



Egyptian Electric News

1732 Finney Road • Murphysboro, IL 62966 • 800-606-1505 • www.eeca.coop

MARCH 2019

Power vs. Trees

Most of us can agree that we love our electricity but hate the thought of our trees being cut or trimmed near the power lines. It is our duty as your electric service provider to keep our lines maintained, but it is our responsibility to you, and all our members, to provide the safest and most reliable electricity possible. We refer to right-of-way (ROW) as the strip of land underneath and around power lines. Thinking of keeping our ROW clear in a more relative way helps me to keep it in perspective. Maintaining ROW could eliminate the possibility of losing power to my own home from a limb hanging over the electric line to my house. It could rid the danger of a child climbing an overgrown tree with high-voltage power lines crossing through. It could remove the health danger of my neighbor on oxygen who greatly depends on her electricity.

Egyptian Electric Cooperative maintains nearly 2,700 miles of line that serves over 15,000 members. As you can imagine, it is a full-time job to maintain even the minimum clearance of 15-foot each side of the line. It is our goal to trim out and mow the ROW on a regular four-year rotation, making outages shorter and repairs less difficult. Over the last 13 years, in our improved efforts to capitalize

our right-of way maintenance, power outages have drastically been reduced across the board. December 2018 had around 950 outage-hours, whereas four years ago, in December 2014, there were just over 3,650 outage-hours. Also, maintaining a cleared ROW helps with pole inspections and better visibility of rotten or broken poles that could have otherwise gone undetected.

Oil Field Electric, or OFEC as you may see on their trucks, is currently contracted with Egyptian Electric to fulfill all our day-to-day tree trimming needs. **56-12-0107**

Travis Deterding, our forestry manager, will be happy to answer any questions you may have or meet you on site. Please keep in mind, if you have a tree with a limb near the line(s) that looks hazardous or you are considering trimming a tree that is in danger of falling on the lines, we

ask that you contact us before doing any work. If there is any chance a limb or tree could strike a power line in the removal process, we would prefer our crews to remove the limb or tree in question.

The scheduled ROW work for 2019 will be lines serviced off six of our substations: Airport, Baldwin, East Carbondale, Carterville, Hastings and Lenzburg. The areas it will affect are the Baldwin, New Athens, Carterville, Carbondale and Makanda areas. You can visit our website to learn more about our tree trimming procedures as well as our Stump Program. If your lines will be affected, you should receive a post card in the mail or an automated phone call prior to tree work being done in your area.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

Maintaining rights of way improves service reliability for you – our members!



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- By phone, using credit card or checking account
- Off-site kiosks located at 2301 N Reed Station Road in Carbondale and 1306 N Market Street in Sparta

Call Capture

We have recently implemented through our phone system an automated process called Call Capture. Call Capture will be used for some of our day to day functions such as planned outages, delinquent notifications, credit/debit card expirations and forestry maintenance, to name a few. This will replace many manual

phone processes and combine many mail processes to improve internal efficiencies and insure more timely information to our membership. These calls will be made during regular business hours. Should you have any questions, please contact our office.

New employees

On Jan. 7, 2019 we hired four new linemen to join the Egyptian Electric Cooperative family.



Zach Doan was born and raised in DeSoto, Ill., graduating from Carbondale High School. Right out of

high school, he joined IBEW #702 as a tree trimmer and a few years later enrolled in the lineman apprentice program. Two years into the program, he joined Egyptian Electric Cooperative as an apprentice lineman. Zach is married with one son.



Daniel Henderson is originally from Harrisburg, Ill., graduating from Harrisburg High School. At the

age of 18, he began working at an underground mine for nearly 12 years. In 2015, Daniel got into linework and moved to Williamson County. Daniel is married to his wife Brooke, has a son Wyatt and daughter Rossi. He enjoys hunting deer and waterfowl.



Philip Ellis is a native of Murphysboro graduating from Elverado High School. He began his career

with IBEW working for Asplundh Tree then Oilfield Electric, where he was a foreman trimmer for six years. In 2017, Philip was accepted into the ALBAT program as a line apprentice following in his father's footsteps, and in 2019 was hired with Egyptian Electric as an apprentice lineman. Philip enjoys motocross, hot rods and fishing. He has been married to his wife Shelby for six years and has a daughter on the way in May.



Wayne Taylor is from Vergennes, Ill. He graduated from Elverado High School and John A. Logan Community

College. During and after college, Wayne worked in line clearance with IBEW #702 for 17 years and for a variety of contractors. He has been in linework for six years and is currently a journeyman lineman. Wayne has been married for 20 years and has two daughters. He enjoys hunting, fishing and watching his kids in sports.

Would your home pass an electrical inspection?

If you're getting ready to sell your home or just wondering how electrically sound it is, there are some general guidelines out there to assess the condition of your home's wiring and electrical bones. Although it varies depending on where you live, most local codes follow the National Electric Code (NEC).

The NEC is an industry-specific, jargon-filled document that outlines required practices for all aspects of residential and commercial electrical installation. Don't worry, you don't have to google it and read it from cover to cover, but know that your local code could vary. Local code always wins out when there are variances so be sure to check with your qualified electrician or local building department (start with your city or town) for specific code requirements.

Electrical malfunction is dangerous. U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 45,210 reported U.S. home structure fires involving electrical failure or malfunction per year from 2010 to 2014, according to the National Fire Protection Agency. The home fires resulted in 420 deaths, 1,370 injuries and an annual \$1.4 billion in direct property damage. **42-15-0038**

In general, here are some all-house guidelines that an inspector would look for (remember they may or may not align with your local electrical code but they are NEC-mandated). If your home has any of the following defects, it may not pass an electrical safety inspection:

- Old knob-and-tube, along with BX cable wiring, common in the U.S. from about 1880 to 1930
- New lights and receptacles installed into old wiring
- Overcrowded wires; i.e. too many wires bundled together producing excess heat
- Spliced wires that were illegally installed (they must be installed by an approved method)

- Broken or missing carbon monoxide detectors or smoke alarms (whether smoke alarms must be hard wired depends on the age of the home and in most cases, whether any home improvement projects required a permit)
- Non-insulated/non-contact-rated recessed lights that touch attic insulation, which is a fire hazard
- Improper overcurrent protection, which means the breaker or fuse is too large for the wire rating
- Improper Grounding and Bonding of electrical panels and devices
- Some other room-specific things to look for include:

Kitchen

- Does your electric range, cooktop or oven have a dedicated 240-volt circuit?
- Is the breaker for the range, cooktop or oven sized correctly?
- Does your island have its own outlet? (The NEC has outlet requirements for kitchen islands, peninsulas and countertops.)
- Does your microwave, refrigerator, microwave and garbage disposal each have its own circuit?

Bathroom

- Are outlets GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupters)? GFCIs are designed to protect people from electric shock around water.
- Do your combination fan/lights have their own 20-amp circuit?

- Do the light fixtures in the shower or tub area have a "lens" cover? Are they moisture resistant?

Other Rooms (living, dining, family, bedrooms)

- Does each room have a wall switch installed beside the entry door?
- Are outlets installed no farther than 12 feet apart?
- Are ceiling fixtures controlled by a wall switch and not just a pull chain?
- There are also hallway, staircase and garage code requirements, as well as those for the electrical service panel and wiring. Check with your qualified electrician or the city or town where you live for specific code requirements in all areas of your home.

Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCI)

Many prominent electrical and homebuilding experts believe that using arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCI) in these areas of homes has a significant impact on homeowner safety and that they reduce the number of lives lost in home electrical fires.

An AFCI is designed to detect series faults, line to neutral faults and line to ground faults, effectively stopping a fire before it starts. For more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



MEMBER PRIZES

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

Last Chance to Apply for Youth Tour



The deadline for the Youth to Washington Tour is fast approaching! Egyptian Electric Cooperative (EECA) will select local teenagers as winners for the 2019 Youth Day in Springfield and two for Youth to Washington. Sophomores, juniors and seniors attending public or private high schools within the EECA service territorial footprint, or otherwise a member of the cooperative, can apply. At least eight students will be chosen and sponsored to attend Youth Day in Springfield on April 3 to tour the Capitol and other historic sites. The top two students will be selected to represent EECA and our state by attending the Youth to Washington trip June 14-21, 2019. The two winners will travel by bus from Mt. Vernon to Washington, D.C. this summer and will join over 1,500 high school students from around the country on one of the most recognized youth programs. Approximately 60 Illinois students will unite and travel with chaperones to Washington, D.C. **10-35-0015**

Applications have been made available to area high school guidance counselors, can found on our website, www.eeca.coop/content/youth-washington, or in our office. The application form includes completing short

summaries of the student's school activities, civic activities and other accomplishments, plus short answers pertaining to southern Illinois and rural electric cooperatives. Students will be judged on their written application and demonstrated understanding of the rural electric program. A blind independent panel of judges will select the winners for Youth Day, with the top two selected as the Youth to Washington delegates. All applicants must be willing and able to attend Illinois Youth Day to be considered for Youth Tour. All expenses will be paid by EECA and transportation will be provided. If you have any questions on the application or the program, please contact Brooke Guthman at 618-684-2143 or bguthman@eeca.coop. All applications must be received by March 8.

Dates to Remember

Application Deadline – March 8

Illinois Youth Day – April 3

Youth to Washington – June 14-21



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