



Mike Smith
President and CEO



MEMORIAL DAY U S A

★ REMEMBER AND HONOR ★

**Office closed for
Memorial Day on
Monday, May 30.**

May is Electrical Safety Month

Electricity lights homes and businesses, provides warmth and keeps appliances and equipment running smoothly. During Electrical Safety Month, McDonough Power Cooperative and Safe Electricity provide these electrical safety tips to avoid hazards both inside and outdoors.

Staying safe on the road

Downed power lines can happen because of wind, storms, animals or an auto accident/collision.

1. If you see a downed power line, call 911 to report it and stay in your car. You cannot tell by looking or listening if the power line is deenergized. Wait in your vehicle until an electric utility crew member says it is safe to get out.
2. Do not drive over a downed power line. Doing so could cause a domino effect and bring down other lines, poles and equipment. **918B1-458C**
3. The only time you should exit is if your vehicle or cab is on fire. If this is the case, make a solid jump from the car or cab without touching it, landing with both feet together. Then, hop away with your feet together as far as you can.

Staying safe outside

When working outside, be aware of overhead and underground power lines.

1. Keep at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Keep any items you are carrying or using, such as long poles or other extended equipment, 10 feet away from power lines at all times. Carry an extension ladder or other far-reaching tools or equipment horizontally.
2. Make sure all outside outlets are ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protected.

3. Before digging, call 811 or your state's underground locating service. Buried lines such as electric, gas, water, sewer and other lines bring services indoors. Besides the dangers of coming in contact with a gas or electric line, fines due to damage are the responsibility of the home or landowner. Privately owned lines and systems will not be marked by the free service.
4. When you see lightning, take shelter inside an enclosed building or a hard-topped vehicle for protection. Stay away from high places, and do not take shelter under an isolated tree. No place outside is safe. Stay away from items that conduct electricity, such as metal fences. If you are swimming or in a hot tub, get out. Water is an electrical conductor that is dangerous during a storm.

Staying safe inside

With so many people working from home, the workplace and where you live can be one and the same. This means more devices are plugged into outlets or circuits that may not be able to handle the load.

1. Have a qualified electrician/licensed contractor check for hazards if you notice the following: dimming lights, a sizzling or buzzing sound, the smell of warm plastic, a switch plate that feels warm or looks scorched, sparks when plugging in or unplugging items or circuits that trip often.
2. When working with electrical equipment inside the house or shop, be aware that electrical equipment can spark when flammable vapors, gases or dust are present.
3. Do not overstretch a cord or use frayed or damaged cords.

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4. During storms, lightning can enter homes through corded phones, televisions, radios or computers. Lightning can also travel through plumbing, so do not take a bath, shower or wash dishes when you see lightning. If possible, unplug appliances and electronics before the

storm, including cell phones charging via electricity. Surges caused by lightning can damage electronics and appliances.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Crosier wins all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C.



Congratulations to Maddox Crosier – winner of the Youth to Washington contest, an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C.!

Crosier, a junior at Rushville-Industry High School, will spend a week in June representing McDonough Power Cooperative while witnessing the nation's capital up close, learning about the political process, and interacting with elected officials. **539B1-266B**

Students gain a personal understanding of American history and their role as a citizen by meeting their Representative and Senators. While student groups are organized at the state level, they all come together for Youth Day, where they get to meet each other and hear featured speakers who provide insight to the important roles electric cooperatives play in their communities.

Nearly 50,000 students from rural areas and small towns across America have participated in this program. Some of our Youth Tour alumni have gone on to design airplanes, to lead companies and to serve in the highest ranks of our government, including the U.S. Senate. While several Youth Tour alumni work in Washington, even more alumni can be found in your own community. Currently, one of our alumni is running for 71st District State Rep!



The tour is designed to provide an opportunity for outstanding rural young people to better understand the value of rural electrification. It familiarizes them with the historic and political environment of our nation's Capital through first-hand looks at monuments, government buildings, and cooperative organizations.

Visits with elected officials give participants a better understanding of the federal government, political process and democracy in general. But perhaps most significantly, the tour gives us an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of outstanding young people from rural communities. Bottom line: McDonough Power Cooperative feels like educated citizens are better citizens and better citizens are better co-op members.



ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, August 17 at
The Crossing Macomb

Selecting a tree? Know its mature height before deciding where to plant

If you are considering planting a tree, carefully select its location before you begin digging. Also, call 811 before you break ground to get underground utilities marked. If trees are planted in the wrong location, they can be expensive to maintain and even dangerous. McDonough Power and Safe Electricity offer tips on how to pick an optimal location.

A mature height of fewer than 15 feet is recommended if planting near lines. Some trees that are generally not tall enough to interfere with lines include crabapple, honeysuckle, juniper, flowering dogwood and hawthorn.

Trees should never be planted directly under power lines, near poles or too close to electrical equipment. **11228A1-1062A**

Once you have a tree selected, call 811 before putting a shovel to the ground. The "Call Before You Dig" number is a free service that locates and marks public underground utilities in your yard or on your land. Call several business days before you plan to dig. Locators will mark public underground utilities such as electric, gas,

water, cable and fiber. The service does not mark privately owned lines or pipes.

Other tree tips

- If your established trees are growing into power lines, contact us to ask about them. In some cases (depending on the tree's location), we will come out and trim the tree. If it is your responsibility, do not take on the task yourself. Only tree trimmers who are line-clearance certified are legally allowed to prune and trim trees within 10 feet of power lines.
- It is important to have trees trimmed. Limbs can fall on power lines during bad weather, resulting in power outages or blinking lights. Broken or drooping limbs could also cause a fire.
- Tall-growing trees with a mature height greater than 45 feet should be planted at least 45 feet away from lines to avoid future pruning. Some of these trees include oak, white and blue spruce, most pines and most maples.

- Be sure no one climbs a tree near power lines. If branches are touching the wires, the tree could be energized. Even branches that do not touch power lines could become energized if a child's weight is added. In addition, a child could climb high into the tree and be able to reach the line.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



McDonough County Recycling Survey

Last summer we published the link to a recycling questionnaire on behalf of the Macomb Woman's Club and Illinois Extension. All McDonough County residents and business owners were asked to participate in a short online survey regarding recycling. The results are in and can be found online at go.illinois.edu/RecycleMcDonough. They would like to thank everyone who participated!

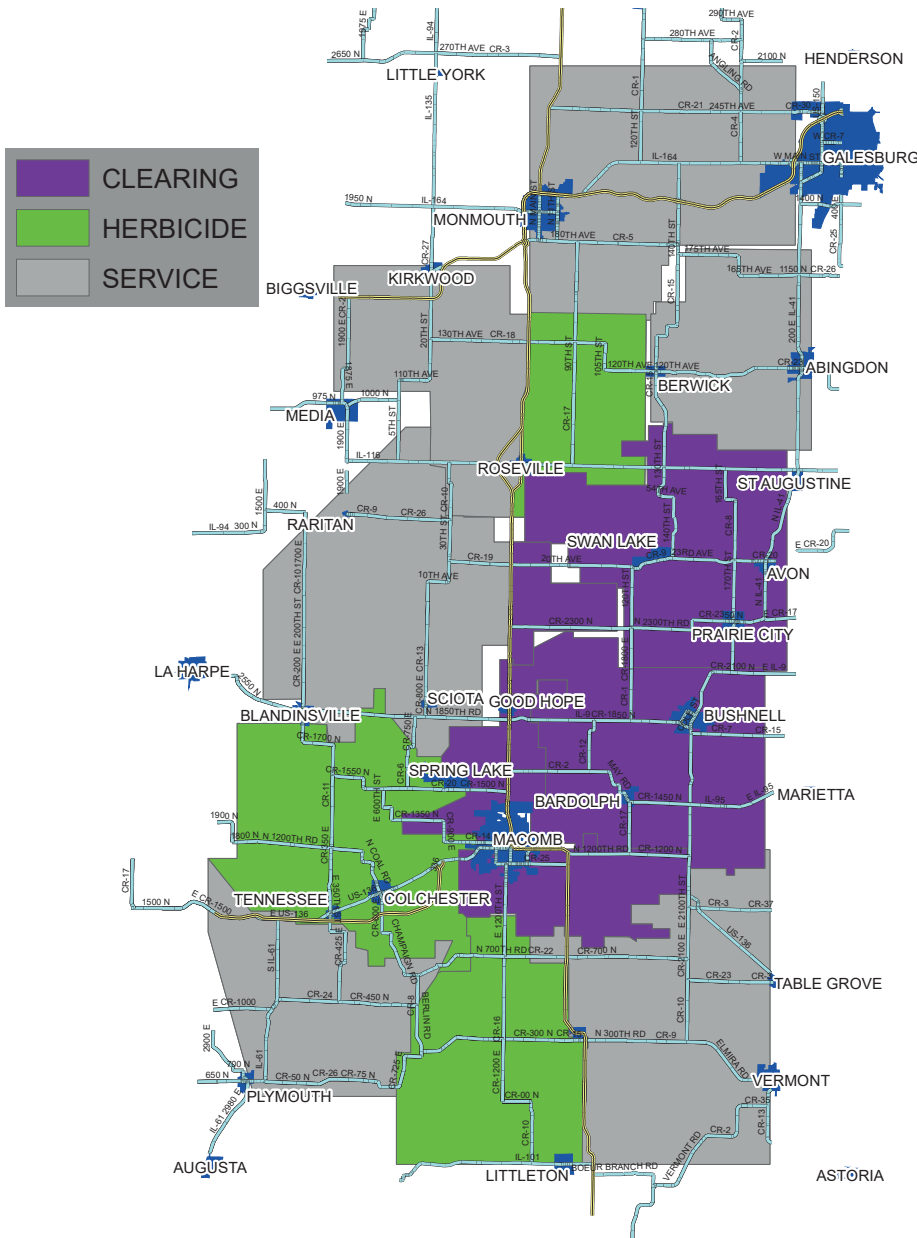


See the results for yourself – view the executive summary of the McDonough County Recycling Survey



Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

2022 Scheduled Work



Right-of-Way Clearing in McDonough Power Cooperative Service Territory

Spoon River Electric Cooperative (SREC) has been contracted to perform vegetation management in the following areas beginning in May or June; continuing through the summer and fall. See the map for details. This work might include cutting, trimming, mowing and application of environmentally safe herbicides. Vegetation management work is necessary to protect the integrity of the electric system and to prevent potential safety hazards. SREC personnel are licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture and are experienced in all aspects of tree pruning and herbicide application. If you have any concerns regarding work to be done in your area, please contact our office at (309) 833-2101. **8133C9-862B**

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Even in summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists (meaning you can easily see your joists), you should add more. If you can't see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation.

Attic insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Make sure the areas along the eaves are adequately covered.

Source: energystar.gov

