

## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT IN 2023

*An essential part of providing safe, reliable service at a reasonable cost is the establishment and maintenance of a clear power line corridor. Trees contacting power lines is a primary cause of power outages. When tree limbs grow too close to power lines they can cause damage or interrupt your service.*



When put together, trees and power lines mix about as well as oil and water. Trees cannot only cause downed power lines in storms, endangering the lives of people who live, work and play nearby, but also grow into power lines. This can cause outages for members, impacting electrical distribution system reliability, and posing safety threats to linemen. One of the most effective ways Arrowhead Cooperative addresses these issues is through a proactive vegetation management program.

### WHAT IS AN ELECTRIC LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY?

To understand why we do what we do, you first need to understand what it is we are talking about. A power line right-of-way is a strip of land that an electric utility uses to construct, maintain, repair or replace overhead and underground power lines. The right-of-way provides clearance from trees and other things that could interfere with line installation, maintenance, and operation.

It is Arrowhead Cooperative's policy to maintain the electric utility right-of-way 15 feet on both sides from the center of the right-of-way. There are three main reasons to maintain a right-of-way: safety, reliability and affordability of your electric power.

### SAFETY

Your safety is a top priority for Arrowhead Cooperative. A tree that is growing too close to a power line creates a hazard. Danger increases when trees and power lines make contact, but the tree does not even need to be touching the line to cause deadly results. Electricity can jump, or arc, from the power line to a nearby conductor, such as a tree.

### RELIABILITY

You hear thunder rumbling in the distance. A storm is coming. Do you know that your chances of receiving uninterrupted service through a storm are greatly increased if your electric cooperative maintains clear rights-of-way? Contrary to what many people believe, lightning rarely causes power outages. It's wind and ice build-up that causes trees and limbs to fall on power lines. An effective right-of-way maintenance program keeps many of the potential problems away from power lines and improves reliability for you and your neighbors down the line. A tree growing too close to your neighbors' power lines can knock out power for hundreds of others - including you.

Additionally clear right-of-ways ensure safe access to electric lines for our crews completing maintenance and outage response work.

*Continued on Page 2.*

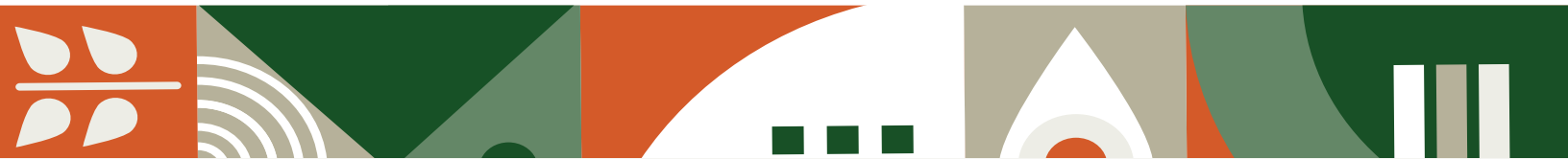
# VEGETATION MANAGEMENT CONTINUED...

## AFFORDABILITY

An electric cooperative is a not-for-profit business, which means we provide a service and cover costs. When trees grow too close to power lines, the potential for costly repairs grow. Suddenly, minor restoration efforts could become major restoration efforts. As these costs increase, so do your electric rates. An effective right-of-way program can help with electric rates.

## 2023 TREE TRIMMING

As the snow melts, our vegetation management will be ramping up. Arrowhead Cooperative crews are currently working along the Highway 61 corridor east of Hovland and into the Hovland area. We are also beginning management up around the Devil Track Lake. Members will start seeing work really ramp up late April into May. This year the management zone is working from roughly County Road 6 and County Road 7 intersection West of Grand Marais going east to County Road 14, and then North around Devil Track Lake and up the Ball Club Road. As always, if you have any questions about right-of-way maintenance or concerns about danger trees, please reach out to Arrowhead Cooperative's Forester at (218) 663-7239.



## ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING

**Wednesday, June 14 | 6 PM**

**Arrowhead Center for the Arts, Grand Marais**

Arrowhead Cooperative, a member-owned rural electric cooperative, would like to invite all our members to the Annual Meeting of the membership which is scheduled for Wednesday, June 14 at 6 p.m. at the Arrowhead Center for the Arts in Grand Marais.

- Registration opens at 5 p.m.
- Business Meeting begins at 6 p.m.
- Coffee and Desserts will be served.

Join us to learn more about your Cooperative and hear important updates. We also encourage you to visit with our staff about vegetation management, broadband, load management programs, and more.



# 3RD ANNUAL TREE GIVEAWAY & RIGHT OF WAY EDUCATION EVENT!

*We understand that many people are protective of the trees in our beautiful service territory and on their properties. Arrowhead Cooperative also appreciates trees for all their intrinsic values, but we also recognize that trees within the power line right-of-way corridors cause power outages and pose safety risks. We clear trees and vegetation from power line rights-of-way because:*

- Power outages are frequently caused by trees or branches contacting overhead power lines. These outages can range from momentary blinks to a lengthy outage that impacts numerous accounts. Service quality and reliability depends on proper vegetation management.
- A tree that is in close proximity to a power line poses a lethal threat to anything that could climb it and contact an energized power line. This could be an adult, a child, or an animal. The result may be a tragic fatality. Public safety depends on utility vegetation management.
- Power lines contacting tree branches can spark fires that quickly spread out of control.



To keep you informed and show our care for the community, Arrowhead Cooperative is hosting a tree giveaway event. Information will be available on our right of way maintenance plans and our Integrated Vegetation Management program.

In addition, we'll be giving away an assortment of native, low growing trees and shrubs, including Wild Plum, Black Chokeberry, False Indigo, and Sand Cherry for planting outside of the power line right-of-way.

## JOIN US

**THURSDAY, MAY 11:**

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the Grand Portage Community Center

1:30 - 3:30 p.m. at the Mid Trail Fire Hall

**FRIDAY, MAY 12:** 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Arrowhead Office

## CO-OP NEWS

### OFFICE CLOSED

Arrowhead Cooperative will be closed on Friday, April 7, 2023, in observance of Good Friday. Please call (800) 864-3744 in the event of an outage or emergency.

### COLD WEATHER RULE ENDING

Do you need help paying your electric bill this winter? The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule helps homeowners and renters protect and reconnect heat during the winter months. If your account is past due, you will no longer be protected under the Cold Weather Rule after April 30.

If you are worried about paying your electric bill on time, contact Arrowhead Cooperative at (800) 864-3744 before the due date of your bill. By making/maintaining a payment arrangement we can help you avoid disconnection.

### NEXT BOARD MEETING

April 27, 2023 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.





# CELEBRATE

the Power Behind Your Power.  
Lineworker Appreciation Day | April 18, 2023

## The Commitment of an Electric Lineworker Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 18.

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Arrowhead Cooperative, I bet you would picture a lineworker. One of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

National studies consistently rank power line installers and repairers among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason. Laboring high in the air wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric lineworkers are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job.

Arrowhead Cooperative's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers. The job requires lineworkers to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community.

Tuesday, April 18 is Lineworker Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of Arrowhead Cooperative's lineworkers, we encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. And if you see their family members in the grocery store or out and about in the town, please offer them a thank you as well.



### APRIL CALENDAR WINNER

*Submitted by: Denise Jacobson*



### SAFETY TIP

*Avoid planting under power lines or near electrical equipment. As bushes or trees grow, they may disrupt electrical appliances or systems.*

## ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE

5401 West Hwy. 61, PO Box 39  
Lutsen, Minnesota 55612-0039  
Phone: (218) 663-7239 | (800) 864-3744  
Fax: (218) 663-7850  
[www.arrowheadcoop.com](http://www.arrowheadcoop.com)

**CEO:** John Twiest  
**BOARD PRESIDENT:** Michael Littfin  
**EDITORS:** Sara McManus  
and Fuller Creative, LLC

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

