thunderstorms



5,000  
floods



1,000  
tornadoes

10,000 severe  
thunderstorms

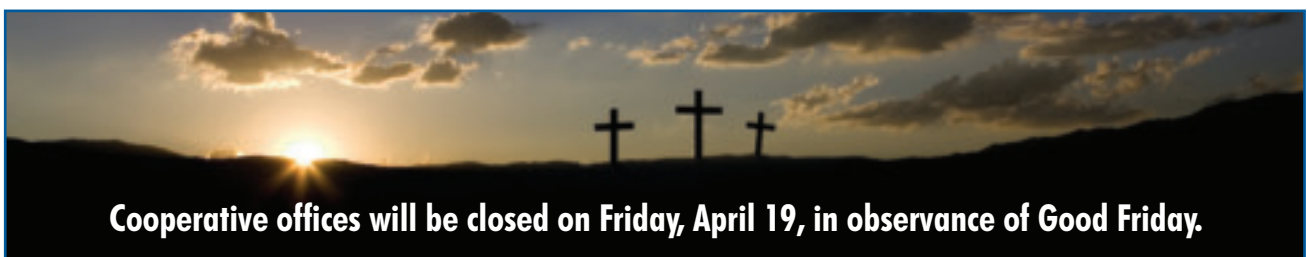


2 deadly  
hurricanes



Safe  
Electricity®

research collected from the National Weather Service



Cooperative offices will be closed on Friday, April 19, in observance of Good Friday.