



APRIL 2024

# CO-OP CURRENT



## Safety First: Guidelines for Tree Care Near Power Lines

Entrust the delicate task of tree trimming near power lines to seasoned professionals for utmost safety and peace of mind. Attempting it yourself could risk injury, power disruptions, and damage to your property. At South Central Indiana REMC, ensuring safety is our top priority. Our dedicated team meticulously maintains clear right-of-ways, minimizing any potential hazards. With years of expertise and state-of-the-art equipment, we navigate challenging situations with finesse, all while keeping your power supply uninterrupted. Rest assured, your property and community are in good hands with us.

### How Far Apart Trees and Power Lines Should Be

The distance between trees and power lines depends on the tree's height and the voltage carried by the power line. Trees 25 feet or taller should be at least 25 feet away from power lines, while trees 35 feet or taller should be 50 feet away. More distance may be needed for high-voltage distribution lines, as these lines can often hang lower during high-demand periods, especially in summer. Sagging lines could come in contact with tree limbs, creating a dangerous situation.

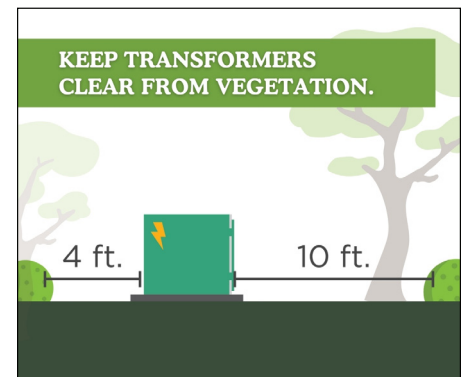
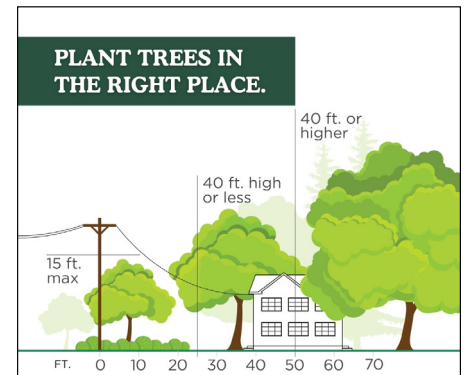
### The Risks of Trimming Trees Yourself

Attempting to maintain trees that come in contact with power lines can put you and others at risk. Given the right weather circumstances, the water inside the tree trunk and branches can cause electricity to arc from nearby power lines, regardless of whether any branches are touching the line. This can cause the tree to become electrified — an extremely hazardous situation for anyone approaching the area.

Another risk of taking the DIY approach is causing an accidental power outage. Without the right equipment and experience, you may end up cutting a tree or a branch and hitting a power line. This can damage the power line and cause outages affecting an entire neighborhood for several hours. In some cases, a damaged line can create a domino effect, causing outages in several other areas and resulting in costly repairs. SCI members who cause any damages to the cooperative's power lines may be held financially responsible.

If you have trees within 10 feet of power lines, call SCI. We can send one of our vegetation management experts to conduct a free assessment. In many cases, our crew can remove the tree or trim the branches at no cost or recommend a licensed contractor to do the job safely.

For more information, visit [sciremc.com](http://sciremc.com) or call our office at 765.342.3344.





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## CAN YOU

## DIG IT?

Only after calling 811!



Calling 811 before digging will identify buried utility lines on your property and prevent accidentally damaging them, which could cause an outage, cause an injury, or both!

Know what's below! Call 811.



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Members must participate in the monthly survey by the deadline to be eligible for the bill credit drawing. The deadlines for each month will be on the webpage with the survey. Members must submit their contact information and account number to enter. The winner will be announced on Facebook and notified via the provided email upon survey submission.

# LINEWORKERS POWER LIFE

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LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY | APRIL 8, 2024

