

Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Norris Electric Cooperative

8543 N St Hwy 130
Newton, IL 62448

Phone: 618-783-8765
or **Toll-Free:**
1-877-783-8765

Report an Outage:
1-877-783-3221

Office Hours:
Monday – Thursday
7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Chairman

Gordon McClureJasper

Vice Chairman

Justin Parcel..... Clark

Secretary/Treasurer

Dean Dietrich..... Richland

Directors

Gary Buser.....Crawford

Kurt HolscherCrawford

Gilbert Garbe..... Effingham

Ted Helmink Cumberland

Scott Weiss.....Lawrence

Dan Strine Wabash

Dave Sheppard.....Jasper

Ron Viehman.....Lawrence

General Manager

Tamara Phillips



LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Memorial Scholarship

If you are thinking of a career as a Lineman, this scholarship is for you.

The LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship is a \$2,000 scholarship to help pay for costs to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill.

One scholarship a year will be awarded to an individual who is related to a rural

electric cooperative employee or director in the State of Illinois; or is the son or daughter of an electric cooperative member in Illinois; or is enrolled in the Lincoln Land Lineworker's School; or has served or is serving in the U.S. armed forces or National Guard.

If interested in a lineman career, check out the official rules and regulations at norriselectric.com.

Application deadline is April 30, 2022.

Clearing for reliability

There are many ways that Norris Electric provides you with safe, reliable electric service. One of the most common – and crucial – ways is referred to as right-of-way clearing (or vegetation management).

A right of way (ROW) refers to a strip of land underneath or around power lines that your electric cooperative has the right and responsibility to maintain and clear. Trees must grow at a distance far enough from conductors where they will not cause harm to individuals or disruption to electrical service. Specifications can vary, but a general guideline of maintaining a safe ROW is 15 feet of clearance on either side and above the primary conductors and no overhanging limbs on 3-phase feeders.

Clearing the ROW is critical to keeping our members' lights on. An average of 10 percent of power interruptions occur when trees, shrubs or bushes grow too close to power lines.

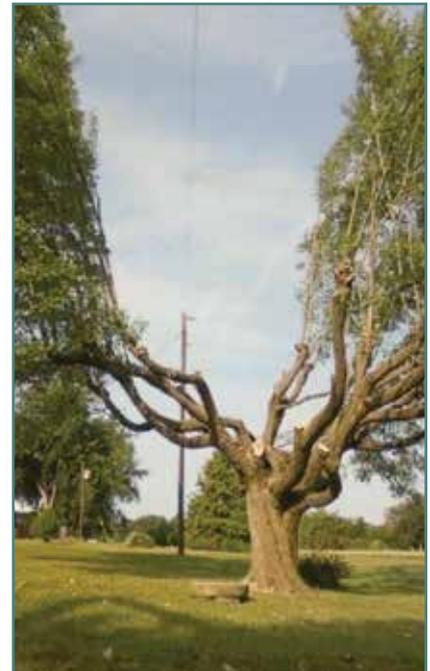
If a tree encroaches on this safe distance, our vegetation management team will trim back branches and brush using chainsaws, bucket trucks, tree climbers, brush chippers and mowers. Chemical control methods can also be used as a way to support the growth of low

growing plant species that will outcompete the tall trees growing beneath power lines.

ROW clearing also keeps your family safe by ensuring that tree branches do not become energized due to close contact with a downed power line. Power lines can carry up to 69,000 volts, and an energized tree branch is incredibly dangerous – even deadly. Be mindful when around trees close to power lines, and make sure your children know that climbing trees near power lines is extremely dangerous.

ROW clearing is also critical to ensuring that we provide members with affordable electricity. Staying ahead of the game keeps us from having to come out after a storm to restore power due to fallen trees.

Norris Electric Cooperative is conducting tree trimming work in five counties this year. Those counties are Richland, Jasper, Lawrence, Crawford and Effingham. This will either be done by a Norris Electric crew or a contracted crew. We will be trimming any trees that could interfere with our electric lines. This free service is necessary to ensure delivery of safe and reliable electricity to your home.



Planned Outage Notification Call List

If you depend on life support equipment, contact Norris Electric.

Norris Electric does its best to keep the power on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. Yet despite our best efforts, outages do occur. For most members, this is an inconvenience, but for those who depend on electricity to power life support equipment, an outage can present a real challenge. In storm related incidents, Norris Electric cannot be responsible for health-related equipment. To protect yourself, be prepared by installing a generator or having some other form of backup plan.

While most outages are weather related, a few are planned in advance for maintenance and construction

purposes during the day. For instances of a planned outage, Norris maintains a Planned Outage Call List for those members with a verified medical necessity. These members receive notification in the event of a scheduled power outage. Please note this notification is only when it is a planned outage during day time working hours.

If you or a relative depend on electrically powered life support equipment and would like to be put on the call list for medical reasons, it is necessary for the member to fill out a form and have your doctor sign off on it.

It is important to stress that by being placed on the daytime planned outage call list, Norris is in no way

guaranteeing uninterrupted power supply. Members must make personal arrangements for both unplanned and planned outages.

To be placed on the daytime Planned Outage Call List for medical reasons, send an email to: billing@norriselectric.com or call 877-783-8765 and we will mail you a form to be filled out by you and your doctor.

Please note it is the member's responsibility to keep all contact information updated with Norris Electric.

Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

For more tips on smart tree planting in your community, contact your local electric cooperative or visit www.ArborDay.org.

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard... especially to power lines.

LARGE TREES

Height/spread of more than 40 feet, such as:

- Maple
- Birch
- Oak
- Sweetgum
- Spruce
- Linden
- Pine

MEDIUM TREES

Height/spread of 25 to 40 feet, such as:

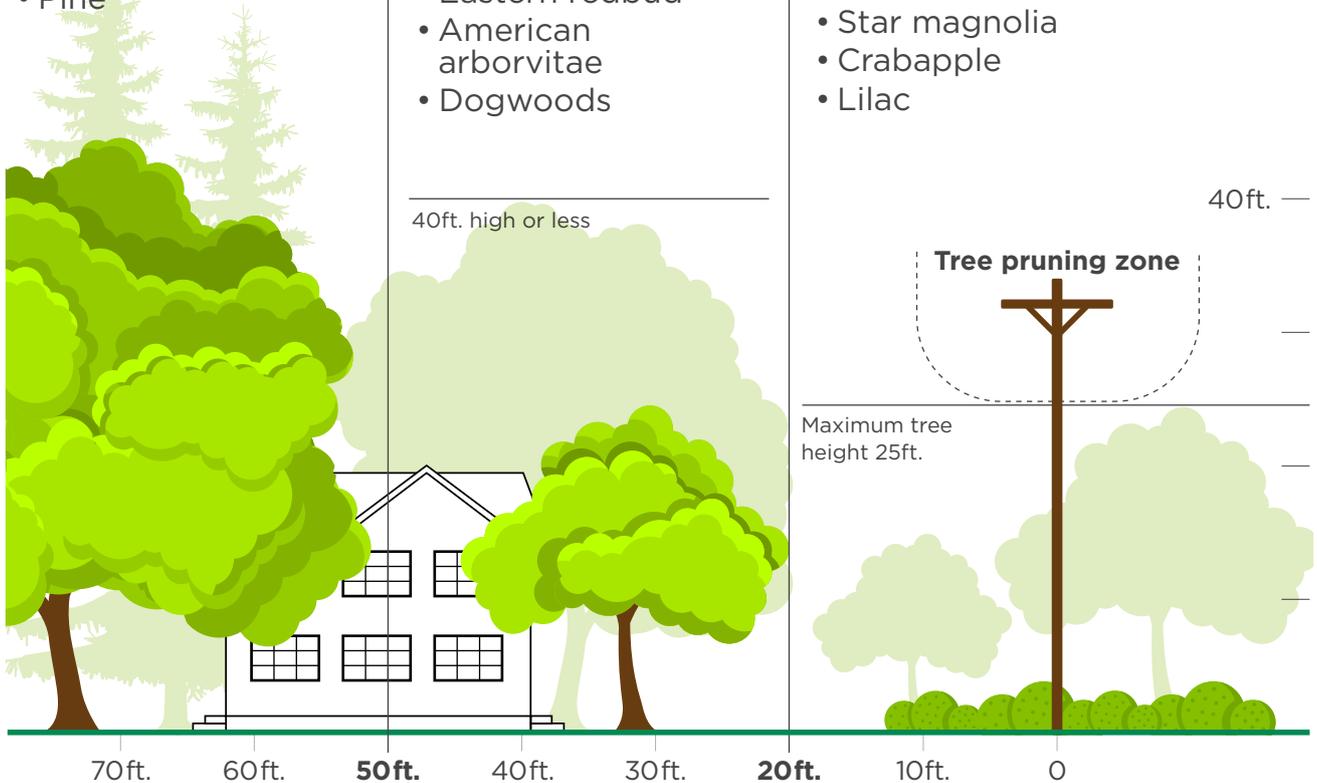
- Washington hawthorn
- Goldenraintree
- Eastern redbud
- American arborvitae
- Dogwoods

SMALL TREES

Avoid planting within 20 feet of power lines. When planting within 20 feet is unavoidable, use only shrubs and small trees.

Height/spread of no more than 25 feet such as:

- Star magnolia
- Crabapple
- Lilac



Be safe! Always call 811 before you dig to locate any buried utility lines.

Source: The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Area Banks Accepting Norris Electric Payments

Please remember when you take your payment to the bank it is mailed to us and not directly posted to your account until Norris Electric receives it. This could take several days due to the mail service. Please note these banks are not allowed to take payments if your payment is past due.

Bridgeport

- Peoples State Bank

Casey

- First Neighbor Bank

Dieterich

- Dieterich Bank

Effingham

- Crossroads Bank
- Dieterich Bank: Effingham Main Branch
- Dieterich Bank: Lake Sara Branch

Greenup

- First Neighbor Bank

Hutsonville

- Farmers & Merchants Bank

Lawrenceville

- First Financial Bank, NA
- First Bank
- Peoples State Bank

Newton

- First Financial Bank, NA
- Dieterich Bank: IGA Branch
- Peoples State Bank

Olney

- First Financial Bank, NA

Palestine

- Regions Bank

Robinson

- First Financial Bank, NA

St. Francisville

- Peoples State Bank

Ste. Marie

- Ste. Marie State Bank

Sigel

- Teutopolis State Bank

Sumner

- Peoples State Bank

Teutopolis

- Teutopolis State Bank
- Dieterich Bank: National Trail Banking Center

Be prepared and stay safe

Storm watches vs. warnings

At any moment, 1,800 thunderstorms occur worldwide, according to the National Weather Service. That is 16 million storms a year. In an average year, 1,200 tornadoes cause 60 to 65 fatalities and 1,500 injuries in the U.S. alone.

To protect yourself, your family and your property from seasonal thunderstorms and tornadoes, you need more than a flashlight and a few cans of food (although they are essential parts of your emergency kit). Beyond the items in your preparedness kit, it is a good idea to fully understand how dangerous storms can be and how to interpret weather alerts to minimize risk.

Watch versus warning

When bad weather is approaching, people typically turn on the TV, pull up a weather app or look online for information. If you see a severe weather watch or warning, something bad could be heading your way. However, many people do not consider the differences between the two.

A “watch” means there is a significant chance of a severe thunderstorm or tornado. Watch and wait for more information while taking precautionary measures, like unplugging electronics and checking the contents of your emergency preparedness kit.

A “warning” means a severe thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted or seen on radar. The moment you get a warning, take shelter in the safest part of your home, which is usually in your basement or the interior part of your home.

Thunderstorms

Thunderstorms are some of the most common yet destructive weather events on Earth. Most of the damage comes from flooding caused by heavy rains, lightning strikes and high winds. Some storms also deliver hail and can even spawn tornadoes. Bad weather systems, such as those

that cause thunderstorms, can cause broken windows, extreme water damage, fallen trees, serious fires, downed power lines and more.

Do not ignore the potential hazards of thunderstorms. Keep flashlights or battery-operated lights well supplied with batteries or charge them regularly. Keep a supply of nonperishable food and drinking water on hand. Turn off and unplug electronic equipment to protect it from power surges. Move valuables out of the basement or other locations that may flood. If a power outage occurs, never use a portable generator in your home, enclosed structure or garage. Do not step into a flooded basement or area since the water could be electrified.

Tornadoes

The central part of the U.S. is sometimes referred to as Tornado Alley because it is the most common geographic location for these disastrous storms. The Great Plains have the perfect environment and climate for severe storm creation. While tornadoes can happen in any month, they are much likelier in the spring and summer than in other seasons. April, May and June have more than twice as many reported tornadoes than any other time of the year.

To stay safe during a tornado, be aware of weather conditions during thunderstorms that could breed tornadoes. Know the best place to shelter both indoors and out, and always protect your head, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Understanding severe thunderstorm and tornado watches and warnings can help keep you and your family safe. Do not underestimate the potential power of these weather systems. Take steps to protect yourselves and your property before a storm hits. For more information about storm preparedness and electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.