

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

POLICY MANUAL

SECTION VIII – Operating Procedures

8.1 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

The cooperative will endeavor to control vegetation under and around the utility lines within its service territory. The vegetation management program will be systematic and employ the most reasonable tools for the job, such as but not limited to clearing, mowing, hand cutting and spraying.

Standards and Methods

The following industry standards for performing tree care operations will be utilized by the cooperative to assure efficiency and facilitate contract specifications. The most recent versions of:

- ANSI A300 (part 7) - Integrated Vegetation Management
- ANSI Z133.1 – Safety Requirements for Arboricultural Operations

The cooperative will employ any of the following methods necessary:

- 1) Right-of-way (ROW) mowing
- 2) Herbicide applications
- 3) Hand cutting and trimming
- 4) Other commonly practiced vegetation control methods

Normal Maintenance Procedures

- 1) Notification to Members will be made in the form of written, verbal or public announcement prior to major line clearance operations.
- 2) When practical and at a Member's request, the Cooperative shall develop and present to Member appropriate facility relocation alternatives in an effort to preserve desirable vegetation. Alternatives shall comply at all times with construction standards utilized by the Cooperative. Member is responsible for member's-share of material, construction and retirement labor, and other charges as specified in the then-current Construction Cost Fee Schedule pursuant to and in accordance with cooperative policy for Moving or Removing Facilities For Convenience of Others, and in accordance with cooperative policy for Service Change From Existing Overhead to Underground, as applicable. Unless approved by Cooperative, member's-share of costs shall be paid in full prior to construction.
- 3) A minimum line clearance of 25 feet from the centerline of the pole will be considered ideal along two-phase and three-phase primary construction. A minimum line clearance of 20 feet from the centerline of the pole may be considered acceptable when work is performed in Member yards, if approved by the cooperative.

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
POLICY MANUAL
SECTION VIII – Operating Procedures
8.2 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

- 4) A minimum line clearance of 15 feet from the centerline of the pole will be considered ideal along single-phase primary construction.
- 5) Ground-to-sky trimming shall be utilized. Consideration may be given to the landowner for bushes and shrubs depending on existing height, existing access and expected growth rate. Any considerations will include a factor for the cooperative's current and future work efficiencies.
- 6) In right-of-way areas and along roadways where primary distribution facilities are present:
 - a) Trees and brush smaller than 8-inch (8") diameter will be shredded with a ROW mower;
 - b) Larger trees will be cut and the tops shredded;
 - c) Logs will be left at the edge of the right-of-way.
- 7) In private yards and urban areas where primary distribution facilities are present:
 - a) Brush and limbs will be chipped and removed;
 - b) Large logs will be cut and left for use or disposal by the Member.
- 8) Where secondary facilities and service lines are present, tree trimming and removal will be regarded as a special service and not part of the systematic clearance schedule. The Area Serviceman can perform the line clearance or drop the service wire so that it can be cleared by the Member or a contractor employed by the Member.
- 9) Basal application of herbicide shall be applied on all hand-cut stumps as soon as practical.
- 10) Foliage application of herbicide shall be performed 1-2 years after the mechanical work is complete and during the active growing season; thereafter on an as-needed basis.

Emergency Procedures

- 1) Minimal cleanup work is acceptable during large storm events and widespread outages.
- 2) Trees that must be trimmed or removed to restore service to Members shall be felled such that they are not criss-crossed atop one another or with electric facilities.

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
POLICY MANUAL
SECTION VIII – Operating Procedures
8.3 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

- 3) Trees downed by acts of nature will not be cleaned up or chipped; they will be cut to the extent necessary to restore service to Members.

Construction and Inspection

- 1) When vegetation management is necessary for the construction of new primary lines, forestry will be notified on the final selection of the corridor so that clearances may be obtained prior to scheduling line construction. If the primary line is to be located on a member's property for the Member's benefit, the Member is responsible for clearing the right-of-way to the standards indicated in Section II prior to line construction being scheduled.
- 2) Regular inspection of the system, by substation, shall be performed no less than on a five-year cycle and prior to all scheduled clearing activities. Trouble spots will be noted and dealt with based on the priority of the encroachment and the availability of crews.

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