

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT:

why it matters to you

Avoiding accidents, keeping your lights on and saving money. Individually, any of these is a reason to keep trees away from power lines. Together, they are a trifecta of inspiration. As your consumer-member-owned utility, Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative works hard to prevent these situations through a proactive vegetation management program.

AVOIDING ACCIDENTS

VEGETATION NEVER STOPS GROWING. WHEN A TREE TOUCHES A POWER LINE, THE TREE ACTS AS A CONDUCTOR AND INCREASES THE RISK OF INJURY AND EVEN DEATH. CHILDREN CLIMBING TREES, HOMEOWNERS USING LADDERS AND FARM EQUIPMENT, AND LINE WORKERS CAN ALL BE AT RISK.



Understandably, tree trimming and cutting as well as herbicide spraying are sensitive issues. However, with so much at risk, it is easy to understand why vegetation management is one of MLEC's biggest expenses. Our program uses a variety of approved, environmentally sound methods. Our trimming practices are in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture and the National Arbor Day Foundation recommended guidelines and standards for good tree health. Likewise, sprays utilized by MLEC contractors are registered with the Environmental Protection Agency and administered by licensed applicators.

“BY KEEPING TREES AND POWER EQUIPMENT A SAFE DISTANCE FROM EACH OTHER, MLEC IS ABLE TO INSURE SAFE, AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE POWER,” SAYS MLEC RIGHT-OF-WAY COORDINATOR JOSH MCDONALD. “WE KNOW HOMEOWNERS ARE NOT ALWAYS IN FAVOR OF CUTTING TREES AND SPRAYING, BUT MLEC TRIES TO EDUCATE, COMMUNICATE AND PARTNER WITH OUR MEMBERS TO FIND A BALANCE.”

Announcements are shared with local media and on our online platforms when work is scheduled for a particular area. To learn more about MLEC's vegetation management program, visit www.mlec.com or email us at power@mlec.com.