



# THE HIGHLINE BY LINE

## A NEWSLETTER FROM ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE



### VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ENHANCES SAFETY, REDUCES OUTAGES AND IMPROVES RELIABILITY



*There are many ways that Arrowhead Cooperative provides you with safe, reliable electric service. One of the most common – and crucial – ways is referred to as vegetation management or right-of-way clearing.*

#### WHAT IS RIGHT-OF-WAY?

A right of way (ROW) refers to a strip of land underneath or around power lines that your electric cooperative has the right and responsibility to maintain and clear. Arrowhead Cooperative works hard to ensure that rights of way are regularly cleared of trees and brush to help reduce potential outages and hazards. Trees and branches growing in or near power lines can cause interruptions in service. Uncontrolled brush can impede access to utility structures.

Specifications can vary, but a general guideline of maintaining a safe ROW is 10 feet of clearance on either side of the primary conductors and 15 feet of overhead clearance above the highest wire on the pole.

#### OUTAGE THREAT

Clearing the ROW is critical to keeping our members' lights on. An average of 24 percent of power interruptions occur when trees grow too close to power lines. If a tree encroaches on this safe distance, our vegetation management team will trim back branches and brush using chainsaws, bucket trucks, tree climbers, brush chippers and mowers, or remove a tree all together.

#### SAFETY

ROW clearing also keeps your family safe by ensuring that tree branches do not become energized due to close contact with a downed power line. Arrowhead Cooperative's distribution power lines are operated at up to 14,400 volts, and an energized tree branch due to close proximity or contact with a power line is incredibly dangerous – even deadly. Be mindful when around trees close to power lines, and make sure your children know that climbing trees near power lines is extremely dangerous.

#### AFFORDABILITY

ROW clearing is also critical to ensuring that we provide members with affordable electricity. Staying ahead of the game keeps us from having to come out after a storm to restore power due to fallen trees. Every minute spent clearing a tree or branch off a power line is a minute in delay of restoring power. While winds can blow downed trees into power lines, it's often those trees that were left near the power line that cause the most damage. And that damage has economic impact on the co-op and on rates to members.

#### RESULTS MATTER

Not all outages can be prevented but investing in vegetation management has both immediate and long-term benefits. By prioritizing this right-of-way project, Arrowhead Cooperative is investing in enhanced safety, outage reduction, and increased reliability. Wins for the Cooperative and our members.



# CONTINUED...

## Vegetation Management Enhances Safety, Reduces Outages, and Improves Reliability

### VEGETATION MANAGEMENT INCLUDES YOUR HELP

In working to keep a safe, reliable, and affordable supply of power flowing to your home or business, we need your help.

### KNOW WHAT AND WHERE YOU ARE PLANTING

If you are planting a tree on your property, make sure not to plant them within at least 25 feet of power lines for short trees, and at least 40 feet away for medium-sized trees.

### REPORT PROBLEMS

Do you have a concern about a potential overhead power line hazard near your property? Report by calling our office at (800) 864-3744.

While we know that you enjoy the beauty trees add to our neighborhoods and the scenic areas we call home, we also know you enjoy the comfort of knowing power will be available when you need it. By responsibly clearing right-of-way and planting the right trees in the right locations, many potential problems can be easily avoided.

## PLANT THE RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE

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	MEDIUM TREES	SMALL TREES
<p><b>Height/spread of more than 40 feet, such as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maple</li> <li>• Oak</li> <li>• Spruce</li> <li>• Pine</li> <li>• Birch</li> <li>• Sweetgum</li> <li>• Linden</li> </ul>	<p><b>Height/spread of 25 to 40 feet, such as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washington hawthorn</li> <li>• Goldenrain tree</li> <li>• Eastern redbud</li> <li>• American arborvitae</li> <li>• Dogwoods</li> </ul>	<p><i>Avoid planting within 20 feet of power lines. When planting within 20 feet is unavoidable, use only shrubs and small trees.</i></p> <p><b>Height/spread of no more than 25 feet such as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Star magnolia</li> <li>• Crabapple</li> <li>• Lilac</li> </ul>
<p><b>Be safe! Always call 811 before you dig to locate any buried utility lines.</b></p>		

Source: The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association



## NEED FOR SPEED

### Does COVID-19 have you staying home? Stream the latest movies and shows with high speed internet!

True North Broadband brings you a superior internet connection. Did you know that a minimum download of speed of 10Mbps or higher is usually recommended for quality streaming? Plus, HD TVs require more bandwidth, closer to 25Mbps. Our internet packages start with 100Mbps so you have enough bandwidth for streaming even when multiple devices are connected. For best results, we recommend using an ethernet connection from our equipment to your TV or streaming device.

True North's Superior Wifi gives you whole home wireless coverage with exceptional service and support. Call us today at (218) 663-9030 to upgrade your speed or learn more at [www.truenorthbroadband.com](http://www.truenorthbroadband.com).

# DEDICATION AND SERVICE DESERVES A THANK YOU

Lineworkers bring power to the people!  
Don't forget to Thank a Line Worker on  
April 13 for Line Worker Appreciation Day.

Lineworkers serve on the frontlines of our energy needs, and on April 13, 2020, Arrowhead Cooperative, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, will honor the brave men and women who work hard to keep the lights on.

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are the heart of our Cooperative.

When a storm hits, they set aside their personal priorities because Mother Nature doesn't work around holidays, vacations and birthdays. A service-oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineworker.



**PROUD TO POWER  
YOUR LIVES**

## *Lineworkers keep our local community safe and bright.*

Arrowhead Cooperative is proud to honor the eight line workers that maintain 611 miles of power lines and 823 miles of fiber lines in our service territory. We invite each of you during the month of April, to give a wave, pause to say thank you, or simply remind yourself of the dedication of our crews and the important work they do.

On April 13, you can use #ThankALineworker on social media to show your support for the brave people who power our lives.

## CO-OP NEWS

### 2020 YOUTH TOUR DELEGATES ANNOUNCED

Each year the Arrowhead Cooperative Board of Directors selects two Cook County High School Juniors to represent the Cooperative at the Rural Electric Youth Tour. We are excited to announce that in 2020, Saira Smith and Hailey Smith, have been selected to visit Washington D.C. in June to visit with congressional representatives, tour some of the most famous museums in the world, and learn about the cooperative model.

### OPERATION ROUND UP APPLICATION REMINDER

Operation Round Up applications are due April 17. Grant guidelines and application forms are available online at [www.arrowhead.coop](http://www.arrowhead.coop).

### COLD WEATHER RULE EXTENDED TO APRIL 30

If your account is currently past due please contact our office to set up a payment plan and avoid disconnection.

### SAVE THE DATE

The Arrowhead Cooperative Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, June 6, at the Cook County High School in Grand Marais.

### NEXT BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 30, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

Call 811 or visit  
[gopherstateonecall.org](http://gopherstateonecall.org)  
before you dig.



# ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been declared by the World Health Organization and the CDC as a Global Pandemic. The United State's President and Minnesota's Governor have declared a state of emergency.

Arrowhead Cooperative is considered "Critical" to the community the same way Police, Fire, EMS, Health Professionals, and First Responders are. In an abundance of caution, we need to take measures to ensure safety and limit the exposure to our employees and the potential spread of the virus throughout our community.

Arrowhead Cooperative is taking the following steps to ensure the safety and health of our employees, members and subscribers. It is imperative that we keep our staff healthy and virus free to continue to deliver the safe, reliable and environmentally friendly utilities you expect from your cooperative.

## OFFICE IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

In an abundance of caution, Arrowhead Cooperative has closed its doors to the public. We will not allow the general public, vendors or unauthorized personnel to enter the building.

## ONLY ONLINE, DROP BOX, AND PHONE PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED

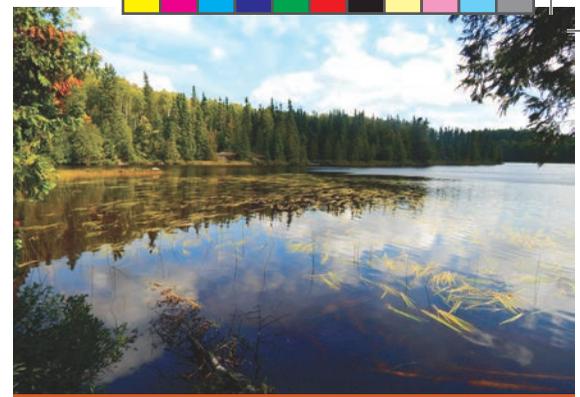
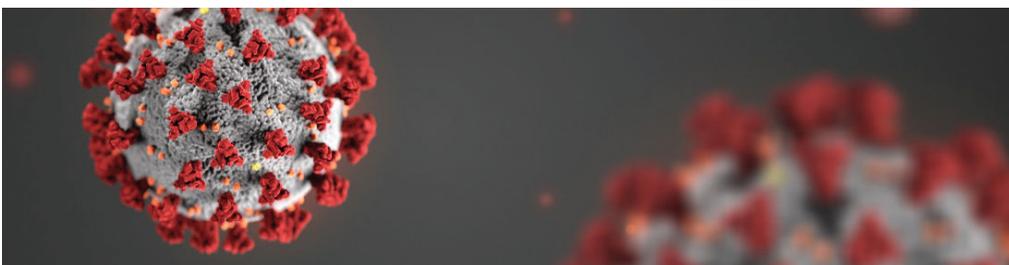
Bill payments can be made at the drop box in Lutsen at Arrowhead Cooperative's Headquarters or the drop box located outside of Como Propane in Grand Marais. We encourage you to make online payments through SmartHub, and sign up if you have not already done so. We will continue to process payments over the phone as well. Members will not be penalized for cash payment rounding errors.

## COLD WEATHER RULE EXTENDED

The Cold Weather Rule will be extended for Arrowhead Cooperative members. Members who are having difficulty paying their electric bills are encouraged to call the office at (218) 663-7239 to seek assistance.

Our team will continue to respond to power outages and fiber issues as they arise. Fiber issues will be assessed and prioritized for response as critical or non-critical. Arrowhead Cooperative staff that need to enter a property will take precautionary measures. Please be patient with our team during this time and understand that we may be working with a reduced workforce as we implement strategies to keep our employees healthy. In addition, if you see our crews in the field, maintain a six foot distance to help us keep them safe as they continue to perform their duties.

*Arrowhead Cooperative will continue to monitor the situation and will work closely with the Public Health Department and the Cook County Emergency Management Department to stay abreast of the condition of the community.*



## APRIL CALENDAR WINNER

*Submitted by: Andrew Kelleher*



## ELECTRIC CORD SAFETY TIP

*Replace or repair damaged power cords. Exposed wiring is a danger that cannot go overlooked. If you see the protective coating on a wire is stripped away, be sure to replace it or cover it with electrical tape as soon as possible.*

## ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE

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