

Spotlight

FROM THE MANAGER—JIM HATHAWAY

Tree Trimming Is Essential For Reliable Power Delivery

Dunn Energy Cooperative's power lines are built to withstand many forces of Mother Nature. However, they may not withstand the force of a fallen tree or large branch, which could lead to a power outage. Trees touching power lines can actually drain electricity off the electrical system. In severe cases they can cause your co-op's line-protection devices to take a circuit out of service. Voltage dips can be caused when trees contact a power line. These can damage appliances and sensitive electronics in homes and businesses in the area.

For years, Dunn Energy has been aggressively working to clear our rights-of-way. Trees are the number one cause of outages on our electric system. We have reduced the clearing cycle to almost five years. That means we try to re-visit every right-of-way every five years.

Vegetation management—including tree trimming—is an important part of Dunn Energy's line maintenance program. It helps us meet our goal of delivering power to you that is safe,

Here are some questions and answers about your co-op's tree trimming efforts. If you need more details, please call our office for help.

Can I trim my own tree?

There is a serious risk for any tree trimmer working close to a high-voltage power line. In fact, tree trimmers who work close to power lines and other equipment are required to have special training to ensure their safety and that of others nearby. So the answer is yes, but only if you can maintain a safe distance of at least 10 feet from power lines and other electrical equipment. If you have a tree that is too close to power lines for you to safely prune, call your co-op and we will send a crew out to trim or remove the tree.

My trees aren't touching the power lines, so why do you have to trim them?

Your co-op needs to take care of trees that could pose safety or reliability issues before someone is injured or experiences a power outage. This applies to trees with branches that could come into contact with power lines during heavy winds. It also means trees with branches that could break off and fall into power lines on windy days. This could cause blinking lights or momentary outages.

How will my trees be pruned?

Your co-op will prune a tree only when the tree poses the safety and reliability risks of coming into contact with power lines. Your co-op carefully follows pruning guidelines according to recognized industry standards. We don't cut oak trees from April to the end of July either to prevent the spread of oak wilt.

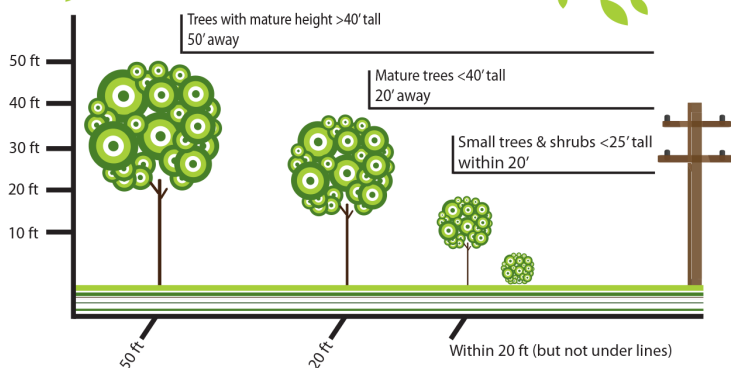
Why do you have to cut away so much of the tree?

Tree-trimming crews are careful to trim only what is absolutely necessary. National standards require that a minimum distance of 10 feet from energized or potentially energized electrical equipment must be maintained. Trimmers also follow guidelines established by certified

arborists and the federal Rural Utilities Service. The crews also identify expected growth patterns of trees between one pruning and the next pruning cycle; some faster-growing trees may require more clearance than others.



Give TREES a Chance



Trees planted too close to power lines grow into a BIG problem. To prevent power outages and safety hazards, these trees need to be trimmed and sometimes removed. Do your part to keep trees healthy and prevent power outages.

Plant trees a safe distance from power distribution lines.



reliable, environmentally responsible, and affordable. Your co-op's vegetation management program can help reduce outages caused by things such as trees or branches falling on lines during storms. It also removes bushes and other low growth in right-of-way areas making access to our lines easier.



Building a New Grain Bin on Your Farm? Remember Grain Bins Have Clearance Requirements

To stay safe, many farming tasks require looking up and around for power lines: when operating large equipment with antennas or when using long implements, for example.

Another safety issue farmers should keep in mind related to power lines is grain bin location. The National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) addresses grain bins and their proximity to power lines with very specific requirements. The code does so to decrease the chances of farming equipment and machinery coming in contact with a live electrical line and because utility lines have clearance requirements.

If you are planning on building a new grain bin or remodeling around an area that already has one, contact Jolene at 715-232-6240 to get started. We can help with specific code requirements. The taller a grain bin, the farther it must be placed from a power line. Not only is placing a grain bin too close to a power line extremely dangerous, it will most likely need to be relocated due to one or more code violations, and usually at the owner's expense.

Remember, calling us before making changes around an existing one is free. Moving one is costly, it interrupts your farming schedule and is just an all-around hassle. The NESC specifies both horizontal and vertical distance requirements so don't leave a bin's location to chance.

For example, a grain bin that is 30 feet high must be at least 93 feet from a power line, and all bins must have an 18-foot minimum vertical clearance from the highest point of the bin's filling port. There are also distance

requirements for non-loading sides of bins. In addition, changes to the ground (landscaping, filling) and drainage work can affect clearance heights.

Even if you are not getting a new grain bin or making changes around an existing one, remember to always maintain adequate clearance when using a portable auger, conveyor or elevator to fill your grain bin or when moving machinery or farming equipment anywhere on your farm.

Contact with a power line could be deadly. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



SAFETY NOTE: If your machinery or vehicle does come in contact with a power line, do not get out of the cab. Call 9-1-1 and the dispatched utility will de-energize the power so that you can safely exit your tractor or vehicle.

Calendar of Events

August 2019

- 9 Dunn County Humane Society Golf Scramble** – Tanglewood Greens – Registration at Noon – for more information contact Jonathan Kroening at 715-308-6784
- 10 Irvington Summerfest** – Trailside Bar, Irvington - 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. – Come for Volleyball, Euchre, Bean bags, dinner and live music
- 17 Stuff the Truck to benefit Dunn County Humane Society** – Truck will be at the Menomonie Wal-Mart from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- 30-31 Ridgeland Community Fair** – For details visit ridgelandfair.org
- 31 Wakanda Water Park Dog Swim** – 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. - \$10 per dog

CALENDAR DEADLINE CHANGE

The deadline for getting events on the community calendar has changed. If you want to have your event included in the Spotlight newsletter you must have the information, submitted in writing, no later than the first of the month, the month before the event.

For example, if you have an event scheduled for June 12, you would have to have it submitted by May 1 to have it included in the newsletter calendar.

Events can be submitted by email to jolene@dunnenergy.com

Spotlight

This newsletter is published for the members of Dunn Energy Cooperative. If you have questions or comments please give us a call. Visit the Energy Professionals at your local energy cooperative.



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