

Safety First!



- Always look for power lines when working outdoors. Coming into contact with energized equipment can hurt or even kill you.
- Stay away from power lines when using aluminum ladders, tree trimming and harvest equipment, or tools that extend above the head.
- Trees, branches, vines and brush are electricity conductors. Electrical shock can occur via indirect contact when plants grow close to power lines.
- When cutting or trimming trees, locate any electric lines and utility equipment that could touch the tree or branches being cut.
- When planting trees, refrain from planting closer than 25 feet from poles or other energized equipment. (Be sure to have underground lines and utilities located. Call 811 for Hole Mole before you dig.)
- A good rule of thumb is to treat all types of electrical lines and utility equipment as energized and avoid direct and indirect contact.
- It is common for trees to fall during high winds and stormy conditions. If a tree or branch falls into power lines or other energized equipment, stay away from the area. Do not attempt to touch or remove the tree. Contact Jasper County REMC immediately.

Notice: Electric distribution lines (power lines) are not insulated to protect you against accidental contact!

If you have trees, limbs, vines or brush that have grown into or close to our electric distribution lines or equipment, contact the Jasper County REMC Operations Department.

At Jasper County REMC, we understand that this maintenance impacts the appearance of your trees and property.

That's why every effort will be made to leave as many native and ornamental tree species and low growing vegetation as possible.

We thank you in advance for your help, assistance and cooperation with this required maintenance procedure.

To help us better serve you, when you contact us, please have your account number ready. This will help us pinpoint your address and location faster.



Vegetation Management

Clearing lines and rights of ways for safety and reliability

Jasper County REMC

280 E Wood Rd/PO Box 129

Rensselaer, IN 47978

219-866-4601

jasperremc@jasperremc.com

www.jasperremc.com



What is vegetation management?

Jasper County REMC's Vegetation Management Department is responsible for managing the vegetation that could come into contact with electric distribution lines along our 1,227 miles of overhead lines. The vegetation could include trees, shrubs, brush, grasses, etc. within a utility line easement or right-of-way corridor.

How is the right-of-way cleared?

The right-of-way is cleared by cutting, trimming, mowing and where permissible, applying

herbicides. In most cases, all shrubs, brush and trees are removed under overhead electric distribution lines.

Cutting and trimming is done by trained, professional utility line clearance personnel using specific and proven industry standards.

Our electric system is inspected for trees that interfere with your electric service. We trim trees on a five-year cycle which is a significant repetitive cost to our membership. Removing trees to the ground improves the safety of our line crews, saves money, reduces equipment damage and shortens restoration times.

Trees cause blinks and outages!

Why do we trim trees?

Trees and vegetation in the right-of-way can:

- Cause power outages and lights to blink
- Waste electricity by providing a path to the ground
- Become a fire hazard
- Be a safety hazard for workers and members
- Block visual inspections, making repairs difficult and increasing outage length

How do we trim trees?

Jasper County REMC's in-house line clearance staff and contractors are trained to safely and properly trim and remove trees, limbs and branches from around electric distribution lines. The health and appearance of the trees is important to us and the community. Where limbs come closer than six feet to the neutral or phase wires, they are trimmed with an eye for symmetry and natural shape of the tree when possible.

Underground

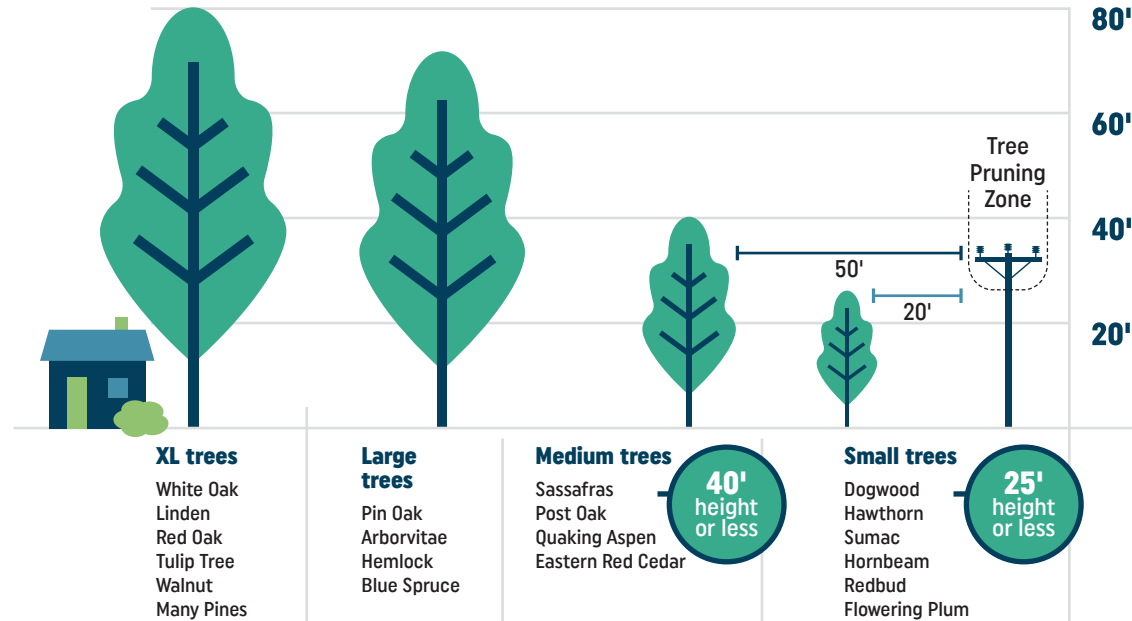
Jasper County REMC utilizes underground lines whenever possible and feasible. We ask that members refrain from planting any vegetation or building structures near the underground enclosures. Our line crews need unobstructed access to the sides and back of the facilities with 3 foot on the sides and back with 10 foot clearance on all door openings. This helps the safety of our crews, allows access for inspections and cuts down on restoration times in the event of an outage.



Right tree, right place

Proper tree selection and placement enhance your property value and prevent costly maintenance trimming and damage to your home. If you plan to plant a new tree, or replace an existing tree, please pay close attention to what type of tree you plant and where. When choosing a spot to plant your tree, make sure it will have plenty of room to grow to full maturity.

- Plant evergreen trees to serve as windbreaks on the west or north side, at least 50 feet from the house.
- Plant deciduous trees (those that drop their leaves in the fall) on the south or west side of the house to cool in the summer and allow sun to enter the house in the winter.



Our right-of-way corridors are cleared on both sides of the electric pole to prevent fires, outages and other hazards. If you plant trees near power lines, make sure that it is a tree with a mature height of 40 feet and is at least 30 feet away from the power line.

Do we use herbicides?

Jasper County REMC uses herbicides to manage vegetation under our power lines that has the potential to cause unsafe and unreliable electric service.

Research has shown that herbicide use on rights of ways can greatly enhance wildlife habitat diversity, while promoting low-growing plant communities.

We are committed to managing vegetation in ways that will have a minimal impact on our environment. We will only apply herbicide products that have been approved for use on utility rights of ways by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Herbicides used on our rights of ways are applied by Indiana State Certified Applicators.

Cleanup and wood chips

Jasper County REMC does not remove or dispose of any wood, storm debris or dead tree debris. Vegetation from the rights-of-way after trimming will be chipped/wind rolled in the right-of-way or stacked for wildlife habitat cover. This is agreed upon at the time of notification with our Vegetation Management specialist.

If you are interested in receiving wood chips, free of charge, please let us know while we are in the area. There is no promise of chip delivery. It is on a first-come, first-served basis.



Make sure to call for locates before you dig for a new tree!

Visit jasperremc.com for more information.