


**Utility Line Clearance
Tree Trimming
&
Right of Way Clearing
Maintenance Guide**



**South Central Indiana REMC
300 Morton Avenue
Martinsville, In 46151**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

INTRODUCTION

Dear Member,

The information contained in this brochure is intended to help you, our member, better understand necessary maintenance procedures of our right of way and answer some of the most commonly asked questions regarding trimming and re-clearing of right of ways and removal of trees in or near SCI's overhead high voltage electric line.

Trees are recognized for their tremendous contribution to our environment. Unfortunately, trees growing in the wrong place have the potential to threaten the reliability of one of the most important commodities upon which our modern society is dependent that being your electric service.

Electric utilities have long recognized trees as the leading cause for unplanned service interruptions, including both sustained duration outages and momentary interruptions. Trees growing in and around electric facilities can cause electrical faults and impede access to facilities when emergency or routine repairs are required. Trees also provide an environment conducive to squirrels and raccoons, which are another common cause of electric service interruptions.

Most important, however, is the safety of the general public, utility personnel, and contract employees that may be compromised by trees too close to energized equipment and lines.

It should be noted trees and tree branches directly cause over 60% of the outages that interrupt service on SCI's system.



Not only is each tree different from every other tree because of site conditions and genetic variations, each tree is changing and growing constantly throughout its lifetime. The problem is not one of managing an ever-changing tree, but managing a population of tens of thousands of trees.

South Central Indiana REMC is dedicated to providing you, our member, with safe, reliable, uninterrupted electric service. With your help, cooperation, and assistance our goal becomes more achievable when we work together.

YOUR REMC

SCI manages and maintains over 2,400 miles of overhead high voltage electric lines throughout its seven county service area including Brown, Clay, Johnson, Monroe, Morgan, and Owen and Putnam counties.

It is estimated that 75% of the 2,400 miles of line are tree covered requiring some type of vegetation management, which consist of trimming, re-clearing, or both to maintain safe, reliable, uninterrupted service to you and your neighbors.

Due to the large number of trees SCI manages on its system, trimming and re-clearing is a year round maintenance procedure. SCI can spend in excess of \$1,000,000.00 per year for this necessary maintenance procedure due to the amount of work scheduled for the year.



We start with a clear path when we run new electric lines to an area. Trees are removed, underbrush is cleared and nearby trees are trimmed so there is adequate clearance for the line.

Just as it is the Cooperative's responsibility to clear the path at the time of new construction of lines, it is also our responsibility to keep the path clear, trim trees and remove trees away from high voltage lines.

At the time a new line is built permission and easement rights have been granted for the line to be placed in its current location. This easement allows us entrance on the property to maintain and keep clear and safe energized equipment and lines. With the passing of time and change in property owners this important fact is sometime not passed to the new owners.

SAFETY FIRST

South Central Indiana REMC reminds you to always think about your safety first when working around high voltage electric lines and equipment.

Remember to always look up and look out for power lines when working outdoors. Coming into contact with energized equipment or power lines can seriously hurt or even kill you.

Stay away from power lines when you are using aluminum ladders, tree trimming equipment, poles of any kind to harvest fruit, or other tools that extend above your head.

Trees, tree branches, vines and brush are also good conductors of electricity. Electrical shock can occur through indirect contact when trees or tree branches have grown into or close to energized power lines or equipment.

When cutting trees or trimming trees on your property always be aware and locate any electric lines and utility equipment that may come in contact with the tree or branches being cut. Electrical shock can occur through indirect contact.

When planting trees on your property, SCI recommends and asks you to refrain from planting trees closer than 25 feet from poles, guy wires or other energized equipment. Always be sure to have all underground lines and utilities located before you dig. For locates call 1-800-382-5544. There may be underground electrical hazards that you are unaware of where you plan to dig.

A good rule of thumb is to always treat electrical lines, guy wires and utility equipment as energized and hazardous and avoid direct or indirect contact.



Never take a chance with your life! Should you have trees, limbs, vines or brush that have grown into or close to SCI's electric lines or equipment, please contact the Right of Way Department at South Central Indiana REMC for assistance.

During a storm it is not uncommon for trees to fall during high winds, rain and other conditions. If a tree or tree branch falls into power lines or other energized equipment, stay away from the tree and energized equipment. **Do not attempt to touch or remove the tree please contact South Central Indiana REMC immediately.**

MAINTENANCE TREE TRIMMING AND RE-CLEARING

SCI maintains a 4 to 5 year maintenance tree trimming and re-clearing cycle. This means we will return every 4 to 5 years to trim, clear or remove trees that have grown to a point that may cause safety or reliability problems.

SCI performs its maintenance tree trimming, re-clearing and tree removals by substation area. The work is contracted out and performed by certified utility line clearance specialists.

SCI or a representative of the company hired to perform the work will make every attempt to notify you before work is done on your property. If no one is at home at the time of notification, a door hanger will be left at your residence notifying you who the clearing contractor will be, when work will begin and what type work needs to be done.

Every attempt will be made when trimming is required to do so with an eye for symmetry and the natural shape of the tree. This may not always be possible due to the proximity of the tree to energized equipment or lines and the specie of the tree.

When trimming and re-clearing is done you should be aware that the higher the voltage is of a particular line or equipment the greater the clearance and distance is required and maintained.

It may become necessary, given the trees specie type, condition and location to energized equipment or lines, to remove the tree totally rather than to continue an on going trimming procedure.



As trees age they may become defective and pose a direct danger if they would fall into electric lines or equipment. These trees would include but not be limited to dead, weak, split, cracked, leaning, hollow or uprooted trees. Every attempt will be made to identify these trees and eliminate the possibility of interruption to electric service. Should you notice a danger tree please contact SCI's Right of Way Department as soon as possible.



The maintenance, trimming, re-clearing or removal of trees that is required to safe guard SCI's electric lines and equipment on your property will be done at no cost to you.



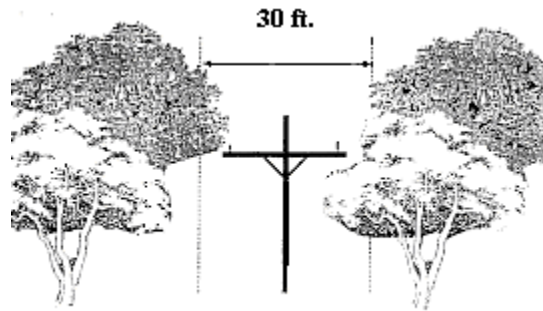
RIGHT OF WAY CLEARING
GUIDE FOR
(Non Mowed Areas)

Brush shall be disposed of in a manner acceptable to the REMC and property owner.

All brush is to be cut and removed from the 30 ft. right of way on a three-phase line.

All brush is to be removed from the 20 ft. right of way on a single-phase line.

Trees outside the right of way that overhang the right of way and cannot be cut shall be trimmed.



Three Phase Line

Single Phase Line



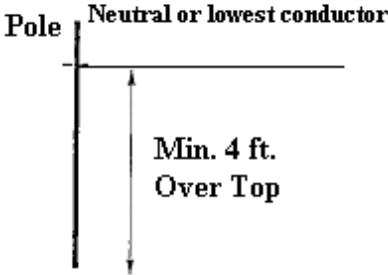
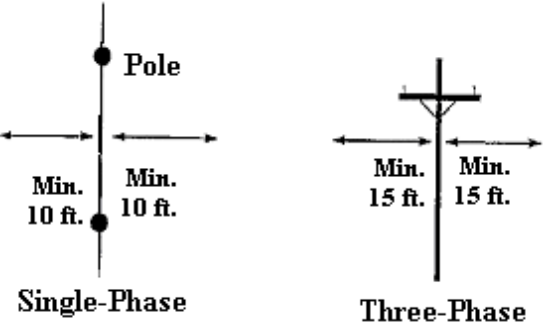


Brush shall be chipped and removed unless SCI REMC and the property owner have agreed upon other arrangements.
Yards shall be raked to remove small limbs and twigs.



TREE TRIMMING GUIDE FOR
(Yard Trees Only)
(Mowed Yard Areas)

Additional clearance should be obtained for fast growing trees if possible (i.e. soft maple).



CLOSING COMMENTS

All of us at South Central Indiana REMC understand and realize that this necessary and required maintenance procedure greatly impacts the appearance of your trees and property. Every effort will be made to leave as many low growing native trees, ornamental tree species and low growing vegetation as possible.

Under these guidelines no more trimming and re-clearing will be done than is necessary to protect and safe guard the general public, the safety of SCI's employees, and to ensure accessibility to perform emergency and routine maintenance to lines or equipment.





Should you have additional questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to contact SCI's Right of Way Vegetation Management Department.

To help us better serve you when you call please have your SCI's account number available, this will help us pinpoint your address and location faster.

We thank you in advance for your assistance and cooperation with this required maintenance procedure. We look forward to working with you now, and in the future.

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