



GM'S REPORT

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

The importance of proper line clearance



Don Englet
GENERAL MANAGER

When adding a new structure to your property, there are many factors to take into consideration: Is this a do-it-yourself project or should you hire a contractor? What are the dimensions? Which materials should you use?

Another question you must ask yourself — and one that is often

overlooked — is whether the distance between the proposed construction and the nearest overhead power line is sufficient. Whether you're building a barn or garage, erecting grain bins, or installing a swimming pool, Firelands Electric Cooperative wants to remind our members that skipping this key step can be extremely dangerous, and even deadly.

By the numbers

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, contact with overhead power lines by a person or equipment resulted in 582 work-related fatalities between 2011 and 2021. Of these fatal contacts, 69% happened to those in non-electrical occupations.

In addition, the National Ag Safety Database says that an average of 62 farm workers are electrocuted every year, with the most common cause being contact with overhead power lines. And none of the statistics above account for non-work-related fatalities, burns, or other injuries attributed to overhead power line contacts.

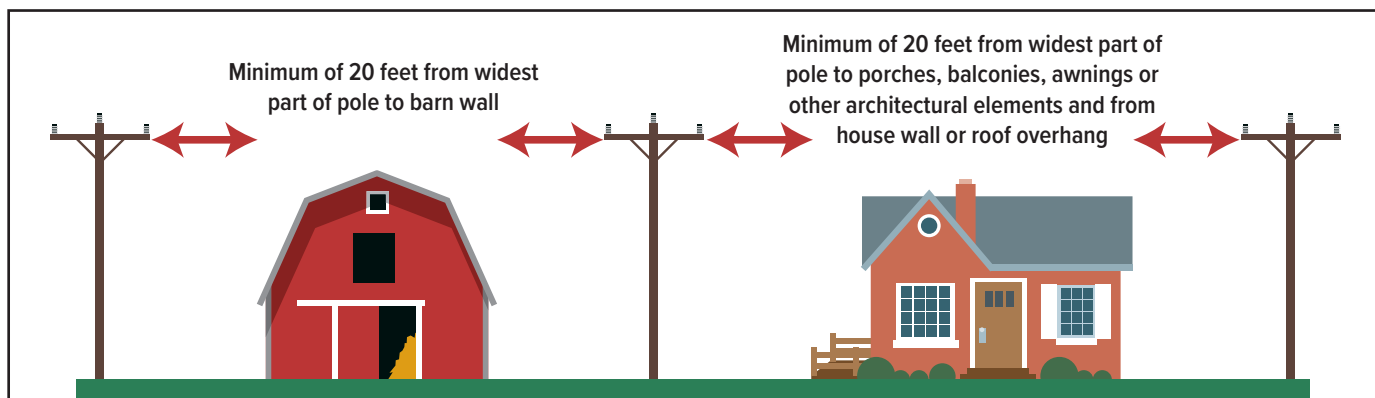
Build smart

For the safety of your family, neighbors, and community, it's important to adhere to the guidelines established by the National Electrical Safety Code and Firelands Electric Cooperative when putting up any structure. Buildings, swimming pools, ponds, and grain bins should not have any power lines running overhead. (The only exception is a service drop that directly connects a building to the power supply.)

When it comes to overhead power lines and utility poles positioned alongside of a barn, garage, or shed, maintain a distance of at least 20 feet. This also applies to the space between a balcony, awning, or other protruding architectural element. The distance required between a grain bin and power lines varies and depends on the bin's height, type of auger, and proximity to the roadway. See the illustration on the next page for examples.

While the graphics included with this article depict basic power line clearance requirements, Firelands Electric

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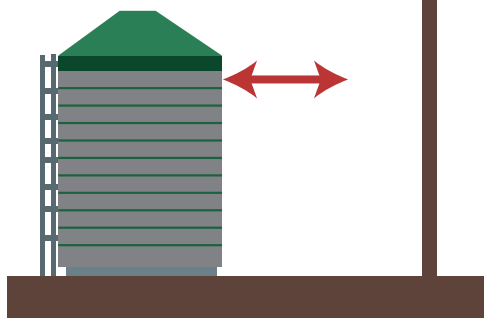
FIRELANDS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES

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always encourages members to contact the cooperative before they break ground on a new project. Taking this extra step before you build could prevent the need for expensive changes down the road.

If you are considering construction projects such as a swimming pool, grain bin, building addition, or outbuilding, or even relocating existing ones, please contact Firelands' Operations Department at 1-800-533-8658 first. Our engineering operations coordinator is happy to assist in the safe planning of your project. Your co-op is here to help you maintain a safe environment for you and your family — and to prevent mistakes that could endanger lives.

The required distance between the widest part of a utility pole to a grain bin depends upon several factors, including the bin's height.



Height of grain bin	Minimum distance from pole to bin*
15 feet	55 feet
25 feet	80 feet
35 feet	104 feet
50 feet	143 feet
70 feet	193 feet

*These measurements are provided as general guidelines only. Members planning to add any type of grain storage on their property should contact the co-op prior to installation for guidelines specific to their situation.

Join us for the

2025 CARDINAL POWER PLANT TOUR

Wednesday, Oct. 1

If you are interested in attending this year's tour and would like to request seats for you and a guest on the Cardinal tour bus, please visit www.firelandsec.com/power-supply. Members may also sign up by contacting the member services department at members@firelandsec.com or by calling 1-800-533-8658.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCAVENGER HUNT

September is month five of our six-month contest!

To enter, submit or post a photo of something in your home, garage, barn, or business that fits the monthly theme by the 25th of each month. The next deadline is Sept. 25.

WIN A
\$25
bill credit

September's theme: WATER HEATERS

- Entries can be submitted by:
- Posting your photo on your Facebook page and tagging the co-op
- Emailing your photo to members@firelandsec.com
- Visit www.firelandsec.com/contests for complete details.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

SCOTT'S ENERGY SPOT: WATER HEATER SAVINGS

Efficiency tips from Firelands Electric's energy advisor



Scott Carbary
ENERGY ADVISOR

As your cooperative's energy advisor, one of the most common questions I get asked is "What are some quick, easy, and cheap improvements I can do myself that will yield noticeable results?"

Upgrades made to one of the three largest energy users in your home will create the biggest savings. Heating and cooling systems make up the top two users. Combined,

they account for 50% to 52% of a home's total energy consumption, according to the US Energy Information Administration.

Water heating is the third system on this large energy user list, at 20% to 30% of your total consumption. Let's take a look at some tips that members can use to reduce the impact of water heating on their energy bills:

1. If your water heater is more than seven or eight years old, consider wrapping the tank with one of the insulating blankets available at most big-box DIY stores. As reported by the Department of Energy, this \$40 to \$50 investment can result in savings of 7% to 16% of your tank's energy consumption.
2. Lowering the settings on the two thermostats to approximately 120 degrees will reduce standby heat loss and energy consumption by 4% to 22%. Note that for proper operation of your water heater, the lower thermostat should be set at a slightly higher temperature than the top thermostat.
3. Insulating the first six feet of the hot- and cold-water lines coming out of the water heater will keep the water hotter longer and reduce heating cycles and heat loss via the pipes.
4. Installing low-flow showerheads and faucets in your home lowers the consumption of hot water, which reduces the time your tank needs to run. Fixtures rated at two gallons or less per minute are considered low flow.
5. Performing routine maintenance improves efficiency and extends the life of your water heater. For example, every six to 12 months, drain two to three gallons of water from the bottom of the tank to remove sediment buildup that could be negatively impacting your unit's performance.
6. While it's a bit more advanced type of DIY project, installing a smart controller can optimize your existing tank for maximum efficiency. A smart controller will learn your water usage patterns and adjust the heating cycles. Several different models are available online and all are fairly easy to install. These controllers are usually in the \$150 to \$225 range, not including installation.

If you have additional questions about the efficiency of your water heater, please reach out to the energy experts at your cooperative by calling 1-800-533-8658.





CO-OP CONTESTS

Lunch with a LINEMAN

Local students win behind-the-scenes look at co-op

Three area elementary students recently had the unique opportunity to take a private tour of Firelands Electric Cooperative and have lunch with some of our linemen.

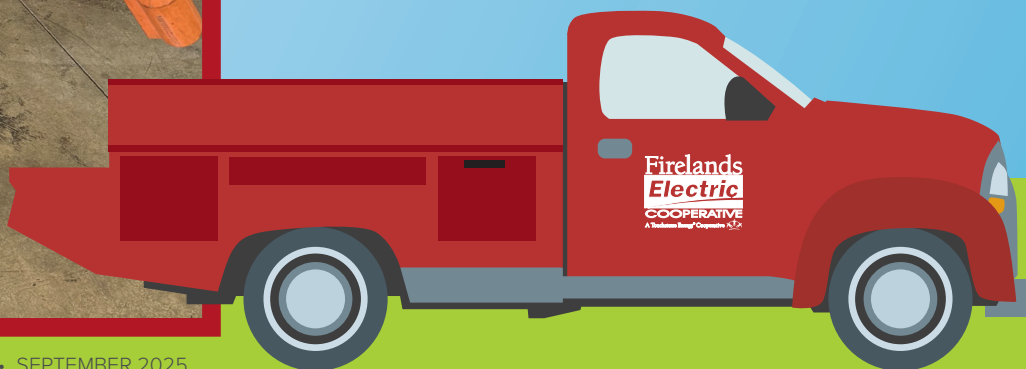
In May, as part of National Electrical Safety Month, Firelands Electric sponsored a contest for children in kindergarten through fifth grade to help them learn about the importance of working and playing safely around electricity. Students who submitted the safety quiz entry form had their names entered into a drawing to win a look behind-the-scenes at the cooperative.

On the morning of July 23, Emmet Mitchell, Caleb Rector, and Rebekah LaGoy and their adult guests toured the cooperative's facilities in New London and got an up-close view of the tools and equipment used by our line crews. Firelands linemen Chris Kent, Jake White, and Evan Clemons helped the students try on safety equipment, test out tools, check out a bucket truck, and learn about pole climbing. Students and their adult guests also joined the three linemen for a lunch of pizza, chips, and brownies. Each winner went home with a bag of electrical safety activities, Firelands swag, and his or her own junior lineman hard hat.

"This event is an excellent opportunity for the co-op to connect with the younger members of our community," says Communications and Member Relations Specialist Tracy Gibb. "This is our third Lunch with a Lineman, and we are excited to see the number of entries continue to grow every year."



To view additional photos from Firelands Electric Cooperative's recent events, scan the QR code or visit www.flickr.com/photos/firelandsec/albums.





Above, Emmet Mitchell of New London (left), and Caleb Rector (center) and Rebekah LaGoy (right), both of Ashland, spent the morning of July 23 getting an exclusive, behind-the-scenes look at the cooperative as part of our annual Lunch with a Lineman safety contest.





YOUTH PROGRAMS



Education helps shape the leaders of tomorrow. That's why Firelands Electric includes it as one of our seven core principles. The A Team is a cooperative program designed to encourage students in their pursuit of academic excellence. Students in grades 6 to 8 are invited to participate and be recognized for their hard work and dedication to education.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Winners of July drawing receive \$15 gift cards



Nathan Willis
New London Middle School



Evelyn Harris
New London Middle School

Send us your grade card and win!
Next drawing is Dec. 10.

How you can win

Students in grades 6 to 8 who have a minimum of three A's on their most recent report card and whose parents or guardians are members of Firelands Electric Cooperative are eligible to apply. A copy of the report card should be submitted by mail to Attn: The A Team, Firelands Electric Cooperative, 103 Industrial Drive, New London, OH 44851. Report cards may also be emailed to members@firelandsec.com.

Be sure to include the student's name, school, grade, address, phone number, parents' or guardians' name(s), and an email address on your entry.

Complete program details are also available at www.firelandsec.com/team.



Alex Hause
Seneca East Middle School



20th Anniversary



CURRENT POSITION: DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Shelley Magyar

ROOKIE YEAR: 2005

**STARTING POSITION:
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

SPOUSE: DAVE ANDRIJOWYCH

FAMILY: STEPDAUGHTERS EVE AND ADDY

**BIGGEST FANS: CATS GRACIE, IZZIE, AND
LEXIE AND PUPPY COOPER**

**PREVIOUS TEAMS: 9-1-1 DISPATCH AND
FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC**

**FAVORITES: AMUSEMENT PARKS,
PHOTOGRAPHY, DIET COKE,
AND REESE'S PEANUT
BUTTER CUPS**

COOPERATIVE YOUTH DAY

OCT. 23, 2025

Do you know a high school student interested in history, government, or politics? Encourage them to apply for Cooperative Youth Day in Columbus, on Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025.

Firelands Electric will be selecting up to 25 students who attend one of the schools in or around the co-op's service territory (Ashland, Huron, Lorain, or Richland counties) to join us for this FREE, all-day chartered bus trip. Selected participants will tour the Ohio Statehouse, meet with legislators, and visit the Statehouse Museum and nearby Ohio History Center.



**APPLICANTS DO NOT NEED TO BE
COOPERATIVE MEMBERS TO APPLY.**

APPLY BY:

SEPTEMBER 19

www.firelandsec.com/cooperative-youth-day



COOPERATIVE UPDATE

BOARD MEETING *highlights*

Firelands Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees met June 24 and covered the following items:

- Board President Dan Schloemer reported that the cooperative received 33 membership applications for approval by the board.
- General Manager Don Englet reviewed the monthly safety and training, tree-trimming, and personnel reports.
- Director of Operations Rick Bowers reported on activities in the operations department.
- Englet discussed the monthly outage report, including two events in late May due to fallen trees.
- The board viewed a recording of a recent NRECA Governance Talk regarding safety.
- Englet reviewed the upcoming mailing of capital credits allocation notices for 2024.
- The board discussed opportunities to attend upcoming conferences, including the OEC Summer Conference and the NRECA Regional Meeting.
- Director of Finance and Accounting Tabi Shepherd reviewed the May financial reports and provided an update on recent accounting and billing department activities, including the co-op's financial forecast.
- Director of Communications and IT Andrea Gravenhorst reported on recent activities involving the member services and IT departments, including the upcoming Akron RubberDucks game for key accounts and plans for the Cardinal Power Plant tour scheduled for Oct. 1.

Firelands Electric Co-op is democratically controlled and governed by local people committed to policies that result in a safe and reliable electric system, fair rates, financial responsibility, and superior member service.

The cooperative's next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 23. If you would like to attend the next scheduled meeting, please contact the Firelands Electric office at 1-800-533-8658.

FIRELANDS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

OUTAGE HOTLINE

1-800-533-8658

OFFICE

103 Industrial Drive
New London, OH 44851
1-800-533-8658

OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
www.firelandsec.com



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dan Schloemer
President, District 1

Kevin Reidy
Vice President, District 6

Carl Ayers
Secretary/Treasurer, District 5

Joe Williams
District 2

Tom Lucha
District 3

Lon Burton
District 4

Greg Hess
District 7

Adrian Finlay
District 8

Brian Cucco
District 9

GENERAL MANAGER

Don Englet

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

Email your ideas to:
members@firelandsec.com

