

## AUGUST IS THE 2016 SUMMER SHIFT GRAND FINALE!

Do the Summer Shift: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays

As we begin August of 2016, we are entering the final month in Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative's fifth year of working together to help control our incremental summer wholesale power charges. Your participation is so much appreciated! We have been hearing about all your great efforts as we have seen members throughout the summer around the community.

We are so thankful for the contribution each of our members makes as you determine which appliances or other electrical items you can shift to before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m. You are making a difference that benefits our cooperative community as well as your own budget every time you make a Summer Shift.

Last month we took a look at a collective value for wholesale costs that we will avoid based on members shifting their air conditioner temperatures up four degrees for a



few hours as well as shifting the time they run dishwashers and do their laundry. Remember our estimated savings of approximately \$53,282 for the summer?

This month, we want to encourage you to continue participating in the Summer Shift through August. You can help by shifting some electricity use to before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m. summer weekdays. These are the peak energy demand hours (the "electricity rush hours") in our region. That means they are the hours that most tax the resources that generate and transmit our electricity to our region, making it more expensive to provide for the higher energy demand during these hours.

Please continue participating in the Summer Shift this month by trying a few of these suggestions:

- Turn off any unneeded lights and electronics (turn electronics off at the surge strip when possible).
- Delay television watching and computer battery charging until after 7 p.m.
- Run appliances like clothes washers and dryers and dishwashers before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m.
- Delay using hot water until after 7 p.m. so your water heater recharges after 7 p.m.
- Set the thermostat on your air conditioning equipment or heat pump up three or four degrees from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. If you have a digital thermostat, you can even make this automatic!
- Shift the timer settings for running pool or spa heaters.
- Use ceiling fans and close drapes to help the air conditioner even more.

Every effort you make to shift electricity use outside of these "electricity rush hours" will reward you and your fellow members—you make a difference! We hope you will decide to make a few small changes in energy habits to contribute to savings for yourself and Chippewa Valley Electric's entire member community.

If you would like to read further, take a look at this link from the U.S. Department of Energy: <http://energy.gov/articles/resolve-save-energy-year>. Call Chippewa Valley Electric at 715.239.6800 with any questions you have.

Thank you for your participation in this valuable effort. Keep doing the Summer Shift!



# CVEC'S RIGHT-OF-WAY AND PLANTING GUIDE

A clear right-of-way (ROW) reduces power outages and improves safety for everyone. Chippewa Valley Electric's ROW program requires removing vegetation, typically from a 20-foot corridor on both sides of power lines to ensure safe conditions and reliable power. After the initial clearing, CVEC continues with regular maintenance. We appreciate the cooperation of our members.

## Why is a clear right-of-way important?

We all enjoy trees, but when they interfere with power lines, reliability and safety are compromised. That's why it's important to remove trees, branches, and brush from the ROW. Trees and vegetation in the ROW:

- Cause power outages
- Cause lights to blink
- Obstruct visual inspections, making repairs difficult and costly
- Block access for maintenance and repairs, causing delays
- Waste electricity by drawing it into the ground
- Become a fire hazard—Chippewa Valley Electric works with the DNR to help prevent forest fires by removing trees near high-voltage power lines.
- Become a safety hazard for utility workers and members—Children and adults should never climb, trim, or touch trees that contact power lines.

## How is the right-of-way cleared?

CVEC treats all members equally when removing vegetation. In most cases, all shrubs, brush, and trees are removed under primary (main), high-voltage overhead power lines. They are also removed, as necessary, underneath and around secondary, low-voltage power lines that bring power from the transformer to your meter.

Cutting and trimming is done by trained, professional utility tree trimmers using specific and proven standards typical to the industry.

The electric system is regularly inspected for dead, dying, and leaning danger trees. When found, they are marked and then trimmed or removed to eliminate threat to power lines.

**LOOK UP BEFORE PLANTING TREES!**

Chippewa Valley Electric has and maintains the right-of-way where its lines are located. Typically, that right-of-way is a 20-foot area each side of the pole line. Any trees within that right-of-way are subject to removal. Please avoid having your trees removed and plant outside of the established right-of-way.

Thank you for your cooperation! If you have any questions please contact our office at (715) 239-6800 or by email at [cvec@cvecoop.com](mailto:cvec@cvecoop.com).

## What happens to the cut wood and chips?

Logs are the property of the landowner. Branches and small debris are left to decompose where they're cut. In maintained yards, branches and small debris are chipped and removed unless otherwise requested by the member. You may add your name to a waiting list for wood chips, and we may be able to bring a load to your property on a first-come, first-serve basis when we're cutting in your area. Chips are mixed wood, leaves, and pine needles. For chips or wood information, call 715-239-6800.

## What happens if I plant in the right-of-way?

In the best interest of all members, new plantings are not allowed in the right-of-way. Upon notification, plants need to be transplanted or removed.

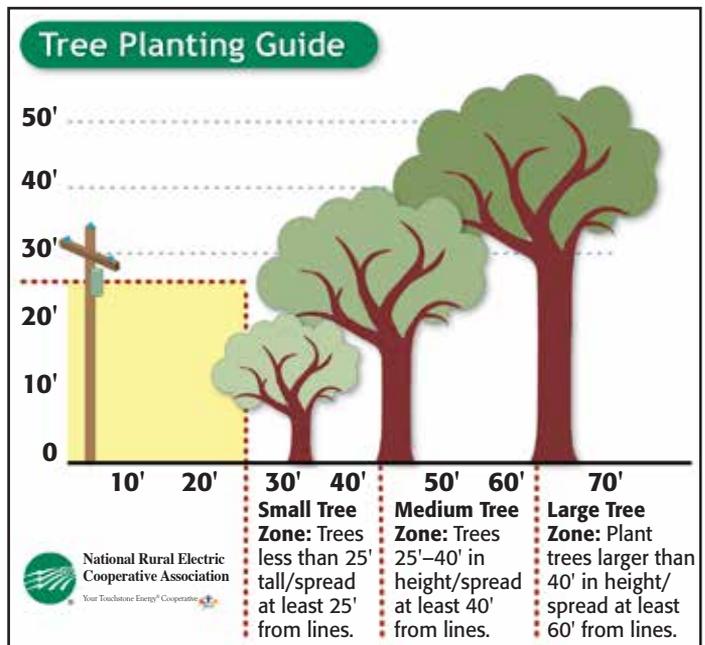
## Can power lines be buried?

In some situations, upon landowner request, overhead power lines may be reconstructed underground. Contact CVEC about costs, easements, and other requirements.

## Yard planting guide

All vegetation must be planted away from power lines, so that mature branches cannot grow into the ROW. Vegetation that is planted or grows into the ROW needs to be cut or trimmed. Vegetation within 20 feet on either side of the power line is at risk for removal due to power line maintenance, repair, and replacement. For safe, reliable electric service, follow the guidelines below.

Also, keep areas around electric meters and green transformer boxes clear of vegetation and obstructions that could limit access for repairs, and dial 811 or 800-242-8511 to have underground lines and cables located before you start digging.





# Choose the right tools for outdoor projects

**D**o-it-yourself projects can be overwhelming, and you can sometimes find yourself in over your head. However, that is never an excuse for not knowing what is actually over your head, as in overhead electric wires. Knowing where power lines and other potential hazards are should be part of the planning process for any do-it-yourself project.

Before starting a job, survey the area to find any power lines or other potential hazards. If you discover a possible hazard, take the proper steps to avoid it and make sure everyone involved in the project is aware of it. Other safety tips for do-it-yourself projects include:

- Use caution when using long tools like ladders, pool skimmers, and pruning poles to keep them from getting near power lines.
- Keep equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from power lines.
- Never trim trees near power lines. Leave that to the professionals. Please

call Chippewa Valley Electric if you need a tree trimmed or cut that is near the co-op's power lines.

- Never use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines. Contact a professional maintenance contractor.
- If it is raining or the ground is wet, do not use electric power or yard tools.



- Never use electrical appliances or touch circuit breakers or fuses when you are wet or standing in water. Keep electric equipment at least 10 feet from wet areas.
- Use only extension cords that are rated for outdoor use when working outside. Keep your work area tidy, and do not allow your power cords to tangle.
- Use heavy-duty, three-prong extension cords for tools with three-prong plugs. Never remove or bend back the third prong on extension cords. It is a safety feature designed to reduce the risk of electrocution or shock.
- Make sure outlets in garages and outdoors are equipped with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI).

If you do find yourself in over your head, don't just wing it, especially when it comes to working with electricity. Call a licensed professional to help you finish the job.

For more information on electrical safety, go to [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



# We have expanded our Med-A-Lert offerings to better meet the needs of our clients!

Today we are introducing three new offerings to our Med-A-Lert service.



## Med-A-Lert *in case of emergency*

We still have our **Basic** package, with Linear equipment, tried and true, and only **\$25/month**.



We have added an option with **Fall Detection**. We still use the Linear system, but have added a pendant that has a Fall Detection feature. The Linear system with Fall Detection is only **\$27/month**. This pendant is water resistant (not waterproof as with the Basic package), and has a replaceable battery.



Two-way voice is now an option with our **Enhanced** system. This system has all the features of our Basic package, but in addition allows you to communicate with the Response Center directly via the pendant. This is a great option for those who are frequently outside of the home, gardening, doing yardwork, or even going to the mailbox. A spare rechargeable battery for the pendant is kept charged in the base unit. The Enhanced system is only **\$30/month**.



*All of the above systems have the basic requirements: Working landline phone jack & power receptacle*

Complete mobility is available for the active individual with the **Mobile SentryPal** option. The SentryPal is a cellular device, about 2 inches square. Pressing the alert button on the unit immediately puts you in direct contact with the Response Center. Your location is sent along with the call. Alerts can be sent as a text message to a number you choose to notify of an event, low battery, or power on/off. The cellular service provider is AT&T. The SentryPal is an option wherever there is reliable AT&T cellular coverage. The mobile system is **\$35/month**.



Installation is available with all of our systems for a one-time fee of \$38.50. During the installation we will review all of the features of the system, place a test call, and verify the list of responders.

**CALL TODAY – 715.239.6800 or 800.300.6800**

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**Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative**

*CVEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*