

P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124
620-672-5538
www.ninnescah.com



NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Watts Ahead

NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC CO-OP, INC.

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IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, please call 620-672-5538. The office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. After hours, calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to our on-call personnel.

GROWING TOGETHER:

Caring for Trees and Keeping the Power On

There's something timeless about trees. They ground us. They remind us of where we've been, and they stretch toward what's ahead. Here in our community, we take pride in the natural beauty that surrounds us — the shade on a summer afternoon, the colors that mark the changing seasons, the quiet strength of something that grows slowly but endures.

At the same time, we share another responsibility — one that's just as essential to our daily lives. The responsibility to keep the lights on, to power our homes and businesses, to make sure that when you flip a switch, the energy you depend on is there.

That's why Ninnescah Electric works

every day to strike a careful balance between preserving the beauty we cherish and delivering the reliable electricity you expect.

One of the most important ways we do that is through regular tree trimming.

Now, it may not always be obvious, but keeping lines clear of overgrown vegetation plays a major role in preventing power outages. We've all seen what can happen when severe weather rolls in — strong winds, heavy ice or sudden storms can bring down branches and, with them, power lines and

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GROWING TOGETHER: Caring for Trees and Keeping the Power On

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poles. In fact, nearly half of all power outages can be traced to trees and vegetation coming into contact with electrical infrastructure.

That's why you may notice our trusted contractors working in areas throughout the year. Our crews are highly trained and certified, following the latest industry standards to ensure the job is done safely and effectively. Their work might seem routine, but it's anything but — it's a proactive step that helps prevent problems before they start.

And it's not just good practice — it's required. Electric utilities across the country are obligated to manage vegetation near power lines. Scheduled trimming helps remove dead or weakened limbs and keeps fast-growing trees from becoming hazards. It's about staying one step ahead, especially as we prepare for the increasing frequency and intensity of severe weather events.

We're also using new tools and technologies to do this work smarter. We can monitor power lines and surrounding vegetation more efficiently, reducing costs while improving accuracy. These small but powerful tools allow us to identify potential risks early and respond quickly.

But beyond reliability and efficiency, there's another reason this work matters: safety.

Electricity is a powerful force, and when trees grow too close to power lines, that power can become dangerous. Branches that touch lines — or even come close — can carry

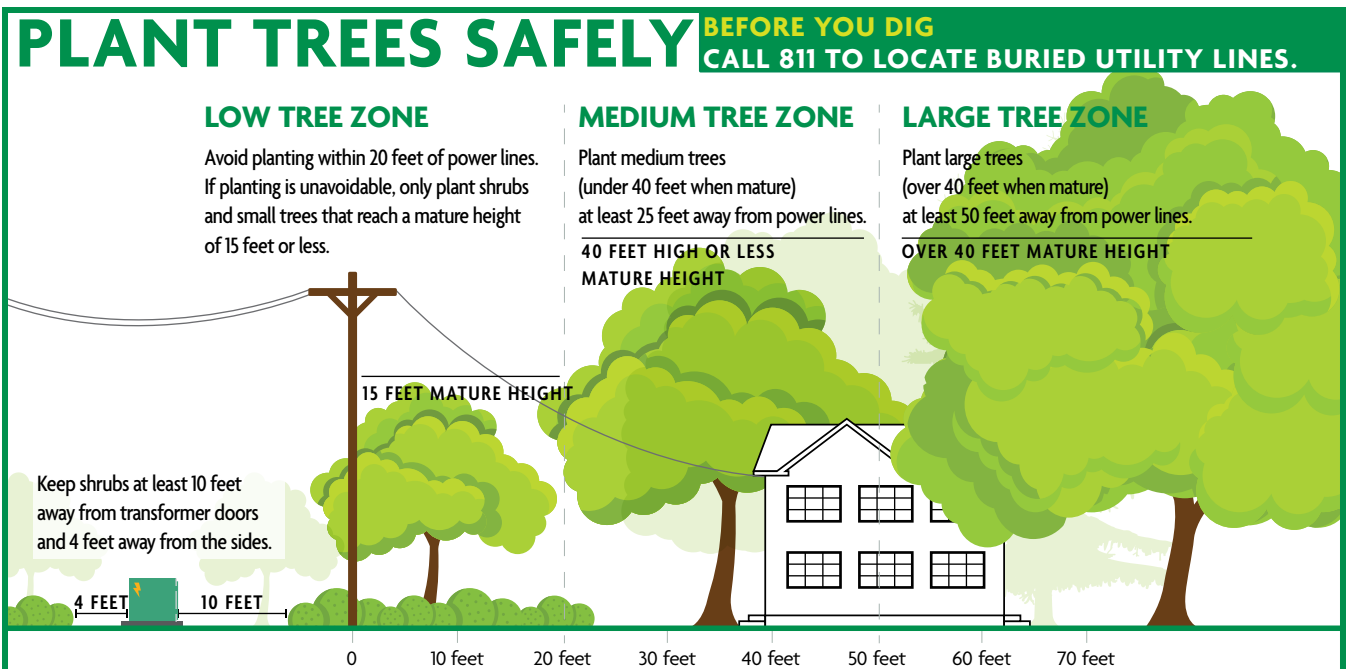
electrical current. Children climbing trees in their own yards may not realize the risk. And during storms, fallen trees can create hazardous conditions not only for families but also for our lineworkers restoring service.

There's also a financial reality we can't ignore. Preventative maintenance — like tree trimming — is far more cost-effective than repairing widespread damage after an outage. Left unchecked, overgrown vegetation can lead to more frequent disruptions and higher costs for everyone. A thoughtful, strategic vegetation management program helps keep those costs down for our members.

You can help, too. When planting new trees, consider their mature height and distance from nearby power lines. Trees that grow up to 40 feet should be planted at least 25 feet away from overhead lines. Larger trees — those that exceed 40 feet — should be planted at least 50 feet away. If you're landscaping near pad-mounted transformers, keep shrubs at least 10 feet from the front and 4 feet from the sides to allow safe access.

If your neighborhood has underground lines, don't forget to call 811 before digging. It's a simple step that can prevent serious accidents.

At the end of the day, we all want the same thing: a community that's safe, resilient and beautiful. At Ninnescah Electric, we're proud to be part of that effort. Our roots run deep here, just like the trees we work to care for.



Line *Working on the*



Ninnescah linemen demonstrating a mock construction build for Pratt Community College's Electrical Powerline Technology students.

Driving Safely ON THE JOB

Know and follow your workplace's safe-driving guidelines.

POLICIES SHOULD INCLUDE:

- ▶ Wear a seatbelt — every trip.
- ▶ Don't drive distracted.
- ▶ Pull over to a safe location for calls, texts and emails.
- ▶ Secure tools and equipment before departing.
- ▶ Slow down in work zones.
- ▶ Don't engage in aggressive driving.
- ▶ Pull over and take breaks when needed.
- ▶ Know medication side effects.
- ▶ Never drive under the influence.

LARGE EQUIPMENT SAFETY AROUND POWER LINES:

- ▶ **LOOK UP — EVERY TIME.** Scan the route and work area for overhead lines, including service drops to buildings.
- ▶ **KNOW YOUR TALLEST POINT.** Account for raised booms, truck beds, antennas, extensions and loads. Lower equipment before moving.
- ▶ **PLAN THE ROUTE.** Choose travel paths and staging areas that avoid overhead lines.
- ▶ **USE A SPOTTER.** Assign one person to watch clearances and give signals.
- ▶ **MARK HAZARDS.** Identify overhead lines and establish a "no-go" area.
- ▶ **WATCH FOR MOVEMENT.** Wind can blow lines, loads can sway and equipment can bounce on uneven ground.
- ▶ **AVOID PARKING UNDER LINES.** Stage and perform maintenance away from overhead hazards.

IF YOU MAKE CONTACT WITH A POWER LINE:



- ▶ **DO NOT** exit the cab unless it is on fire. Wait for the utility crew to de-energize power.
- ▶ Call 911.
- ▶ Warn others to stay away.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

Congratulations!



Ninnescah Electric would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to Lineman **GAGE TAYLOR** and his new wife, Morgan, on their marriage on April 25. We wish them a lifetime of happiness together.

Please join us in congratulating Gage and Morgan as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

LIGHTNING SAFETY WORD SEARCH

DID YOU KNOW JUNE 21-27 IS NATIONAL LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK?

Lightning can happen fast and be very dangerous but staying safe is easy when you know what to do! Read the following safety tips, then find and circle the **BOLDED** words in the puzzle below.



- ▶ When thunder roars, go **INDOORS!** If you can hear thunder, **LIGHTNING** is close enough to be dangerous.
- ▶ Stay away from all **WATER** sources. Don't swim, use hoses or play near standing water when a **STORM** is present.
- ▶ Avoid tall things and open spaces. Stay away from **TALL TREES**, poles and open fields where lightning tends to **STRIKE**.
- ▶ Wait 30 minutes after the last sound of **THUNDER**. Even if the rain stops, **WAIT** at least 30 minutes before going back outside.

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