



# BEHIND THE LINES: Celebrating the Team that Keeps the Power On

By Steve Lucas, CEO

The image of a lineworker scaling a power pole after a storm is iconic and represents the essence of their profession. However, behind this image is a world of dedication, technical expertise, and unwavering commitment. The lineworkers at Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative are no exception.

As Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 8, 2024, approaches, I want to take a moment to recognize our dedicated crews who work tirelessly behind the scenes. While their efforts often go unnoticed until a storm hits or an outage disrupts our daily lives, a typical day for a lineworker involves a variety of tasks, all crucial to keeping the lights on for our homes and businesses.

A typical day of a lineworker involves connecting new services, performing service upgrades, troubleshooting outages, and handling disconnects for electricians. They patrol overhead lines, inspect underground equipment, and perform general maintenance on the power lines. Many of them live right here and face the same outages as our members during storms. Their commitment extends beyond weather events—they're on call 24/7, ready to respond.

This dedication is mirrored by our exceptional operations team here in the office. They serve as the main point of contact for our lineworkers, assisting with vital tasks like communicating directly with customers about outages and scheduling service appointments. But their support goes a step further. They ensure our lineworkers are prepared for their demanding jobs by fostering a supportive, welcoming environment whenever they stop by. The secret to their success is simple—a healthy combination of friendly personalities and a snack table that's

never empty. This behind-the-scenes support keeps our lineworkers energized and motivated, ready to tackle any challenge the grid throws their way.

Our operations team isn't the only support our lineworkers rely on. YOU can also play a vital role in helping our crews stay safe in the field by taking these small steps:

- **Be Aware Around Power Lines.** Keep an eye out for low-hanging power lines, downed wires, or crews working on lines. Never touch downed lines, report them to us immediately.
- **Respect Work Zones.** Slow down and obey all signs when approaching utility work zones.
- **Drive Cautiously in all Conditions.** Be especially aware when road conditions worsen due to inclement weather and adjust your speed accordingly. Outages can happen when vehicles slide off the road and hit poles and underground equipment.
- **Trim Trees Safely.** Plant trees away from power lines. Regularly trim branches to maintain a safe distance from power lines. If you see an overgrown tree near a line, contact us.
- **Call Before you Dig.** Always dial 8-1-1 before digging to have underground facilities mapped out on your project site. This is a free service through Digger's Hotline.
- **Clear Equipment Access.** Keep our equipment such as underground cabinets and transformers free from obstacles to ensure easy access. Plant flowers and shrubs at least 10 feet from

transformer doors and at least 4 feet from transformer sides.

- **Stay Connected.** Keeping your contact information updated when your phone number or e-mail changes helps us reach you quickly.

Every action you take contributes to a safer work environment. By following these simple tips, you're not just helping our lineworkers, you're helping your neighbors, friends, and family who rely on a reliable power grid. It's a small act with a big impact.

Lineworkers might be famous for the iconic image of them high up on a power pole, but their true contribution lies in the daily tasks—replacing transformers, stringing new lines, and restoring power after an outage. Their dedication is quiet, but it never quits.

Today, we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day. Their adaptability, technical expertise, and unwavering commitment are the foundation of a reliable power supply. While a strong support system plays a crucial role, it's the lineworkers who brave the elements and tackle challenging situations head-on. Every time you flip a light switch, take a moment to appreciate the skilled individuals on the front lines who make it all possible.



To our amazing admin team:  
Thank you for all you do  
to keep our office running  
smoothly.

## Happy Administrative Professionals Day!

April 24, 2024



# IF THERE IS A DOWNED POWER LINE THINK BEFORE YOU ACT

An overhead power line can become damaged or fall due to a severe storm, car accident, public damage or other reasons. If you see a downed power line, take these actions:

-  Consider all power lines energized and deadly.
-  Stay at least 50 feet away.
-  Call 9-1-1 or the utility to report the downed line.
-  Do not approach it or try to move it with another object.
-  Do not get out of a vehicle or cab.
-  Do not approach the scene.
-  Warn others to stay away.
-  Turn around and go another way.

Even if you do not see a downed line, realize one could be hidden by storm debris, water, snow or ice.

### Other things to know

-  Energized downed lines spread voltage through the ground or nearby objects.
-  If you go near a downed line, you can become electricity's path to ground.
-  You cannot tell if a power line is live just by looking at it.
-  Even if a power line appears coated, it is never safe to go near it.

While transmitting and distributing power is typically safe, extreme scenarios like downed power lines are extremely dangerous. Never approach a downed power line.

 Learn more at [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)

## MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH

This month's featured photo is  
"Electricity Gives Way to Sunlight"  
taken by Craig Grau of Livingston.





**CALL 811  
BEFORE  
YOU DIG**

**Safe  
Electricity.org**



**ENERGY EFFICIENCY  
TIP OF THE MONTH**

A well-designed landscape can add beauty to your home and reduce home heating and cooling costs. Plant deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns to the south of your home to block sunlight in the summer and reduce the need for air conditioning. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Plant evergreen trees and shrubs with low crowns to block winter winds. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs planted to the north and northwest are the most common type of windbreak and can help lower energy used for home heating.

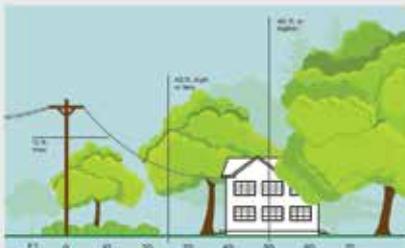
*Source: energy.gov*

# 3 Ways to Help Limit Tree Trimming

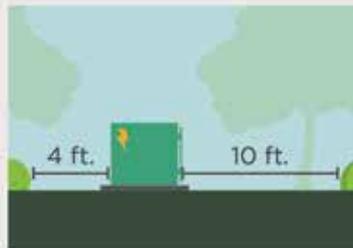
Did you know electric utilities are required to trim trees and other types of vegetation that grow too close to overhead power lines? We know you love your trees, and we will do everything we can to avoid trimming them.

**Here's how you can help:**

**1. Plant trees in the right place.** Trees that will be <40 ft. should be planted at least 25 ft. away from power lines (>40ft. should be at least 50 ft. away).



**2. Don't block pad-mounted transformers.** Plant shrubs at least 10 ft. away from transformer doors and 4 ft. from transformer sides.



**3. Report dangerous branches.** If you spot a tree or branch that is dangerously close to power lines, please let us know.



**Trimming improves safety for all.**

**Let's work together to enjoy the beauty of trees and reliable electricity.**

# Youth Leadership Conference

July 16–18, 2024

UW-Stout



Join other high school students from around the state at the Youth Leadership Conference, a by-teens, for-teens event held on the campus of UW-Stout in Menomonie! You'll develop your leadership skills,



explore cooperative career opportunities, meet new people, and have fun!

**Who should apply?** High school students whose parents/guardians are members of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative (SREC).



**What does it cost?** Nothing for you! All registration costs are covered by SREC!

**INTERESTED?**

Visit <https://sre.coop/youth-leadership-conference> to learn more.

## CALLING ALL THIRD-GRADERS!

Third-graders of SREC members are invited to participate in the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association's

### ELECTRIC SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

Submit an original poster supporting electrical safety by **April 30, 2024**, for a chance to win a **\$25 gift card!** The top three posters will be entered into the statewide poster contest for a chance to win one of three great prizes:

**1st place – Chromebook**

**2nd place – \$100 Gift Card**

**3rd place – \$75 Gift Card**

Posters should be at least 8.5x11", but no larger than 11x14".

Entries must include completed entry form and student's name on the back of the poster.

Visit [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop) for entry form and contest details.

## SREC Annual Meeting

**April 13, 2024**

Grant County Youth & Ag Building  
Lancaster, WI



Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting begins at 9:30 a.m.

**See you soon!**



Steve Lucas, CEO

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