



Why You're Seeing More Tree Crews



Scott Spence
President & CEO

If you've noticed more tree crews working throughout Tri-County Electric Cooperative's service area this year, you're not imagining it.

What you're seeing is one of the Cooperative's largest investments in reliability in recent years.

Just as importantly, you're seeing what disciplined stewardship looks like.

Over the past two years, Tri-County Electric Cooperative has strengthened its financial position by reducing debt, lowering interest expense, improving cash flow, and creating greater financial flexibility. Those decisions were never made simply to improve financial metrics.

They were made so the Cooperative could invest more aggressively in the electric system while continuing to keep electric rates stable.

Today, those investments are becoming even more visible.

The Best Outage Is the One That Never Occurs

Every electric utility invests in poles, wire, substations, and technology because those investments help restore power more quickly when outages occur.

Tree trimming and tree removal accomplish something different. They often prevent the outage from occurring at all.

Trees remain one of the leading causes of power outages across the industry, including here at Tri-County Electric. Branches contacting power lines, or entire trees falling during storms, interrupt service, increase restoration costs, and create safety risks.

Keeping trees away from power lines reduces those risks before they become outages.

The best outage is the one that never occurs.

INSIDE

- ✓ **SPECIAL FEATURE: Trees & Outages**
- ✓ Heat Safety Tips
- ✓ Round Up program
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IMPORTANT DATES

July 10

Board of Directors
Applications due by 5 p.m.

BUSINESS HOURS

Monday - Thursday

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday

8 a.m. - 12 noon

Azle and Keller:
drive through, payments only
Granbury: lobby, payments only

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ENHANCING MEMBER SERVICE

Trees Don't Grow Into Power Lines Overnight

The work Members are seeing today addresses years of tree growth that accumulated over time.

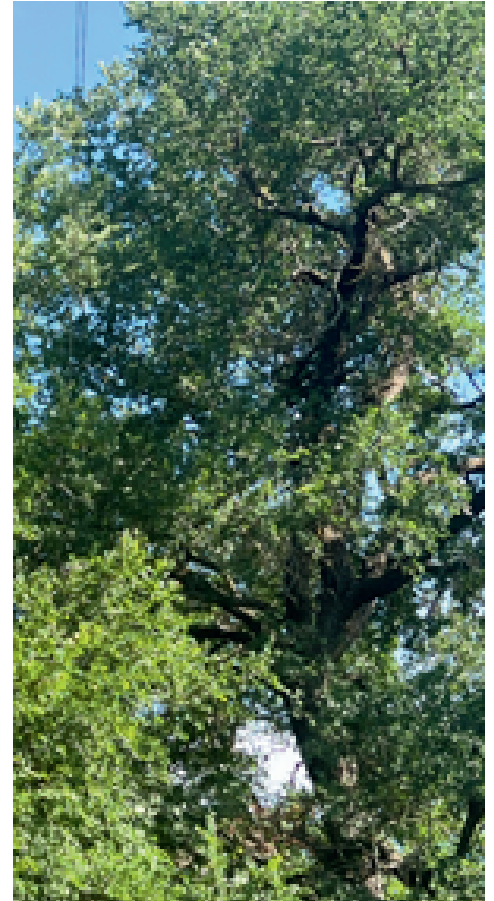
Trees don't grow into power lines overnight, and restoring proper clearances across thousands of miles of electric line doesn't happen overnight either.

Like many of the Cooperative's long-term challenges, this one developed over years—not months. Addressing it requires the same disciplined, sustained approach that has strengthened the Cooperative's financial position over the past two years: identifying long-standing issues, making deliberate investments, and solving problems one step at a time.

Neither the legacy financial challenges nor the legacy operational challenges are created overnight, and neither will be solved overnight.

This effort is not simply a response to recent storms. It is part of a long-term commitment to building a stronger electric system and establishing a sustainable maintenance cycle that will benefit you for years to come.

The same discipline that strengthened the Cooperative's financial position is now strengthening the electric system it serves.



Financial Strength Creates Options



This year, Tri-County increased its annual investment in tree trimming from approximately \$8 million to approximately \$15 million.

That investment was made possible because disciplined financial stewardship created options that simply did not exist a short time ago.

Financial health was never the destination.

Financial strength has created better options to enhance member service, consistent with our mission of providing safe and reliable service at the lowest possible cost.

In this case, it created the opportunity to accelerate one of the most effective reliability improvements available while continuing to keep rates stable for you.

That is exactly what good stewardship should accomplish.

ENHANCING MEMBER SERVICE

More Than Tree Trimming

Keeping trees away from power lines is about much more than cutting trees. It is one of the few investments that improves nearly every aspect of operating an electric system.

It helps:

- **Improve reliability** by reducing one of the leading causes of power outages before interruptions occur.
- **Enhance public and employee safety** by reducing the risk of trees contacting energized power lines and creating hazardous conditions.
- **Reduce storm damage and restoration costs** by limiting the number of trees that can damage electric facilities during severe weather.
- **Support long-term stewardship** by strengthening system resilience, supporting Texas' growing focus on wildfire mitigation, and helping ensure every reliability dollar invested delivers lasting value.

Few investments improve reliability, safety, and long-term value for you as effectively as keeping trees away from power lines.

What Members Will See Next

Tree crews will continue working throughout the Cooperative's service territory in the months ahead.

Some of that work may temporarily affect traffic, require access near power lines, or change the appearance of familiar areas. Those inconveniences are understandable, and your patience is appreciated.

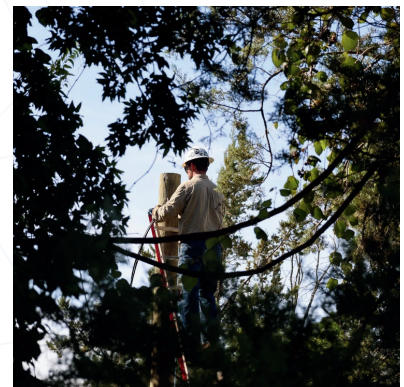
Every mile completed represents another investment in a stronger electric system.

Not every tree that is trimmed or removed is dead, diseased, or unhealthy. Sometimes a healthy tree simply becomes a reliability and safety risk because of where it has grown in relation to power lines. The goal is never to remove more trees than necessary. The goal is to reduce outages before they happen—for the property owner, their neighbors, and every Member who depends on that section of the electric system.

Trees didn't grow into power lines overnight, and they won't all be cleared overnight. But every tree removed today reduces the likelihood of an outage tomorrow, while keeping rates as low as possible.

Financial health was never the destination. Financial strength created options. Today, Members are beginning to see what those options look like with a more reliable and safer electric provider.

To learn more—including maps of current work areas, before-and-after photos, answers to frequently asked questions, and additional information about this reliability investment—visit tcectexas.com/vegetation-management.



ENHANCING MEMBER SERVICE

Reliability, Safety, and Wildfire Protection Are Connected

Clearing trees away from lines does more than prevent outages. It also lowers wildfire risk, something Texas has moved to address since the [2024 Panhandle wildfires](#). Recent state action reflects that shift:

- **2025:** [Texas House Bill 145](#) took effect, requiring electric utilities and cooperatives in wildfire-risk areas to file [wildfire mitigation plans](#) with the state.
- **November 2025:** The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) adopted the rule that puts the law into practice.
- **April 2026:** The PUCT released a [standardized blueprint](#) to guide how those plans are built.

Clearing trees from our lines is one of the most direct ways we meet that responsibility and keep your power on.

Respect the Heat at Work and Home

When it comes to providing safe and reliable power at the lowest possible cost, the word Tri-County pays the most attention to is **safe**. For half of June, at least part of Tri-County's service area was under a National Weather Service Heat Advisory. Tri-County field crews face that heat on top of the everyday risks of working on power lines.

[The Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\)](#) reports that thousands of people become ill from heat exposure each year, and some cases are fatal.

Whether at home or work, give your body time to adjust to the heat with these tips:

- Drink plenty of fluids, like water or sports drinks
- Take breaks often
- Learn the symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke
- If someone shows signs of heat illness, cool them down right away and call 911

Round Up: Spare Change, Real Relief

Higher temperatures can mean higher bills, and the need for bill assistance grows through the summer. [The Round Up program](#) is a simple way to help. Your monthly bill rounds up to the next dollar, and the difference goes to Cooperative Giving, TCEC's bill-assistance program for members who need help covering energy costs.

Most members give about 50 cents a month through Round Up. Learn more or enroll at tcectexas.com/cooperative-giving.

Get Rebates on Your Cooling System

There's still time to get your heat pump tuned up for better efficiency and comfort, and earn a bill credit for it. Had to replace a unit? There's a rebate for that, too.

Through [Tri-County's Energy Efficiency Rebate](#) program, a tune-up can earn up to \$125, and a qualifying new heat pump or mini-split up to \$200.

See if you qualify at tcectexas.com/energy-efficiency-rebates.



**Funds are limited and first come, first served.
These rebates are paid from unclaimed funds, not by members.**

ENHANCING MEMBER SERVICE

Smart Habits for Summer

Stay comfortable when the temperature climbs. These low and no-cost ideas come from the U.S.

Department of Energy:

- Keep the house warmer when no one's home, then cool it when you return. A programmable thermostat handles this for you.
- Use ceiling fans to feel cooler, and turn them off when you leave the room.
- Close blinds and curtains during the day to block heat from the sun.
- Seal leaks around doors and windows so cool air stays inside.
- Keep vents and filters clear and schedule regular maintenance so your system runs efficiently.

More tips at energy.gov/energysaver.

Set It and Forget It with AutoPay



Never miss a due date again! With AutoPay, your TCEC bill is paid automatically from your bank account or

card each month. No checks, no late fees, and one less thing to track during a busy summer.

Sign up at tcectexas.com/ways-to-pay.

Director Elections: Apply by July 10

Three Tri-County Board of Directors seats are up this year, representing Districts 1, 2, and 4.

Members who have lived in their district for at least three years (TCEC Bylaws Section 2.3) can apply through **5 p.m. on Thursday, July 10**.

Check the left side of page two on your bill or use the interactive map at tcectexas.com/director-elections to find your district or download an application.

Remaining key dates:

- **July 10:** application deadline
- **July 31:** candidate review and interviews complete
- **August 7:** petition nomination deadline
- **August 12:** final candidate list confirmed
- **September 8 - 17:** voting period
- **September 22:** results announced at the Virtual Annual Meeting.



HELPFUL LINKS



Outage Center



Cooperative Giving



Power Cost
Recovery Tracker



Ways to Pay



Office Locations



Member
Information Center