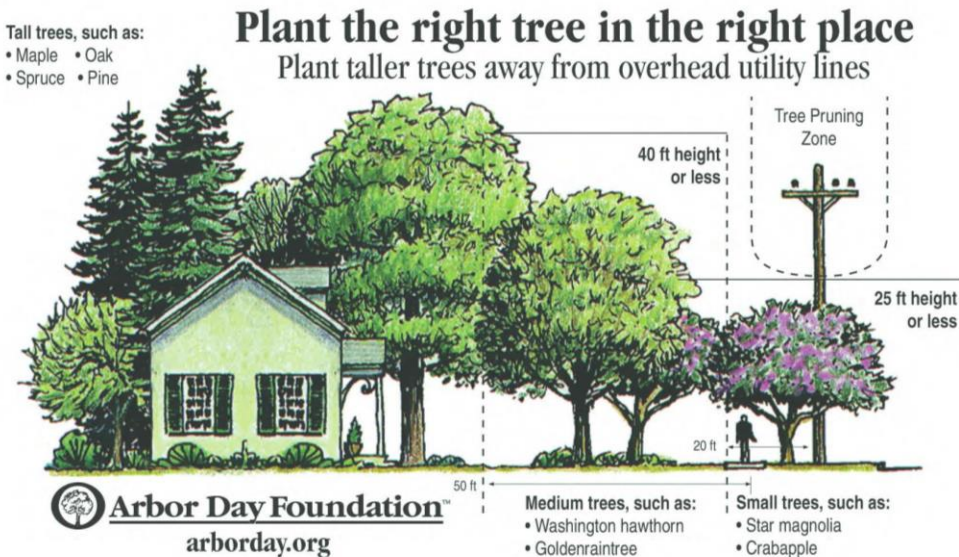


SAWNEE EMC

Right-of-Way Activity Guide

Trees and your power

Tree limbs falling on electric power lines are the number one cause of power outages. Sawnee EMC's top priority is to provide you with reliable, affordable, and when possible uninterrupted electric power. To accomplish this, member cooperation is needed to help us maintain power line right-of-ways.



Plant smart

Help reduce the number of power outages in your neighborhood by planting trees and shrubs so they do not obstruct overhead lines, underground line transformer boxes, or security lights. At full maturity, plants should be at least 15 feet from overhead lines. Keep shrubs at least 10 feet from the sides and backs of underground transformers; do not plant anything directly in front to allow repair and maintenance crews access to the equipment.

If you remove a tree

Contact Sawnee EMC at 770-887-2363 if you (or a contractor) will be removing trees in close proximity to power lines. We will provide assistance if necessary to prevent damage to power facilities and possible safety hazards associated with tree removal along the power line right-of-way.

Sawnee EMC generally does not remove trees that threaten the service wire that connects directly to a customer's home. However, the Sawnee EMC can disconnect the service line while tree removal professionals remove the trees.

Right-of-way maintenance

Sawnee EMC's extensive right-of-way maintenance procedures protect power quality and prevent outages by keeping plant growth a reasonable distance from electric lines.

Why is tree trimming necessary? Limbs brushing against lines can cause blinks and temporary outages. If limbs that overhang electric lines are properly managed, you're also less likely to have a prolonged outage when storms occur. The major cause of storm-related outages are when ice or wind breaks limbs that bring our lines crashing

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down. But the most important reason to keep trees trimmed away from power lines is safety. No one wants a tree close enough to a power line that would allow a playful child to climb up and be in danger.

How often do you trim trees? A crew tries to reach every line on the Sawnee EMC system once every three (3) years or more frequently, in some areas.

How much do you trim? Generally, Sawnee EMC has a 15-foot right-of-way on either side of the line. This right-of-way provides a path for maintaining and repairing the lines.

What happens to the limbs cut on my property? Limbs cut during maintenance activity are promptly cleaned up and removed from the property the day they are cut.

What about dead trees and storm damage? SEMC will gladly check dead trees to see if they present a hazard to our power lines. If so, SEMC will be happy to take them down but generally do not remove the related debris. Similarly, limbs and trees that fall on power lines during storms will be removed from the power lines to enable repairs, but generally they are not removed from the property.

Are tree-trimming crews employees of the co-op? In most cases, yes. However, Sawnee EMC also utilizes various companies to perform certain right-of-way maintenance. These contract crews are highly skilled, properly equipped and work closely with the Sawnee EMC employees responsible for maintenance of the co-op's right-of-way.

Standards for trimming

Sawnee EMC's staff and its contractors use trimming methods that utilize lateral pruning method, which was developed by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and approved by the National Arborist Association, and the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Lateral pruning leaves the overall structure of the tree stronger and more resistant to high winds and heavy ice. Future growth is directed away from power lines.

We strive to avoid topping trees (also known as rounding over or shaping) which is NOT endorsed by ISA because it leaves trees susceptible to disease and insect infestation.

Tree replacement program

Sawnee EMC does have a tree replacement program for those trees that are directly under our power lines and that require frequent trimming.

A member of our staff can meet with you to discuss the specifics of this program and to determine if your trees qualify.

Use of herbicides

Sawnee EMC does, in select cases, use herbicides in its right of way maintenance program and has found that a herbicide program is more effective and safer for the environment when compared to mowing of utility right of way.

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A member of our staff can meet with you to discuss the specifics of this program and advise you of how herbicides are selectively applied.

Notification

The staff of Sawnee EMC utilizes two (2) separate methods of member notifications relating to scheduled upcoming right-of-way maintenance. We send postcards, via U.S. Mail, and an email to those members that have an email address on file announcing upcoming right of way activities in your area.

Questions

Feel free to contact us by email (add email address here) or call our Customer Service Center at (770) 887-2363.