

What to expect before vegetation management

- Bluebonnet's contractors or employees contact property owners one to two weeks before planned inspections or maintenance is performed within easements on their property.
- A door or gate hanger may be left in advance of planned work, but a property owner may not be notified in advance if there is a power outage if there is a power outage because of maintenance.



Contractors' vehicles should display their company logo and Bluebonnet's logo.

How to identify Bluebonnet's contractors and employees

- Bluebonnet hires contractors to clear rights-of-way. They wear their Bluebonnet labeled uniforms and have a Bluebonnet contractor sign on the side of their company's vehicle.
- Bluebonnet employees wear Bluebonnet uniform shirts and hard hats and have the Bluebonnet logo on their vehicles.

Call 811 before you dig

Before you dig on your property, please call 811 to learn the location of underground utility lines. Call at least 48 hours before you dig.



Those green boxes may look interesting, especially to kids, but they house high-voltage equipment and should not be climbed on. Keep them clear of vegetation.

Stay safe around underground lines

- Large green transformer boxes or the smaller junction boxes often seen in subdivisions should not be obstructed or painted. Trees, shrubs, fencing, decks or decorations, such as planters must be at least 5 feet from the sides and back of the boxes and 10 feet from the front. Nothing should be placed on top of the boxes.
- No one should climb or sit on the boxes.
- The boxes are locked and can only be opened by Bluebonnet employees or authorized contractors to make repairs or restore power.
- If a box is opened, damaged or defaced, please immediately call Bluebonnet at 800-842-7708.

Is your contact info up to date?

Make sure Bluebonnet has your current phone number on file in case we need to reach you.



RIGHT-OF-WAY & TREE TRIMMING

Keeping power lines safe



Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative works to provide reliable power and keep its members and utility workers safe.

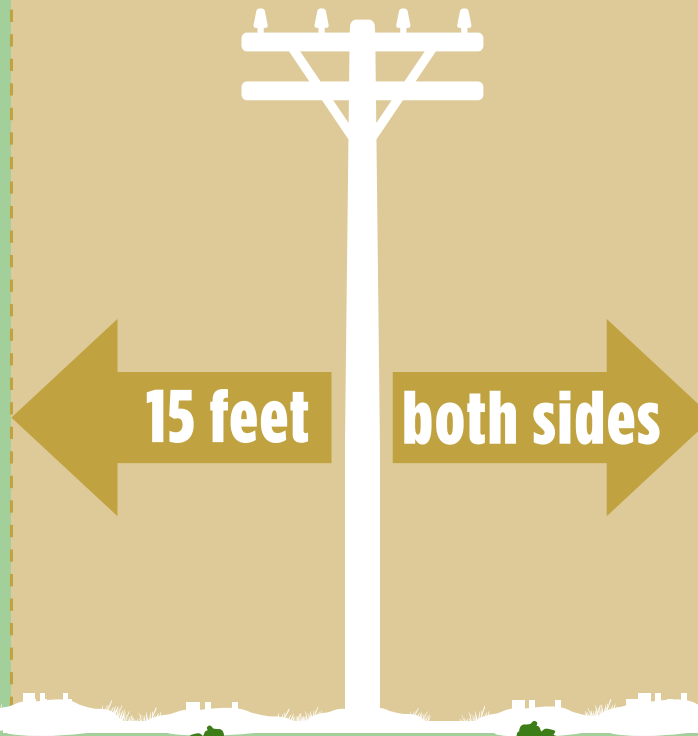
That is why we need power lines need to be clear of trees, limbs and other vegetation. Vegetation that's too close to power lines may damage equipment, cause outages and pose a threat to the public.

Only authorized Bluebonnet employees or contractors are permitted to perform maintenance on or around power lines.

TREES AND POWER LINES DO NOT MIX

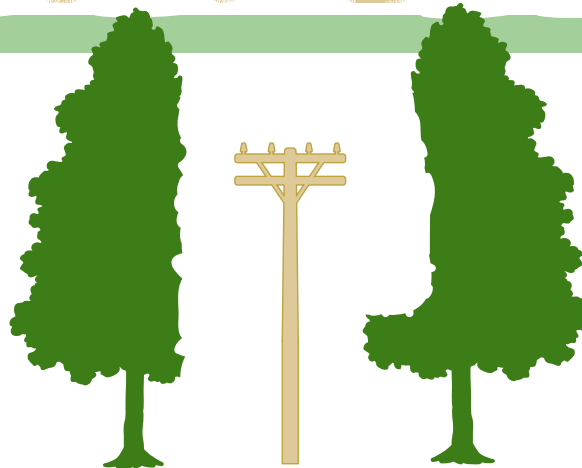
What is a utility easement or right-of-way?

A utility easement, also known as a right-of-way easement, is a written agreement that gives Bluebonnet and its contractors the right to access a landowner's property to construct, operate and maintain the cooperative's electric system facilities. That work includes checking for trees or other vegetation that pose potential threats to our facilities, prune or remove those trees or vegetation, or restore power in an outage. Crews also work in the right-of-way to repair, replace and upgrade Bluebonnet's equipment or system.



Plant the right tree in right place

Bluebonnet's easements are typically 30 feet wide — 15 feet on either side of the center of the power line — and run the length of power lines. The distance is wider on transmission lines: 30 to 50 feet on either side of the lines. Trees should be planted at least as far away from the easement in feet as they will grow in height. For example, a tree that can grow to 40 feet tall should be planted at least 40 feet away from the edge of our easement, or at least 55 feet from our power lines.



Although cutting from ground to sky is best, trees can be trimmed in a side cut or a L-shaped cut to ensure their health and sustainability while keeping branches a safe distance from power lines.

How and why trees are cut

Pruning trees and limbs to keep them at least 15 feet away from power lines reduces the frequency of tree-related outages. Bluebonnet and its contractors adhere to the best management practices when cutting trees within rights-of-way, in order to keep the public and workers safe. When a tree or limb comes into contact with a power line, it may cause an outage.