



# LINWORKER APPRECIATION DAY IS APRIL 8

Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

April 8, 2024, has been designated National Lineworker Appreciation Day. This is a day to honor the dedicated lineworkers who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on. We proudly recognize all electric lineworkers for the services they perform around the clock in dangerous conditions to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

We've got a great group of lineworkers here at Clark Electric Cooperative who work tirelessly here in Clark, Chippewa, Jackson, Marathon, Wood, and Taylor counties. When the weather gets nasty and most of us hunker inside, our lineworkers head out, no matter what time of day, or day of the week it might be. Our lineworkers are the first responders of our electric distribution system, and they work around the clock on high-voltage lines. Conditions can be dangerous, but

they power through to ensure reliable service for our members.

Not only do they work hard to keep the lights on in our own community, but our line crews also stand ready to answer a call for help from beyond our counties borders. Electric cooperatives have a mutual aid agreement called Restoration of Power in an Emergency (ROPE), whereby cooperatives assist one another in times of emergencies. We've answered the call many times around Wisconsin and also other states like Louisiana during Hurricane Katrina and more recently Florida during Hurricane Irma.

On April 8, 2024, when you flip a light switch, power up your computer, turn on your TV, or perform any of the countless tasks that electricity enables you to, take a moment to appreciate the hardworking lineworkers who make that possible.



APRIL 8 IS LINWORKER APPRECIATION DAY



# CONSIDER POWER LINES WHEN PLANTING TREES THIS SPRING

**W**ith the winter season in the rear view mirror, the smell of spring in the air, and thoughts of green grass comes the planting season.

Whether you're planting a single tree in the front yard or several thousand trees to start a plantation, it's important to consider the species of trees and the location in which you plan to plant them. This is especially important if you are planting trees near overhead power lines, says Mike Ruff, director of operations.

Many people plant trees too close to power lines. They think that the trees will never get tall enough to grow into the power lines, or they simply forget to look up before they plant them.

Most trees will grow tall enough to touch power lines faster than you think. So take time to research your tree selection or consult with your local tree nursery for advice on which trees are appropriate for your landscaping area.

As the trees grow they can come into contact with the power lines and create power outages or momentary interruptions. However, the greatest concern is the safety risk that can be created when children climb trees near power

lines. Accidental contact with electrical wires while playing in or climbing a tree can be fatal.

As we move through the spring season and into summer, please take some time to consider a few things when planting, especially around power lines.

1. Clark Electric Cooperative requires 15 feet of clearance on both sides of the line for single-phase lines and 20 feet for three-phase lines.
2. Be sure to plant your trees far enough away from power lines so that when the trees are fully grown, there will still be 20 feet of clearance to the power line without the need for trimming.
3. Remember, if you chose to plant trees in the right-of-way or too close to the right-of-way, your trees may need to be trimmed or cut some day, and that day may come sooner than you think.

If you have trees that appear to be growing into power lines, contact Clark Electric Cooperative at 1-800-272-6188. Never try to prune them yourself. We have skilled professionals trained to safely prune and trim trees for electric line clearance.

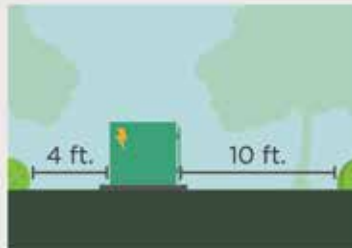
## 3 Ways to Help Limit Tree Trimming

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.**





# ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!

Don't miss the chance to join us for the 2024 Youth Leadership Conference. You will get a glimpse of college life at UW-Stout!

It's that time of year when Clark Electric Cooperative is looking for students from local high schools to represent us at this year's Youth Leadership Conference to be held on the campus of UW-Stout July 16-18, 2024.

The WECA Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) is a great opportunity for students to develop and enhance their leadership potential. The event is sponsored by Wisconsin electric cooperatives and is designed to help students develop leadership skills while learning the purpose, operation and scope of cooperative business.

The event features leadership seminars lead by nationally acclaimed speakers and presenters focusing on the structure of the cooperative business, developing leadership skills, team-building exercises, and many other fun activities. Join students from your neighboring schools learn what makes the cooperative business model different and successful.

Clark Electric has sponsored students to this event since its inception. We believe in developing the potential of tomorrow's leaders. The YLC is a fun and educational event, designed by students who were elected by their peers at the previous year's conference to serve on the WECA Youth Board.

There is no cost to the student for attending. The registration and travel expenses will be covered by the cooperative. If you are going to be a sophomore or a junior in high school this coming fall and would like to be a sponsored representative for Clark Electric Cooperative, contact your FFA or FBLA advisor for co-op registration form by May 15, 2024. You may also contact Tracy Nelson, administrative assistant at 715-267-6188 or 1-800-272-6188.

# Dig Smart. Dig Safe.

Before you dig, call 811 or visit call811.com to mark underground utility lines. 811 is a free service that helps keep our community safe.



*April is Safe Digging Month*

# REMINDER

**Clark Electric Cooperative's  
Annual Meeting  
May 8, 2024**



**Neillsville American Legion  
Business meeting starts at 9:30 a.m.**



## MOVE OVER, SLOW DOWN IN WORK ZONES

Every state has laws that require drivers to slow down or switch lanes if possible when they pass emergency vehicles and, in many states, transportation maintenance, work trucks, and other authorized vehicles as well. These are often referred to as “move over” laws. Failing to comply can result in fines and, in some states, jail time.

For many people, there aren’t enough hours in the day. Because of that, many people use drive time to be productive. They might call their boss, text their best friend, or apply mascara.

Multitasking can be an effective use of time, but not while driving.

WisDOT reports that Wisconsin sees nearly 2,000 work crashes a year.

Although this reflects incidents that took place in road construction zones, know that accidents, injuries, and deaths can happen in any roadside work zone, including utility work zones.

That is why we ask you to help keep our crews safe by slowing down and following any other instructions—including moving over to give them space—anytime you see orange warning signs and cones that lead up to a work zone.

Cars or trucks that speed through a work zone not only endanger workers on the ground, driving too fast or not moving over can also put an elevated lineworker in danger by causing the bucket he or she is in to move or sway.

Lineworkers already have enough to contend with by working way high up on power lines while out in the elements. Their profession consistently places on the Bureau of Labor Statistics most dangerous jobs. Do your part; please don’t add noncompliant drivers to the mix.

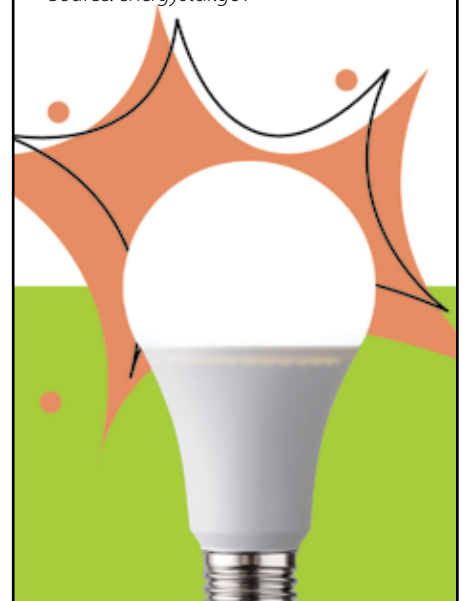
**NATIONAL  
WORK ZONE  
AWARENESS WEEK**  
April 15–19

## 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: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)




### Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

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**Clark Electric  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**