



Mike Smith
President and CEO

Lineworkers are ready when it matters most

As CEO of McDonough Power Cooperative, I have the unique privilege of seeing firsthand what it truly takes to keep the lights on for our members. In April, we take time to pause and recognize the brave men and women who make that possible every single day — our lineworkers.

When storms impact our communities and outages occur, many people experience the inconvenience, but our lineworkers see a call to action. Our crews are always ready when it matters most — leaving family dinners, working through the night and heading into challenging conditions to restore power as safely and quickly as possible. That readiness is not accidental. It comes from rigorous training, deep experience and a shared commitment to serving others.

What makes lineworkers especially remarkable is that they aren't just restoring power to a system — they're restoring power to their own communities. They live here. They raise their families here. They

understand that electricity is more than a convenience; it's essential to daily life, to local businesses, to schools, farms and emergency services. Powering the places we call home is personal to lineworkers.

Electric cooperatives like McDonough Power were built on the principle of neighbors helping neighbors, and our lineworkers embody that spirit every day. They are the first to respond and the last to leave, often working long hours behind the scenes. At times, serving our neighbors means going beyond our own service territory through a process known as mutual aid. During major outage events, McDonough Power crews stand ready to assist neighboring co-ops — sometimes close to home, and sometimes across state lines — to help restore power. This spirit of mutual aid strengthens all cooperatives and ultimately benefits the members we serve.

We understand any time the lights go out it can be frustrating, bringing everyday life to a halt. We are incredibly grateful to our members for your patience and encouragement during these times. Linework is demanding, physical, and at times, it can be dangerous. Our crews approach each job with a focus on safety and teamwork. They take pride in their craft and in the trust our members place in them.

On April 13, 2026, we will celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day, but one day is hardly enough. Every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and dedication, which are the backbone of our cooperative.

To our lineworkers: Thank you for your hard work, your readiness and your unwavering commitment to the communities we serve. We are proud to stand behind you and grateful for all that you do.



When the lights go out, lineworkers are ready to answer the call, day or night, to safely restore power and keep our communities moving forward. They take pride in powering the places we call home. Today and every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and commitment.

Lineworker Appreciation Day
April 13, 2026



1210 West Jackson Street
 P.O. Box 352
 Macomb, Illinois
 61455-0352

24 hour pay-by-phone
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Vegetation management planned for McDonough Power Cooperative service territory

To help maintain a safe and reliable electric system, McDonough Power Cooperative has contracted Spoon River Electric Cooperative (SREC) to perform essential vegetation management in select areas of our service territory. Beginning in May and continuing through the summer and fall, SREC crews will be working in designated areas to manage vegetation along power line rights-of-way.

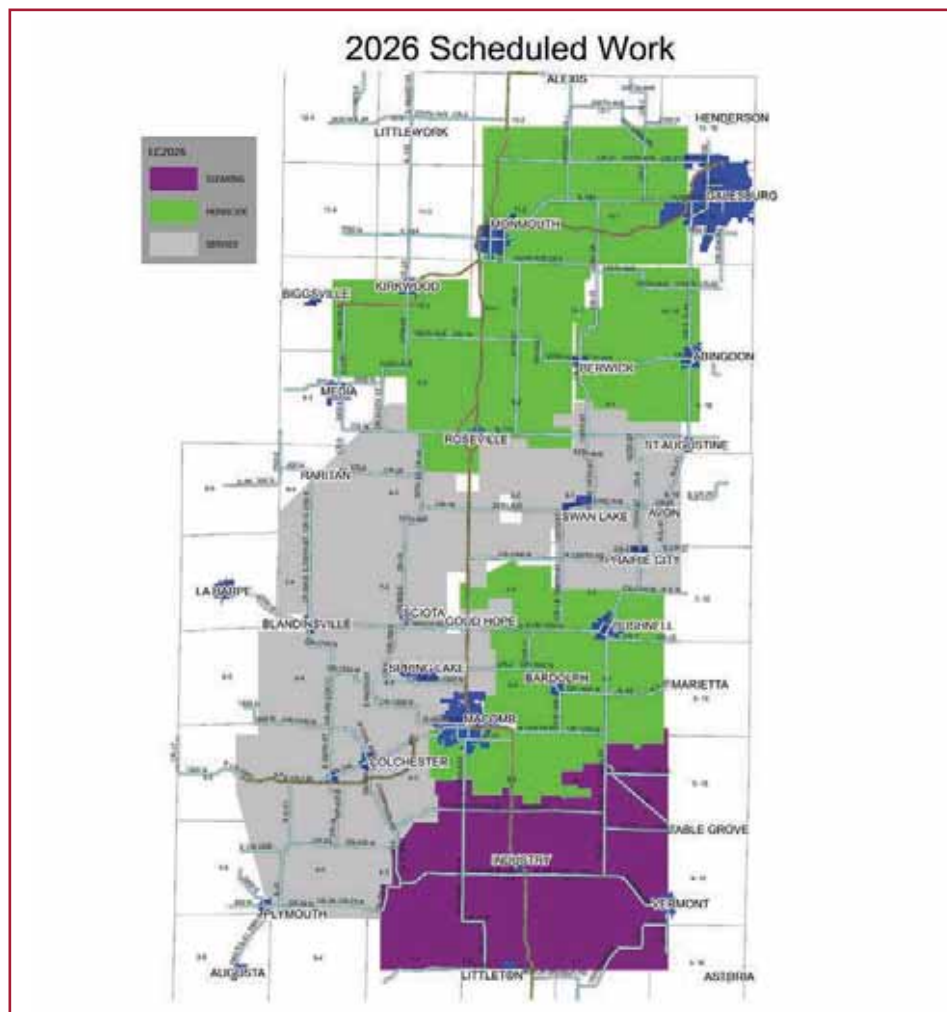
This work may include cutting, trimming, mowing and the application of environmentally safe herbicides. Managing vegetation near power lines is an important part of maintaining reliable electric service, as it helps prevent trees and brush from interfering with power lines and causing outages or safety hazards. **5211B4A-108C**

SREC's vegetation management team is fully licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture and has extensive experience in tree pruning and herbicide application. Their trained professionals will complete this work safely, efficiently and in accordance with all applicable regulations.

Residents who have questions or concerns about the upcoming work in their area are encouraged to contact the McDonough Power Cooperative office at 309-833-2101.

We appreciate the cooperation of our members as we work to protect the reliability and safety of the cooperative's electric system.

Please refer to the map below for additional details about the areas where vegetation management will occur.



Why vegetation management matters for reliable power

Trees and electricity are both essential parts of rural life, but when trees grow too close to power lines, they can quickly become a major cause of power outages and safety hazards. That's why vegetation management is one of the most important routine maintenance activities performed by electric cooperatives.

Across the country, trees and limbs contacting power lines are the leading cause of service interruptions. Strong winds, storms, ice or heavy snow can easily bring branches into power lines if trees are not properly maintained. Even healthy trees can cause outages when they grow too close to electrical equipment.

By regularly trimming and managing vegetation along power line rights-of-way, utilities can significantly reduce these risks. Proper vegetation management helps prevent unexpected outages, protects equipment, and improves overall system reliability for cooperative members. 532RM62-900C

Safety is another critical reason this work is performed. Tree limbs touching energized power lines can create dangerous conditions for property owners, utility workers and anyone nearby. Maintaining proper clearance helps reduce the chance of electrical hazards and ensures crews can safely access power lines when maintenance or repairs are needed.

Vegetation management is also a proactive investment in the long-term health of the electric system. Routine trimming is far more effective — and less disruptive — than responding to emergency outages caused by fallen trees or branches.

McDonough Power Cooperative appreciates members' understanding as this necessary work is completed throughout the service territory. These efforts play an important role in delivering the safe, reliable electric service our members depend on every day.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

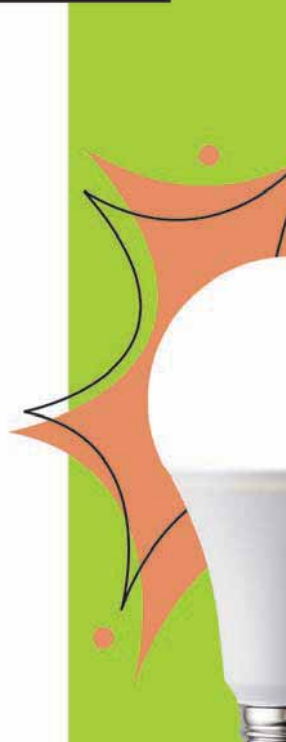
Don't fall victim to power outage scams. When widespread outages occur, scammers may target affected utility customers. They can contact you via call, text or email, urging you to act quickly and provide personal information to restore service. Always communicate with your utility through official channels, such as their website, mobile app or phone number listed on your bill. Your safety and personal information are worth taking a moment to pause and verify unknown senders.

Source: ftc.org

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As we prepare for the seasonal shift, remember to set your ceiling fan rotation accordingly. In winter months (or whenever your home heating system is running), fan blades should rotate clockwise, which produces an updraft that pushes warm air down. In summer months (or whenever your home cooling system is running), blades should rotate counterclockwise, which produces a downdraft or windchill effect that makes you feel cooler. When used correctly, ceiling fans can boost comfort and allow you to adjust the thermostat a few degrees for energy savings.

Source: energy.gov 10113A6A-408C



Member Prizes

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.

STAY AWAY FROM DOWNED LINES

Always assume a downed power line is energized and dangerous, even if it's not sparking or making noise. Know what to do to save lives.

Keep your distance:

- Stay at least 50 feet away.
- Do not touch the line, or anything or anyone it's touching.
- Warn others to stay far back.
- Do not touch or step in water near a downed line. Water conducts electricity and creates a dangerous mix.
- Call 911 and state it's an electrical emergency.



**STAY AT LEAST
50 FEET AWAY.**



**NEVER DRIVE
OVER A DOWNED
POWER LINE.**

If you're inside your vehicle:

- Stay inside and call 911.
- Wait for utility or emergency crews to tell you it's safe to exit.
- Only leave the vehicle if there is immediate danger, like a fire.

If you must exit the vehicle due to fire or other danger:

1. Open a door that's not touching the ground, if possible.
2. Cross your arms over your chest. Jump clear without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. **6315ME20-708C**
3. Land with your feet together. Shuffle or bunny hop, keeping your feet together, and get as far away as you can.
4. Avoid power lines that are on the ground or sagging overhead.
5. Do not go back to the vehicle until it's confirmed safe.

Safe
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