

# With Safety and Service for All.

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We salute those who keep  
us in power.



## **NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY: APRIL 11**

Farmers Electric Cooperative honors the hardworking people who often work around the clock in dangerous conditions to keep power flowing and protect our member's safety. We thank all electric linemen for the services they perform, going above and beyond to restore power to our communities.



# National Lineman Appreciation Day



by **MARK STUBBS**  
General Manager

Being a lineman is a tough job. Storms seldom happen during regular business hours.

Our hard-working crews go out in the heat, in the cold,

and often times in the darkness of night to make repairs to our electric system as quickly and safely as possible.

Because of these hard-working men and women, America's electric cooperatives designated the second Monday of April each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

Cooperatives everywhere proudly acknowledge linemen for the services they perform around the clock in dangerous conditions to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

Linemen do not often receive the recognition they deserve. They are at their best when Mother Nature is at her worst. They work all hours of the day, often in hazardous conditions far from their families, going above and beyond to restore power to their communities.

Sadly, the job of being a lineman is becoming even more dangerous.

Imagine you're a lineman and your crew has been called out to a member's property to restore service after an outage. There are a million things going through your mind about the job at hand: The members depending on

you to restore the power they rely on for health, safety and comfort. The unseen hazards created by the storm that blew through and knocked out the power. The equipment and procedures necessary to get the power back on properly, quickly and safely.

Probably the last thing you're thinking about is having to defend yourself. However, some electric co-op workers have been threatened by members who want to keep strangers off their private property at all costs.

Using measures from locked gates and guard dogs to rifles and shotguns, some residents resist the presence of anyone on their property—even if they are co-op workers with a duty to restore power.

Not only are these incidents distressing, they're also illegal.

Cooperative personnel have a legal right—and responsibility—to enter a member's property on official cooperative business. Texas laws protect electric cooperative employees from criminal trespass charges.

There is a simple way for members to avoid confrontations with co-op crews on private property: Call the co-op immediately at 903-455-1715 so we can verify the presence of our employees or contract workers and let you know why they are there.

Our linemen, as well as our staff and our Board of Directors, work with the

members' best interests in mind. When we must come onto your property, we want you to be comfortable, and we want our employees to go home safe at the end of each day.

So, the next time you see one of our linemen, let them know how grateful you are for the work they do to keep power flowing.

## APRIL DATES

National Lineman  
Appreciation Day: April 11

## PREPARE FOR SPRING STORMS

### 1. Report your outage

Register phone: text **FEC** to **85700**  
Report an outage: text **OUT** to **85700**,  
Use the Outage Center: **FarmersElectric.coop**  
Call: **903 455 1715**

### 2. Enact your emergency plan

Have a 72 hour kit. Communicate your plans with family members.

### 3. Stay away and call

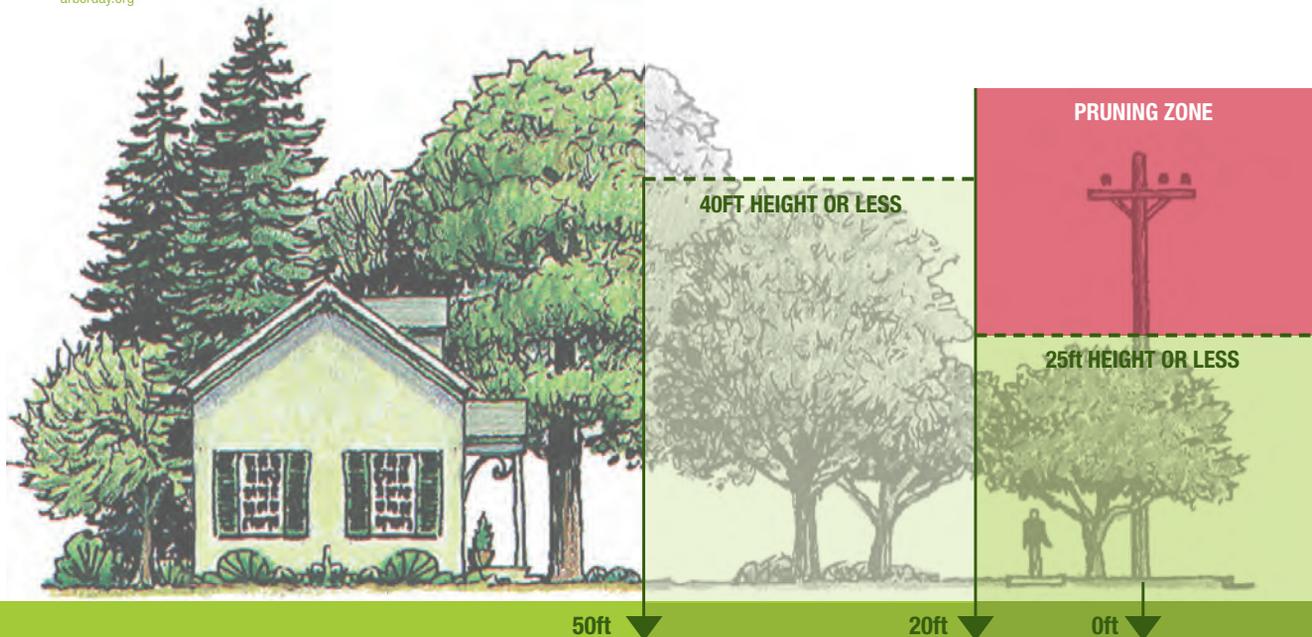
Treat all downed wires as live and dangerous.  
Stay at least 20 feet from lines.

### 4. If it's dark, don't depart

Stay inside and don't venture out into darkness because you may not see downed power lines.

# Clearing for Reliability

One tree left unmanaged can affect a large number of people



## PLANT THE RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE

► **OUR GOAL:** As cooperative members, we need to maintain a balance between safe and reliable electric service and the health of our trees.

### LARGE TREE ZONE

Tall trees should be planted more than 50 feet away from power lines.

**PLANT:** Maple, Oak, Elm, or Pine

### MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Medium trees that grow 40 feet or less should be at least 20 feet from power lines.

**PLANT:** American Holly, Cherry Laurel, or Juniper

### SMALL TREE ZONE

Small trees, up to 25 feet are recommended for areas close to power lines.

**PLANT:** Redbud, Dogwood, or Crepe Myrtle

There are many ways that Farmers Electric Cooperative 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. This involves the strip of land underneath or around power lines that Farmers EC has the right and responsibility to maintain and clear.

ROW management is one of the ways we work to reduce the number of outages. When the winds blow, objects such as a tree limbs, can come in contact with our power lines. When something does come into

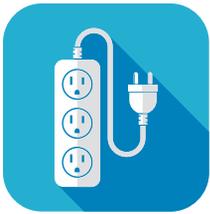
contact with our lines, circuit breakers or other protective equipment shut off the flow of power. Members connected to that circuit will be without power until crews can remove the object and reset the equipment.

Clearing the ROW is critical to keeping our members' lights on. An average 15 percent of power interruptions occur when trees, shrubs or bushes grow too close to 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 34,500

volts, and an energized tree branch is incredibly dangerous—even deadly. Be mindful when you're around trees close to power lines, and make sure your children know that climbing trees near power lines is extremely dangerous.

As part of our right-of-way management plan, we trimmed out 13 circuits last year, which is about 262 miles of line. If the weather cooperates, we will trim about the same amount as part of our ongoing right-of-way management plan. Keeping trees out of the power lines helps to reduce power outages.



# Advanced Power Strips

The next generation for managing energy usage.

When you leave electronics like TVs, computers and game consoles plugged in—even while turned off—they continue to use small amounts of electricity.

The new solution: Instead of plugging devices into a wall socket—or even into a regular power strip—plug them into an “advanced” power strip that blocks unused electronics from drawing electricity.

An advanced power strip looks just

like your old one, but inside, it does so much more. In home entertainment centers and home office areas where many consumer electronics typically are plugged into a power strip, it works by preventing electronics from drawing power when they are not being used.

There are a variety of types of advanced power strips to fit people’s needs. If you often fall asleep when watching TV, an advanced power strip with an activity monitor can

turn everything off for you. Or if you are diligent about turning all your electronics off when you aren’t using them but are concerned about the lingering power draw, a masterless advanced power strip can make sure everything is completely off.

By replacing your standard power strip with an advanced model, you can save energy and money.

Timer Power Strip	Active Monitor Power Strip	Remote Switch Power Strip	Master-Controlled Power Strip	Master-Controlled Power Strip
<b>COST:</b> \$-\$	<b>COST:</b> \$\$-\$\$\$	<b>COST:</b> \$	<b>COST:</b> \$ - \$\$	<b>COST:</b> \$\$ - \$\$\$
<b>USER:</b> Someone who does not turn off devices and falls asleep.	<b>USER:</b> Someone who does not turn off devices and falls asleep.	<b>USER:</b> Ideal for persons who always turn off their electronics when done with use.	<b>USER:</b> Ideal for persons who forget to turn off devices, like to put them to sleep, or devices are always docked.	<b>USER:</b> Ideal for persons who want automatic or manual shut down, and move location of device often.
<b>FEATURES:</b> Power strip automatically turns off outlets based on a pre-set schedule.	<b>FEATURES:</b> Power strip looks for signs of activity in the room, and turns off outlets if none are detected.	<b>FEATURES:</b> Power strip can be turned off by the user via a remote switch.	<b>FEATURES:</b> When a primary device (computer,TV) is turned off, the power strip automatically turns off the controlled outlets where other peripheral devices (printer, game console) are plugged in.	<b>FEATURES:</b> When all of the controlled devices are turned off, the power strip turns off power to those outlets completely, eliminating all of the vampire loads.
<b>CONS:</b> You have to set up the timer and stick to your schedule for maximum energy savings.	<b>CONS:</b> Motion sensors don’t always work perfectly.	<b>CONS:</b> To save any energy, you have to remember to turn off the power strip each time.	<b>CONS:</b> It can be tricky to select which appliance should be your ‘master’ device.	<b>CONS:</b> Turning off one high-powered appliance could turn off the entire power strip.
<b>WHAT TO LOOK FOR:</b> Digital or dial timer	<b>WHAT TO LOOK FOR:</b> Motion sensor or an infrared eye that detects remote control use around the TV or stereo.	<b>WHAT TO LOOK FOR:</b> A tethered switch or a remote switch.	<b>WHAT TO LOOK FOR:</b> One outlet labeled as the ‘master’.	<b>WHAT TO LOOK FOR:</b> No ‘master’ outlet. Description may include ‘automatic switching’ or ‘power detection’.