

President's Report



Josh DeWees
President/CEO

Do not overlook overhead power lines

It can be easy to overlook things that we see every day, including overhead power lines. However, failure to notice overhead lines can be deadly. If you or an object you are touching contacts or gets too close to a power line, you could be seriously injured or killed.

Overhead power lines require 10 feet of clearance in all directions. This distance rule applies to the power lines draped from pole to pole that line roads (distribution lines), as well as the drop-down lines that service homes or other structures.

If your job requires you to operate equipment in the vicinity of large transmission lines and towers, they require even more clearance than distribution and drop-down lines. That clearance is determined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). OSHA mandates line clearance distances for all types of power lines.

Be mindful of overhead power lines when completing the following tasks:

Home maintenance

Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long tools, such as ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles. Lower long tools and equipment before moving or transporting them. Other safety tips include:

- Carry ladders and other long items horizontally whenever possible.
- Be careful when working on or around your roof.
- Never go on a roof in windy or bad weather.

Yard work

When trimming trees, do not allow yourself or trimmers to come within 10 feet of

overhead power lines, including service lines to your home or outbuildings. Also:

- Do not trim trees near power lines; instead, leave this to certified line clearance tree trimmers.
- Do not use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines.

Continued on 18B ▶



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. **Look up**
- 811** Before you dig, call 811 to have underground utilities marked.
- Do not dig near padmount transformers or other utility equipment.

DANGER HIGH VOLTAGE

Safe Electricity.org



MEMORIAL DAY
— ★ ★ ★ —

OFFICE CLOSED
MONDAY, MAY 27



Spoon River Electric Cooperative

930 South Fifth Ave, PO Box 340,
Canton, IL 61520
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
309-647-2700 • www.srecoop.org

President/CEO

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Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,272
Number of members served: 5,022
Number of power poles in territory: 29,361

“Power lines” continued from 18A

Farming

Review power line locations and other potential electrical hazards with all workers at morning safety meetings. Equipment that could get too close or contact a power pole or line includes sprayer tips, tall equipment, dump trucks, augers and other extensions.

At work

Follow all OSHA distance requirements when operating dump trucks, cranes, concrete pump truck extensions and when working on a roof or in a bucket.

Other reminders

- Do not come within 50 feet of a downed or damaged power line. Warn others to stay away. Call 911 to report it.
- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, they could come in contact when weight is added to the branch.

Look up and look out for overhead power lines. Contact can happen in an instant. For additional electrical safety tips, go to SafeElectricity.org.

Safety Ambassador Checklist



Practicing safety near electricity can save lives, and we want you to spread the important message of safety.

With the help of an adult, complete the checklist below then cut out the badge to show you care about electrical safety.

TASK	COMPLETED
Electrical outlets are not overloaded with multiple power strips and devices.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electrical cords are not causing a trip hazard or placed under rugs or carpet.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smoke alarms are working.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smoke alarms are installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the house.	<input type="checkbox"/>
All light switches are working properly.	<input type="checkbox"/>

SIGNATURE _____

Stay safe at work

Employers usually offer orientation and training for new employees, but sometimes electrical safety is overlooked. Beyond burning popcorn in the microwave and annoying all your coworkers with the stench, Spoon River Electric and Safe Electricity remind you of the following on-the-job electrical safety tips, which can also apply at home:

In general

Do not complete electrical work if you are not qualified. Employees asked to change light fixtures, repair wiring, install outlets or other types of electrical work have been injured and killed on the job. It is best to leave electrical work to a professional electrician.

Indoors

1. Many offices have landlines. Do not talk on a landline phone during a thunderstorm. Many people think this is a myth, but it is not — a bolt of lightning that strikes a telephone line can come through the wires and enter a headset. That jolt can burst your eardrum or even cause cardiac arrest.
2. Use high-quality extension cords with appropriate gauge and length endorsed by a reputable laboratory.
3. Do not run extension cords under carpet. Out of sight, out of mind, and the cords could get damaged under the carpet or overheat, causing a fire.
4. Another reason not to place extension cords under carpet: They should be used as a temporary solution. If your workplace needs more outlets, your employer should have a professional electrician install them.
5. Electrical cords can be a tripping hazard; your employer should supply heavy-duty cord covers.
6. Do not overload the electrical system at your work by plugging

in too many items or plugging in items that draw too much power.

7. Speaking of drawing too much power, ask before using a space heater at work.
8. Do not use damaged cords, plugs, outlets or outdated electrical equipment.
9. Do not yank on an electrical cord to unplug something; grasp the plug instead.

Outdoors

1. If you are doing work outdoors, be vigilant about power line locations. Window washers, roofers, painters and other workers have been injured and killed after making contact with power lines either with a tool or object they were holding or by direct contact.
2. If your employer asks you to trim trees, do not trim any foliage or limbs within 10 feet of a power line in any direction (20 feet is better!) Trimming near power lines should be left to OSHA-certified line clearance workers.
3. If you operate farm machinery or drive a truck that has hydraulic beds or lifts (dump

truck, for example), bins (grain truck) or arms/extensions (garbage truck, concrete truck), always be aware of power line locations and use a spotter. Contact with a power line can kill. If your truck, tractor or equipment does come in contact with a line, DO NOT get out. Call 911 and wait for us to de-energize the power so you can safely exit.

4. If you rent/use scaffolding or a boom lift to raise you up, always be aware of power line locations.

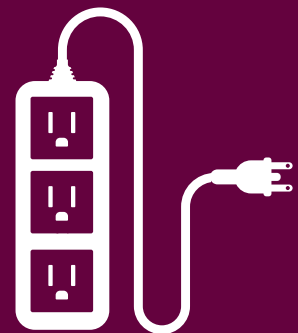
Around water

1. Be careful when working around water. Water and electricity should not mix; it greatly increases the chance of shock. Keep all electrical equipment away from standing water or damp conditions (indoors or outdoors) and do not operate equipment with wet hands.
2. Make sure any outlet that is near a water source (and all outdoor outlets) are GFCI (ground-fault circuit interrupter) protected.

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

Safety Tip

Overloading extension cords or power strips means they can overheat and cause fires. Do not overburden them by plugging in appliances that consume more watts than the strips or cords can handle. If any part of the extension cord or power strip is hot while in use, it might be overloaded.



Safe
Electricity.org®



ATTENTION 2023-2024 SENIORS!

Spoon River Electric Cooperative Is Awarding Three \$1,000 Scholarships to High School Seniors

High school students who are seniors during the 2023–2024 school year and are the son or daughter of a Spoon River Electric member are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 Scholastic Scholarship, a \$1,000 Honorary Scholarship, and the \$1,000 Scott Parrish Memorial Scholarship, which will be awarded at this year’s Annual Meeting.

Please fill out the form at the bottom of the page and return it to the Cooperative to participate. Applications must be turned in by **May 10, 2024** to be considered. Please see official rules and descriptions of scholarships below.

OFFICIAL RULES

- **Applying students and their parent/legal guardian must be present at the Annual Meeting to win.**
- Students must be a son or daughter of a Spoon River Electric Cooperative Member.
- Students must be a high school senior during the 2023–2024 school year and begin college undergraduate studies in the 2024–2025 school year. Students must plan on attending a two-year or four-year accredited college or university, including vocational/technical schools.
- Scholarship winners must be full-time students (at least 12 hours) during the 2024–2025 academic year.
- Scholarships are for one year and are non-renewable.
- Past Spoon River Electric Cooperative scholarship winners are not eligible to receive another one.

SCHOLASTIC AND SCOTT PARRISH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

- The Scholastic and Scott Parrish Memorial Scholarships will be awarded based on an application detailing GPA, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, and a biographical statement.
- Semi-finalists will be notified by mail with a time and place for a personal interview.
- Those not chosen as semi-finalists for the Scholastic and Parrish Scholarships will be automatically placed in the Honorary Scholarship drawing.

HONORARY SCHOLARSHIP

- The Honorary Scholarship will be awarded by a drawing as students are recognized at the Annual Meeting.
- All applicants are eligible for the Honorary Scholarship drawing except the Scholastic and Parrish Scholarship winners.

	<h2>Scholarship Participation Request</h2>
Name of Student _____	Return To: Taryn Mellert
Address of Student _____	Spoon River Electric Cooperative
Name of Parent/Guardian _____	PO Box 340
Telephone Number _____	Canton, IL 61520
	647-2700