

# JAMUP

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## 2024 ROW Plan



**Robert Mayo**  
Director of Operations  
& Maintenance

**S**outhern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) proactively engages in a system-wide right-of-way maintenance program to provide safe and reliable

electric service to its members — all day, every day.

We provide electric services with over 2,100 miles of power lines to more than 11,000 members within 1,350 square miles of the southern tip of Illinois. Providing cost-efficient and reliable electric service to our members is challenging, because the terrain varies and is covered with many fast-growing species of trees. Our well-managed right-of-way maintenance program has been successful as it has a direct correlation with our 2023 reliability rate of 99.95%.

While trees add to the beauty of our communities, they are also responsible for costly property damage as well as dangerous and inconvenient power outages. In fact, tree failure is by far the leading cause of outages. A tree that grows into electrical conductors presents a potential hazard to you and others if it becomes energized when contacting a power line. The right-of-way program is a critical part of our business, but most importantly, it is a critical part of your safety — for your family, friends and neighbors.

### What is Right-of-Way?

In the strict sense of the word, right-of-way refers to the land on which infrastructure is built. Infrastructure could be anything from a highway, an airport to power lines. Projects such as power lines, pipe-lines or telephone facilities all require right-of-way.

SIEC uses right-of-way to build and maintain power lines. We maintain right-of-way areas by controlling brush and tree regrowth in all easement areas. Right-of-way is usually on private land and is obtained by an agreement with the current landowner when new poles and wires are installed. SIEC doesn't own the private land but is legally granted the right by the landowner to maintain brush and tree regrowth.

### Why SIEC needs right-of-way?

SIEC has a legal obligation to provide safe and reliable electric service to our members. This obligation could not be met without a commitment to an effective right-of-way program.

With the vast size of SIEC's service area and its diverse terrain, a well-maintained right-of-way program is a critical part of our everyday functions. It is important to have clearance between trees, brush and power lines and poles, so your power stays on. If the power does go out, a maintained right-of-way helps our line crews spot the cause of an outage so they can get your power back on more quickly. Thick brush and trees in easement areas limit access and cut efficiency and safety for line crews. Before crews can fix a power outage, they need to drive or walk every

piece of line before turning on the power or it could be harmful or even fatal to a line worker or you. If line crews can't access the lines because of poor right-of-way, the member is more likely to be without power for a longer period and more often.

### About SIEC's right-of-way program

Right-of-way maintenance is accomplished through side trimming and removing trees and limbs, mowing underbrush to allow access, and the use of nonrestricted herbicides. SIEC rights-of-way are on a seven-year cycle. SIEC spends approximately \$1 million dollars a year trimming, treating and clearing rights-of-way.

Our crews pay special attention when evaluating the line clearance before trimming or removing a tree. The National Electric Safety Code requires us to follow a certain amount of clearance around wires and trees. This can depend on voltage, the tree's growth rate and other characteristics, and the re-clearing cycle — how frequently it will need to be re-cleared. Our right-of-way clearance is 15 feet on each side of the power line for single phase, 20 feet on each side for 3-phase, and 40 feet on each side of transmission lines with SIEC's underbuild. If trimming needs to be done, the tree should be left in a healthy state, with some aesthetic value. If this cannot be accomplished, we may opt to remove the tree if it is cost-effective, rather than create an eyesore and future problems. A danger tree is one that is partially dead, shows sign of

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rot, or has insect infestation, cankers, eroded root systems, conifers with brown needles, or is a deciduous tree that will no longer leaf out and clearly will cause damage to an SIEC power line that can create an unsafe condition.

In cases where we've encountered large established trees on rights-of-way, we have found that the removal of limbs helps to redirect the future re-growth away from the wires, thereby eliminating the need to remove the entire tree. This also keeps maintenance costs to a minimum while helping to ensure that the tree won't need drastic trimming in the future.

**Neal C. Hartsock**

After re-clearing, brush and regrowth are maintained with an herbicide treatment, which encourages slow regrowth. The herbicides that are used are varieties which can be purchased over the counter by private landowners. The products are used in accordance with label instructions and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We control all species of woody brush and trees.

2024 ROW PLAN

Substations to Spray <i>(June-September)</i>	Substations to Bucket Trim <i>(January-December)</i>	Substations to Jarraff Trim and Mow <i>(February-September)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Metropolis</li> <li>Unionville</li> <li>Lick Creek</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unionville</li> <li>Lick Creek</li> <li>Cobden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lick Creek</li> <li>Unionville</li> <li>Cobden</li> </ul>

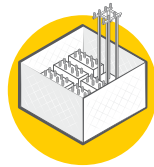
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If you want to know what substation you are on or have other questions, call our office at 800-762-1400.

## HOW ELECTRICITY GETS TO YOU



**step 1**  
**Generation**  
Electricity is generated from various sources.



**step 5**  
**Distribution Substation**  
Voltage is lowered further for safe distribution.



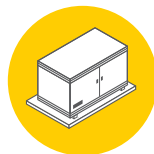
**step 2**  
**Step-Up Transformer**  
Voltage is increased to push the electricity over long distances.



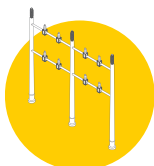
**step 6**  
**Distribution Power Lines**  
Electricity travels across these lines in your community.



**step 3**  
**Transmission Power Lines**  
Lines carry electricity over long distances.



**step 7**  
**Final Stop**  
A transformer reduces voltage a final time, and electricity is sent to your home.



**step 4**  
**Transmission Substation**  
Voltage is lowered so electricity can travel across the local system.



## Stay cozy but cautious!

Brent Goforth, Director of Member Services

As temperatures drop, you may find yourself using various heating methods to ensure your home remains warm and cozy. Whether it be a wood stove, electric space heater or natural gas fireplace, each comes with specific hazards to address prior to use. At Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, we prioritize the safety of our members and want to provide you with a few safety measures to implement if you plan on utilizing any of the alternate heating methods mentioned above.

Herbert D. Arnold



Wood Stove

- **Proper installation** - Wood stoves require a minimum 36-inch clearance between the bottom, top, sides, front and back of the stove and all combustible materials. You *may* be able to reduce this clearance by installing a heat shield along any combustible surface within 36 inches. Please refer to the manufacturer's guidelines for specific dimensions.
- **Chimney construction** - A wood burning stove must have a chimney that is masonry or UL-listed and factory built. Never use unlined, single brick chimney as they can deteriorate over time causing potentially dangerous conditions.
- **Ventilation** - Approximately 90% of all stove-related fires originate from the venting system. This venting system connects the stove to the chimney and must be made of insulated 24-gauge or heavier stovepipe. The venting system should be as short as possible, with no more than two right-angle elbows.
- **Operation & maintenance** -
  - **Proper Fuel Use.** Recommended fuel sources are hardwoods such

as maple, beech, ash, hickory or oak. All wood should be cut, split and air-dried for at least a year prior to use. This can prevent harmful airborne microbial issues such as runny nose, watery eyes or illnesses such as bronchitis.

- **Regular cleaning.** Using a wire brush to clean the chimney and stovepipe annually will prevent buildup and help ensure functionality of your wood stove. Avoid using chains, bricks or any other tool that could damage the lining. You can also use the occasional high-temperature fire to burn off unwanted buildup.
- **Creosote awareness.** If during your routine maintenance or cleaning process you notice sticky black liquid, flaky black deposits, or a hard tar-like substance, consult a certified chimney sweep to eliminate creosote buildup. Creosote is created when a lower flue temperature does not allow all the combustible gases to escape into the atmosphere.



Electric Space Heater

- **Placement** - Ensure that if you choose to use a space heater, it is placed on a dry, level and non-combustible material such as tile, laminate or wood flooring. Avoid placing heaters near or on furniture, countertops, rugs or carpet. Unless designed to be used in areas with higher humidity, do not use space heaters in bathrooms where steam or bathwater could come into contact with the heater.
- **Precaution** - Never leave a space heater turned on and unattended. While modern heaters are designed

to run for extended periods of time, it is *never* recommended to leave a space heater unattended, including while sleeping. Be mindful of where cords are, in an effort to prevent a tripping hazard or inadvertently knocking over the unit. If you have children living in or visiting your home, consider barricading the space heater to prevent burns or fires occurring.

\*If you use an electric heated blanket, periodically verify that cords are all in good condition with no fraying. Blankets should not be used while sleeping. Although modern heated blankets are equipped with automatic shutoff features to prevent overheating, you should never rely on them as a primary safety precaution.



Natural Gas or Propane Fireplace

- **Verify damper is open.** If you heat your home with either a propane or natural gas fireplace, start by verifying the damper is in working condition. By code, all dampers should be fixed so that even in "closed position" it remains open one-quarter inch to allow any leaked gases to escape through the flue.
- **No play zone.** If you have children, create a "no play zone" at least two feet from the doors or chains limiting access to the flames as they could reach temperatures capable of causing burns.
- **Be mindful.** Always be aware of your surroundings and if you smell propane or natural gas, call 911, exit the home and get the "all clear" from the fuel provider prior to reentering the home.

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

### SIEC Board of Directors

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

### Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m.  
www.siec.coop

Stay cozy but cautious! - Continued from page 18C

Regardless of which of these sources you utilize to heat your home, make sure your home is equipped with these three items:

- **Smoke detector** - Check that batteries are in working order.
- **Carbon monoxide detector** - Place in a proximity near any potential source of carbon monoxide and where it can be heard from all rooms in the home.
- **Fire extinguisher** - Keep in a readily accessible location and consider keeping multiple extinguishers in various locations (multi-level floorplans, shops, garage, etc.).

Sources: <https://www.nationwide.com/lc/resources/home/articles/wood-stove-safety>,  
<https://www.familyhandyman.com/article/indoor-fireplace-safety-beginners/>





## WORD SEARCH

Can you find all of the safety words? Remember...Safety First!

S	P	Z	E	P	R	O	P	E	R	T	O	O	L	S	
N	S	Y	O	I	C	B	Y	G	O	D	E	R	A	L	W
G	Q	R	S	K	U	G	O	R	E	K	E	L	I	S	
I	K	O	D	A	R	I	T	O	C	C	L	R	N	E	
S	I	T	G	J	R	M	Q	U	I	O	E	Q	E	V	
G	V	C	O	K	E	L	R	N	M	S	C	K	M	O	
N	T	U	B	R	N	T	Z	D	B	E	R	Y	A	L	
I	J	D	R	O	T	A	L	U	S	N	I	T	N	G	
N	A	N	E	E	V	M	A	R	R	C	K	I	R		
R	U	O	K	L	M	I	B	P	C	E	I	S	G	E	
A	Q	C	G	E	R	M	C	K	S	R	T	U	O	B	
W	U	Z	D	V	O	L	T	A	G	E	Y	N	Z	B	
B	E	C	A	U	T	I	O	U	S	L	D	V	A	U	
Y	T	E	F	A	S	O	K	L	R	Q	E	O	S	R	

ELECTRICITY	SAFETY	LINEMAN
BE CAUTIOUS	CONDUCTOR	BUCKET TRUCK
WARNING SIGNS	STORM	INSULATOR
PROPER TOOLS	GROUND	RUBBER GLOVES
VOLTAGE	AMPS	CURRENT
ICE	WIRES	SOCKET



## Martin Luther King Jr. Day

# I HAVE A DREAM

The SIEC office will be closed Jan. 15, 2024.