



Egyptian Electric News

1005 W. Broadway • PO Box 38 • Steeleville, IL 62288 • 800-606-1505 • www.eeca.coop

APRIL 2017

Lives on the line

By Meghaan Evans

Every year, we take the time to thank our extraordinary lineworkers who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our local communities. Egyptian Electric lineworkers maintain 1,839 miles of line in Egyptian Electric Cooperative's service territory, and without them, our world would be dark.

We depend on our entire staff to keep our operation running smoothly, but on April 10, 2017, we will honor all lineworkers who often find themselves in dangerous and challenging situations, so our lives may be a little bit brighter and safer every day. These brave men and women repair damaged lines and maintain critical infrastructure for our communities. Without their hard work and commitment to the job, our co-op would not thrive. No matter the time—day or night, weekday or weekend—if the lights go out, so do they. Perhaps you have seen them raising their bucket trucks in howling winds and torrential rains, or in freezing, icy conditions. They work around the clock near high-voltage power lines until electricity is restored to every member in our co-op community. **54-18-0012**

In addition to aiding members in our local service territory, lineworkers are always willing and eager to volunteer when a neighboring community, county or state is in need after a major outage occurs. Our lineworkers are committed and critical to our success. We hope you will join us in thanking the many lineworkers—both locally and around the world—that light our lives. Remember, your power works because they do!



MEMBER PRIZES

Every month we will have three map location numbers hidden throughout our Egyptian Electric News section. If you find your name, that corresponds to the one on your bill, call our office and identify yourself and the page that it is one and you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.



Egyptian Electric
Cooperative Association
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1005 W. Broadway • PO Box 38
Steeleville, IL 62288

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Murphysboro, IL 62966

800-606-1505
Office hours 8 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. M-F
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The importance of interconnection agreements

Electric cooperatives are responsible for maintaining a safe, reliable electric grid to power the communities they serve. As an increasing number of consumers install grid-connected distributed generation systems, like solar panels or small wind turbines, electric co-ops are prepared to assist members while still maintaining the safety of the grid.

Grid-connected generation systems allow you to power your home or business with renewable energy, but the system must be connected to the grid to keep power flowing when the sun does not shine or the wind does not blow. In most cases, these systems must be interconnected to feed excess power back into the electric grid. When grid-connected systems generate more electricity than you can use, the excess electricity is fed back into the grid and used elsewhere. This means your utility bill will be adjusted to reflect the additional power your system provided.

Co-op members who are interested in distributed generation systems for their home or business should contact Egyptian Electric first. We want to help you choose a system that includes the safety and power quality components necessary to keep you, co-op crews and members of the community safe. If a storm hits and a power outage occurs, for



example, distributed generation systems must be able to properly disconnect from the electric grid to ensure lineworkers are not injured or electrocuted while restoring power.

An interconnection agreement must be reviewed and signed before your distributed generation system is connected to the electric grid. The agreement, and required insurance, is intended to ensure safe, reliable and quality electric service for all.

In addition to an interconnection agreement, members must also submit an application, one-line diagram and system specifications to be approved before any agreements are made with a contractor.

The way we generate and use electricity is evolving. Let's work together to ensure a safe, reliable electric system. Egyptian Electric is here to help. If you have questions about grid-connected generation systems, please contact us. **23-36-0007**

Five Easy Ways to

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

Every Day

1. Conserve water by taking showers instead of baths.
2. Turn off all lights when you leave a room.
3. Bring your reusable bags to the market and other stores when shopping.
4. Go paperless. Pay as many bills as possible online.
5. Ditch the car and walk when possible.



Now pay by Kiosk!

Located in both the Murphysboro and Steeleville office lobbies. The kiosks accept cash (but no change given), Visa, Mastercard and Discover cards, as well as checks through E-Check. More kiosk locations coming soon!



Mark Your Calendar Now

79th Annual Meeting

Thursday July 20, 2017

American Legion Hall
303 S. Chester Street,
Steeleville

Registration & Dinner:

4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Business Meeting:

6:30 p.m.

Childcare provided and scholarship drawings following meeting



Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Ways to Pay

- **Pay in person**
Stop by the office, in Murphysboro or Steeleville, during business hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to pay your bill in person. You will now be able to pay cash, E-Check, or securely by credit card, through our new kiosks in the office lobbies (off-site kiosk location(s) are coming soon!). An after-hours drop box is also available in front of our office buildings.
- **Pay by mail**
Mail your payment check along with the stub, conveniently located at the bottom of your bill to Egyptian Electric Cooperative, in the envelope provided with your statement. Please allow three to five business days for delivery.
- **Pay online**
Visit www.eeca.coop to pay on your account online through your browser, on our:
 - » [Pay Now portal](#)
On our homepage, that is used for a quick one-time payment, or
 - » [Smarthub](#)
Smarthub, where you can pay online 24/7 with a checking account or credit/debit card, with recurring options via online access.
- **Pay-by-phone**
Pay your bill securely over the phone by calling us toll free 1-800-606-1505 to speak with one of our Customer Service Representatives during normal business hours. Now you can call us outside business hours, and pay your bill over the phone through our after-hour answering service. **36-24-0007**
- **Automatic draft**
Credit/debit/checking/savings – Choose an automatic payment deduction from the account of your choice. This is set up as a recurring payment draft on the due date shown on your bill.
 - » [Recurring Credit or Debit](#)
Sign up for recurring credit/debit card payments through SmartHub or at the new & secure PCs located in our office lobbies.
 - » [Recurring Checking or Savings](#)
Sign up for recurring checking/savings account withdraws by completing the Automatic Bank Draft Authorization Form (in our offices or online) and return to our office.
- **SmartHub App**
Find this FREE app on your app store!

Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

For more tips on smart tree planting in your community, contact your local electric cooperative or visit www.ArborDay.org

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard... especially to power lines.

LARGE TREES

Height/spread of more than 40 feet, such as:

- Maple
- Birch
- Oak
- Sweetgum
- Spruce
- Linden
- Pine

MEDIUM TREES

Height/spread of 25 to 40 feet, such as:

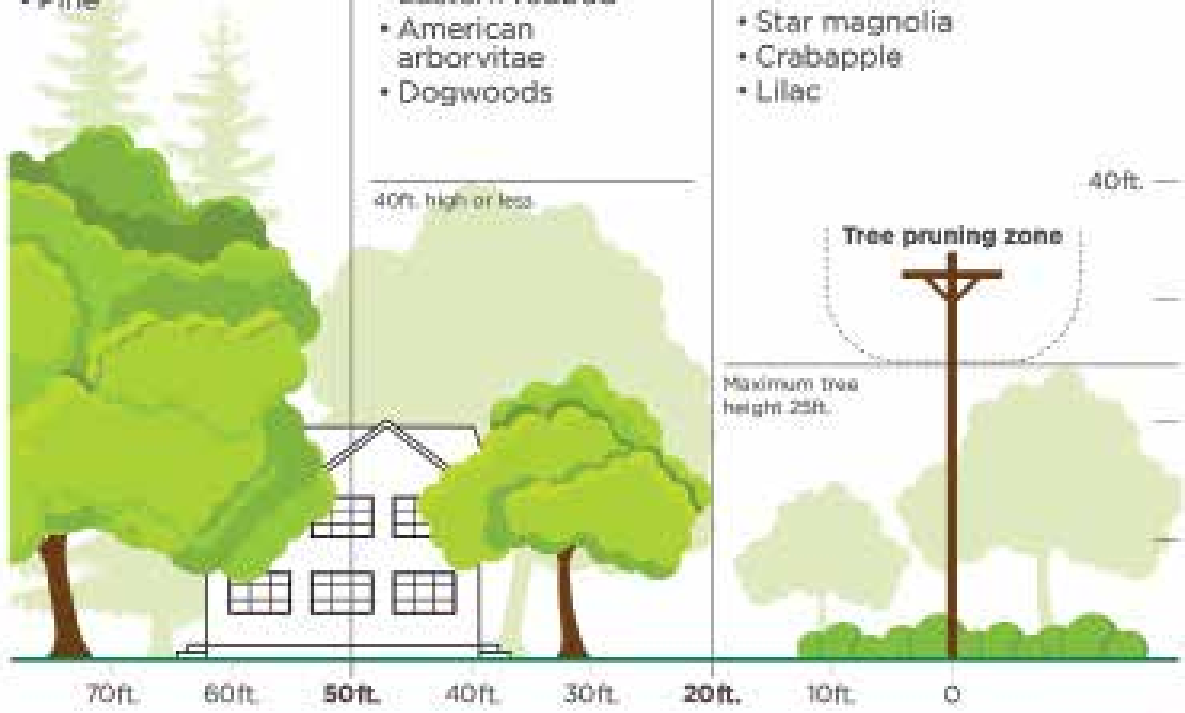
- Washington hawthorn
- Goldenrain tree
- Eastern redbud
- American arborvitae
- Dogwoods

SMALL TREES

Avoid planting within 20 feet of power lines. When planting within 20 feet is unavoidable, use only shrubs and small trees.

Height/spread of no more than 25 feet such as:

- Star magnolia
- Crabapple
- Lilac



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