

# JAMUP

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## Remember to look up this spring

As spring approaches, excitement is in the air about planting new trees, shrubs and row crops, right? Let's take a moment to consider where to plant that foliage, what type of foliage works best for our area and the precautions to take.

Spring brings the urge to plant trees and shrubs to beautify our property. Too often, shrubs and trees planted in the path of power and utility lines lead to maintenance issues later.

Many times, this is done without consideration of the effect they will have on the power lines that service the area.

A good rule of thumb to follow when planting foliage is the "look up" rule. Look overhead and consider the area the planted foliage will cover and what effect the anticipated height of the plant will have on the power lines overhead.

When planting foliage, please consider the mature size of what you plant and how it affects the overhead coverage of the area. This includes underground services as well. Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) works diligently to maintain right-of-way areas and has made great strides in improving our goal to provide safe and reliable electric service to our members. Please consider other members that share your electrical distribution lines, as this affects them also.

Spring also signals the planting season for our area farms. Farm

equipment has become much larger and more elaborate over the past several years. It is important to recognize that your equipment could come in contact with power lines and poles while in use. Once again, always apply the "look up" rule and use caution while folding and unfolding equipment in the vicinity of potential overhead electrical hazards. All too often, accidents could easily be avoided by looking overhead and staying clear of power lines.

Always be aware of how close you get to the utility poles that are in the fields - I am sorry to say that I speak from experience on this subject! Make sure to look for planter markers and spray booms as you negotiate the power lines that may intersect your field.

If you do happen to get farm equipment into electrical lines, even if it is

on the ground, never assume that it is de-energized. Call SIEC immediately at 618-827-3555, and please do not exit the equipment or try to move any wires until SIEC linemen have arrived. The lines or equipment could still be energized.

When you step off the equipment, you become the electricity's path to ground and receive a potentially fatal shock. Wait until SIEC linemen have de-energized the line and confirmed it is safe for you to exit the vehicle. If the vehicle is on fire and you must exit, jump clear of the vehicle with both feet together. Hop as far from the vehicle as you can with your feet together. Keep your feet together to prevent current flow through your body, which could be deadly.

As we enter our spring season, please be mindful of how the existing utilities relate to your activities and how it effects the reliability of power to our entire SIEC membership. Stay safe and enjoy planting those trees, shrubs and fields.



**Todd Thurston**  
Director of Operations  
& Maintenance



# Planning a yard project? Don't just dig in

April is National Safe Digging Month. It reminds us all that as we begin beautifying our yards, we shouldn't just dig in. According to 811, the "Call Before You Dig" national hotline, an underground utility is damaged **every nine minutes** because someone didn't call before digging.

Whether it is a do-it-yourself project, or you are hiring a professional, call 811 two to three days prior to starting any digging project to request that all underground utilities be marked. The service is free.

You may think it won't hurt anything to dig in an unmarked yard when landscaping, installing a fence, deck or mailbox, or even just planting a small flower bed or bush, but damaging an underground cable can have serious consequences. **Holden Webb**

Hitting a line could result in serious injuries and disrupted service for you and your neighbors. It could also make a dent in your wallet for repair fees or other fines.

The 811 hotline points out that there is more than one football field's length of buried utilities for every man, woman and child in the U.S. Before digging:

- **Notify** the one-call center by calling 811 or making an online request 2-3 days before work begins.
- **Wait** the required amount of time for affected utility operators to respond to your request.
- **Confirm** that all affected utility operators have responded to your request and marked underground utilities.
- **Dig carefully** around the marks with care.

Remember that **privately owned underground lines** will NOT be marked by location flaggers. Examples of private lines/equipment include well and septic, underground sprinkler systems, invisible fencing, gas or electric lines that serve a detached building, as well as any lines (electric, water, sewer) from the meter to your home.

*For more information about safe digging, contact Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative at 618-827-3555. For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).*

## LOOK OUT

### FOR POWER SOURCES

10'



Do not get within 10 feet (in any direction) of a power line.

Be aware of power lines when working on the roof.

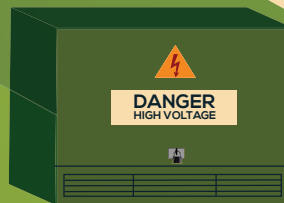


Do not trim branches or limbs near power lines.

Be careful when carrying long or tall objects such as ladders or poles.



Before you dig, call 811 to have underground utilities marked.



Do not dig near padmount transformers or other utility equipment.



## Respect the orange signs

### Move over and slowdown in work zones

For many, there aren't enough hours in the day. Because of that, many people use drive time to be productive. They might call their boss, text their best friend or apply mascara.

Multitasking can be an effective use of time, but not while driving. In 2017, 799 people died in work zone accidents, according to the U.S. DOT's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Although this reflects incidents that took place in road construction zones, know that accidents, injuries and deaths can happen in any roadside work zone, including utility work zones.

That is why we ask you to help keep our crews safe by slowing down and following any other instructions — including moving over to give them space — anytime you see

orange warning signs and cones that lead up to a work zone.

Cars or trucks that speed through a work zone not only endanger workers on the ground. Driving too fast or not moving over can also put an elevated lineworker in danger by causing the bucket he or she is in to move or sway.

Lineworkers already have enough to contend with by working high up on power lines while out in the elements. Their profession consistently places on the Bureau of Labor Statistics most dangerous jobs. Do your part; please don't add noncompliant drivers to the mix.

Other 2017 statistics released by the U.S. DOT's FHWA include:



In 2017,  
799 people died in  
work zone accidents.

Safe  
Electricity.org

\*Source: Federal Highway Administration

- 203 fatal crashes where speeding was a factor
- 222 fatal work zone crashes involving large trucks or buses
- 132 worker fatalities in road construction sites

For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## Ten reasons we appreciate lineworkers

Although we appreciate each and every employee at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, it takes a special kind of person to be a lineworker.

### Here are 10 reasons we appreciate our lineworkers.

10. They are specially trained to work on power lines and related equipment.
9. They are dedicated to safely and efficiently restoring power when extreme weather or other conditions cause the power to go out.
8. They are willing to work overtime or get up in the middle of the night to help restore power.
7. They enjoy serving our communities.
6. They aren't afraid of heights.
5. They are willing to help other utilities with major outages at a moment's notice.
4. They often lend their talents to help other countries with less established or damaged electrical distribution systems.
3. They enjoy working with each other and have each other's backs.
2. They are trained to work on both dead and live power lines and must always be dedicated to safety.
1. We couldn't provide excellent service without them or any of our other dedicated employees.

Lineworker Appreciation Day  
April 13, 2020



## 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.

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

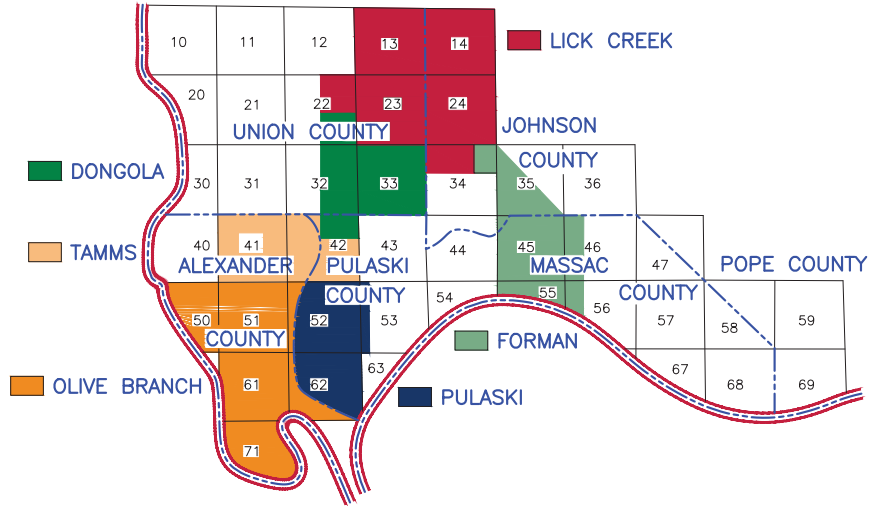
### Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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P.O. Box 100  
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618-827-3555

Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m.

[www.siec.coop](http://www.siec.coop)



### 2020 Tree Trimming/Clearing

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's tree trimming/clearing crews and contractors will be working in the Olive Branch, Tamms, Pulaski, and Dongola substation areas.

### 2020 Herbicide Application

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's low volume foliar herbicide contractor will be concentrated in the Forman and Dongola substation areas.

### 2020 Pole Inspection/Pole Changeouts

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's pole inspection/testing contractor and pole changeout crews and contractor will be working in the Lick Creek, Tamms, and Olive Branch substation areas.

Your substation area is listed on your monthly billing statement. Map areas are approximate.

**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.**



OUR OFFICE  
WILL BE CLOSED  
FRIDAY, APRIL 10  
FOR GOOD FRIDAY.