



Maintaining ROW is key



From the desk of
CEO & General Manager
Eddie Oldham

The spring and summer months are right around the corner, and while maintaining reliable service to our members is a top priority year-round, the warmer months bring more daylight and opportunity to complete important work projects.

There are many ways the co-op provides its members with safe and reliable service. One of the most important and highly visible ways is right-of-way (ROW) clearing. ROW refers to a strip of land underneath or around power lines that the co-op has the right and responsibility to maintain and clear.

Clearing the ROW is critical to keeping the power flowing to your home. Without an effective ROW clearing program, power interruptions occur when trees, shrubs or bushes grow too close to power lines. Tree branches are also extremely dangerous when they come in contact with power lines, as they can become energized just like the power line. An effective ROW program not only helps keep you connected, but it also helps keep you and other members of our community safe by ensuring tree branches do not become energized due to contact with power lines.

In order to maintain an effective ROW clearing program, the co-op invests a portion of its operating budget to cutting back trees and shrubs that grow too close to the power lines. We accomplish this with bucket trucks, chainsaws, chippers and mowers to ensure that trees grow at a distance far enough from our lines where they will not cause harm to individuals or disruption to electrical service. Specifications can vary, but the general guideline the co-op follows in maintaining a safe ROW is 20 feet of clearance on

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either side of primary conductors and 10 feet of clearance below the neutral line. This ensures a safe distance between trees on your property and the dangerous lines carrying electricity to your home.

The co-op is committed to maintaining our ROW areas to ensure the safety of our community and also the reliability of our service to you, our member-owner. Remember to always contact the co-op rather than trying to trim or remove trees near power lines. We can send a crew to your home to trim the tree back until our ROW crews are able to fully clear the lines near your home.

While this is just one of the many ways we keep your lives powered, we are working hard each and every day to continue providing the superior service you have come to expect. This not only includes the reliability of the electricity going to your home, but also the programs and services we provide to you. Our commitment to you, our members, is unwavering: to be your trusted energy partner now and well into the future.

If you have any questions about our ROW clearing program, or any other services provided by the co-op, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are always here to answer any questions you may have.

Until next time,



Reliable power depends on maintenance

Trimming trees and overgrown vegetation around power lines is essential to providing you with safe and reliable service 24/7/365.

In addition to reducing outages due to vegetation, maintenance also:

- Speeds up outage restoration because crews can more easily access problem areas.
- Keeps crews and members safer from downed trees, especially in right-of-way (ROW) areas along roads.
- Reduces unexpected costs for repairs related to accessibility issues.

In the coming months, you may see ROW crews working in the following service area locations:

- HWY 902
- Bonlee/Bennett areas
- HWY 27 W
- Lower Moncure Rd area
- Various areas in Harnett County

ROW maintenance. One more way Central Electric keeps you connected.