

INTER-COUNTY ENERGY

f X @ www.intercountyenergy.net

MARCH 2024

Spring forward

Plant responsibly to keep your power flowing

There's nothing quite as beautiful in nature as trees. Their buds mark the coming of spring. They provide shade and shelter in the summer. In the fall, their brilliant colors paint the landscape.

Yes, we love trees, except those growing under or too near Inter-County Energy power lines.

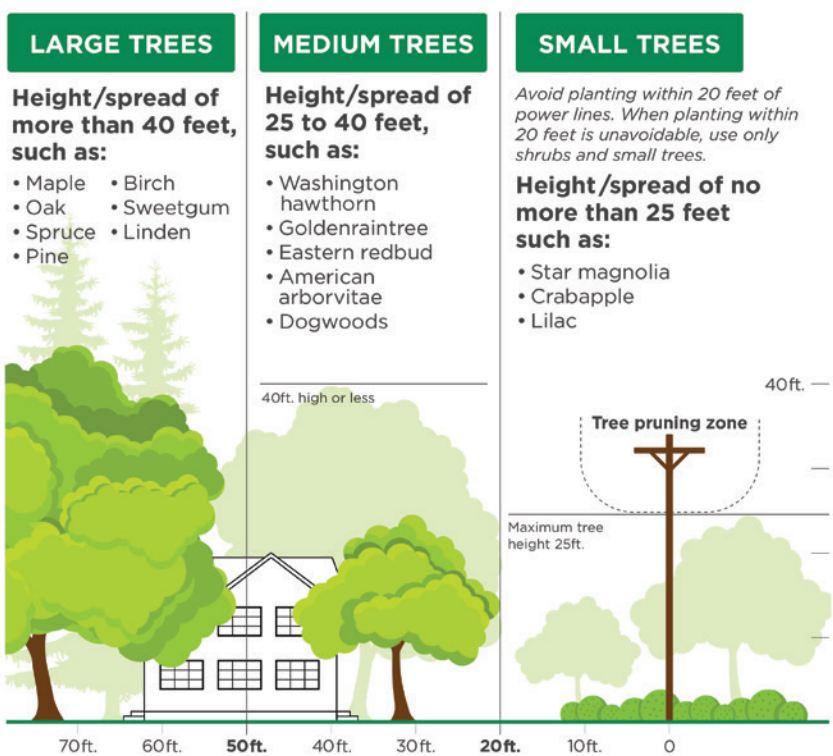
When there's stormy weather in the forecast, those natural beauties can become enemies.

Trees are one of the leading causes of electrical power interruptions. Just a single limb that comes into contact with a power line can blink lights or cause an outage.

Maintaining reliable electric service is a top priority at Inter-County Energy. That's why we regularly trim and clear plant growth that can potentially cause an outage or hinder power line repairs by co-op line technicians.

Inter-County Energy has a 15-foot easement on each side of our single-phase power lines (a total of 30 feet). This easement serves as a buffer from encroaching limbs and vegetation that can interfere with electric service for you and your neighbors. That same area also allows us to access our wires and poles for maintenance and repairs.

We're doing all we can to manage veg-



Be safe! Always call 811 before you dig to locate any buried utility lines.

Source: The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

etation and avoid electricity interruptions caused by overgrown vegetation. But we need your help, too.

If your spring plans include planting a tree, shrub or other ornamental plant, remember to first look up and be mindful of the location of power lines. Don't plant anything in the 30-foot easement zone.

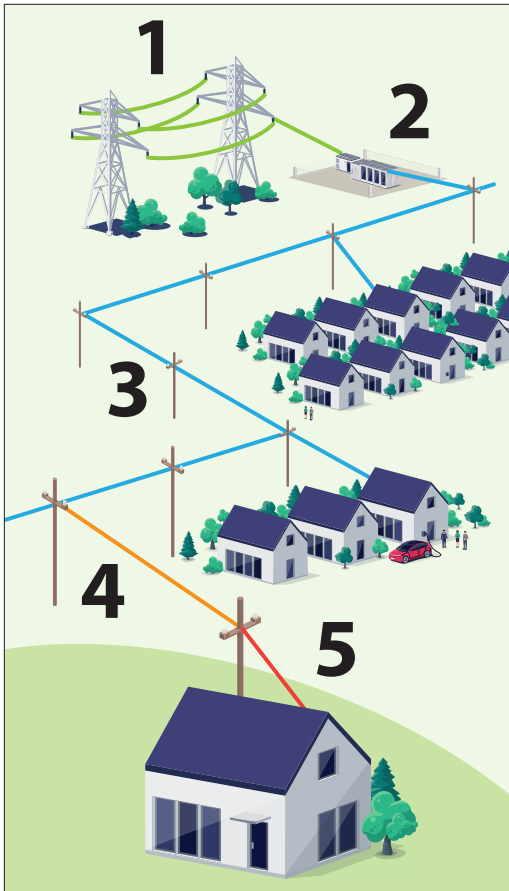
Remember: That tiny sapling you are planting will one day be a fully mature tree. For example, an oak tree can grow 8

feet in just one year if rain is abundant. Use the guide pictured on this page to determine the right planting spot so your prized tree won't cause power line conflicts when it matures.

Inter-County Energy is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power. We'll do our part with regular tree trimming. And we hope you'll do your part—for yourself and your neighbors along the line—by planting responsibly.



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



Restoring Power

- 1 High-Voltage Transmission Lines**
Transmission towers that supply power to substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.
- 2 Distribution Substation**
Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of members. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist down the line.
- 3 Main Distribution Lines**
If the problem cannot be isolated at a substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of members in communities or housing developments
- 4 Tap Lines**
If local outages persist, tap lines are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools and homes.
- 5 Individual Homes**
If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issues.

EPKC

BE PREPARED FOR SPRING'S FICKLE FOUL WEATHER

Are you prepared when docile rain showers turn into threatening storms?

BEFORE THE STORM:

Make sure your cellphone is charged. Consider purchasing an external battery charger for your phone to charge it without electricity.

Have a battery-operated radio available so you can stay updated on the latest weather watches and warnings.

Unplug appliances and other electrical items, such as computers. Damage can occur from power surges caused by nearby lightning strikes.

Have an emergency kit ready and create a family communication plan.

JANICKEFER/ADOBESTOCK

Spring clean your way to energy efficiency

With spring arriving this month, it's time to shake off the winter dust and get your home ready for a fresh start. Don't overlook these areas where cleanliness can also improve energy efficiency.

Air ducts and vents. Clearing out accumulated dust and dirt is both good for your lungs and your cooling system. You'll save energy and may even increase the system's lifespan.

- **Windows and screens.** Clean windows and screens allow more daylighting in the home and reduce the need for using lighting lamps and fixtures. In addition to boosting energy efficiency, natural light may also boost overall health and productivity.
- **Air filters.** A dirty filter reduces air flow, which then requires more force to move air through the blower, requiring the furnace to run longer and harder, using more power in the process. Replacing or washing dirty air filters can lower your energy consumption by up to 15%.
- **Refrigerator.** Your refrigerator uses up to 14% of your home's electricity,



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so increasing its efficiency can make a notable difference in your electric bill. Start by cleaning the seals around the door to keep cold air from escaping. Next, remove old condiments and forgotten food. Keeping your fridge two-thirds full is ideal for improved circulation and energy efficiency. Last, vacuum away the accumulated dust bunnies from fridge coils. Filthy coils force the refrigerator to work harder, driving up your energy bill.

- **Sliding door track.** Dirt and grit in the

track can ruin the door's seal and create gaps where conditioned air can escape.

- **Electronics and lightbulbs.** Dust keeps electronics and motors from running efficiently. Dust off your computer, office equipment, electronics and even lightbulbs.

With minimal elbow grease, you can start the season with some energy-saving habits. You'll have a cleaner house and lower electric bill.

SmartHub
Pay Now Option

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Don't forget to change your clocks on Sunday, March 10.

ALBACHARAA/ADOBE STOCK



Remember and prepare

Be ready for strong winds in March

OUR MISSION

Inter-County Energy accomplishes our daily mission by providing energy and services to our members through a culture of Safety, Accountability, Integrity, Innovation and Commitment to Community.

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24-HOUR EMERGENCY/OUTAGE REPORTING (866) 224-2235

For major outage updates and restoration efforts, listen to the following radio stations; WPBK 102.9, WHIR 105.1, WOKH 102.7, WDFB 88.1 or WLSK 100.9.

OFFICES:

DANVILLE/BOYLE COUNTY

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

(859) 236-4561

LEBANON/DISTRICT OFFICE

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 A.M. - 4 P.M.

(270) 692-3761

www.intercountyenergy.net

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After a long winter, we all hope for green trees, spring blooms and a respite from the cold. But while this month gives us hope for warmer days, March always finds ways to remind us that we're not in charge.

We don't have to look back very far for examples of dangerous spring weather. In March 2023, Kentucky saw one of the worst windstorms in our state's history. Extreme gusts up to 75 miles per hour buffeted the state, toppling at least 1,000 utility poles and impacting more than 300,000 cooperative consumer-members across Kentucky.

Inter-County Energy worked alongside each of Kentucky's 24 distribution cooperatives to restore power. We didn't work alone—71 co-ops from 12 states sent crews providing mutual aid. And while we look back with pride on Inter-County Energy's relentless restoration efforts, the March 2023 windstorm is also a reminder to each of us that when it comes to bad weather, the question is never "if," but "when."

As we look forward to spring, take a moment to be prepared for whatever March might throw our way. The National Weather Service offers these tips to stay safe during high winds.

BEFORE A STORM:

- Be sure your property is secure. Remove any dead trees or overhanging branches near structures and secure loose roofing materials that could blow away.
- Bring in unsecured objects from patios and balconies and secure outdoor objects such as lawn furni-



JIM MCCARTHY

ture or garbage cans that could blow away and cause damage or injury.

DURING A STORM:

- The safest place to be is inside. Postpone outdoor activities if a wind advisory or high wind warning has been issued.
- If you are caught outside during high winds, take cover next to a building or under a shelter, and stand clear of dangerous areas like roadways or train tracks.
- If you are driving, keep both hands on the wheel and slow down. Watch for objects blowing across the roadway and keep a safe distance from cars in adjacent lanes.

Finally, in the event of an outage, don't assume someone else has called it in. Let us know right away by calling our outage number at (866) 224-2235 or on your SmartHub app. While we all hope for mild weather this month, all of us at Inter-County Energy are standing by, ready to work around the clock for our community.