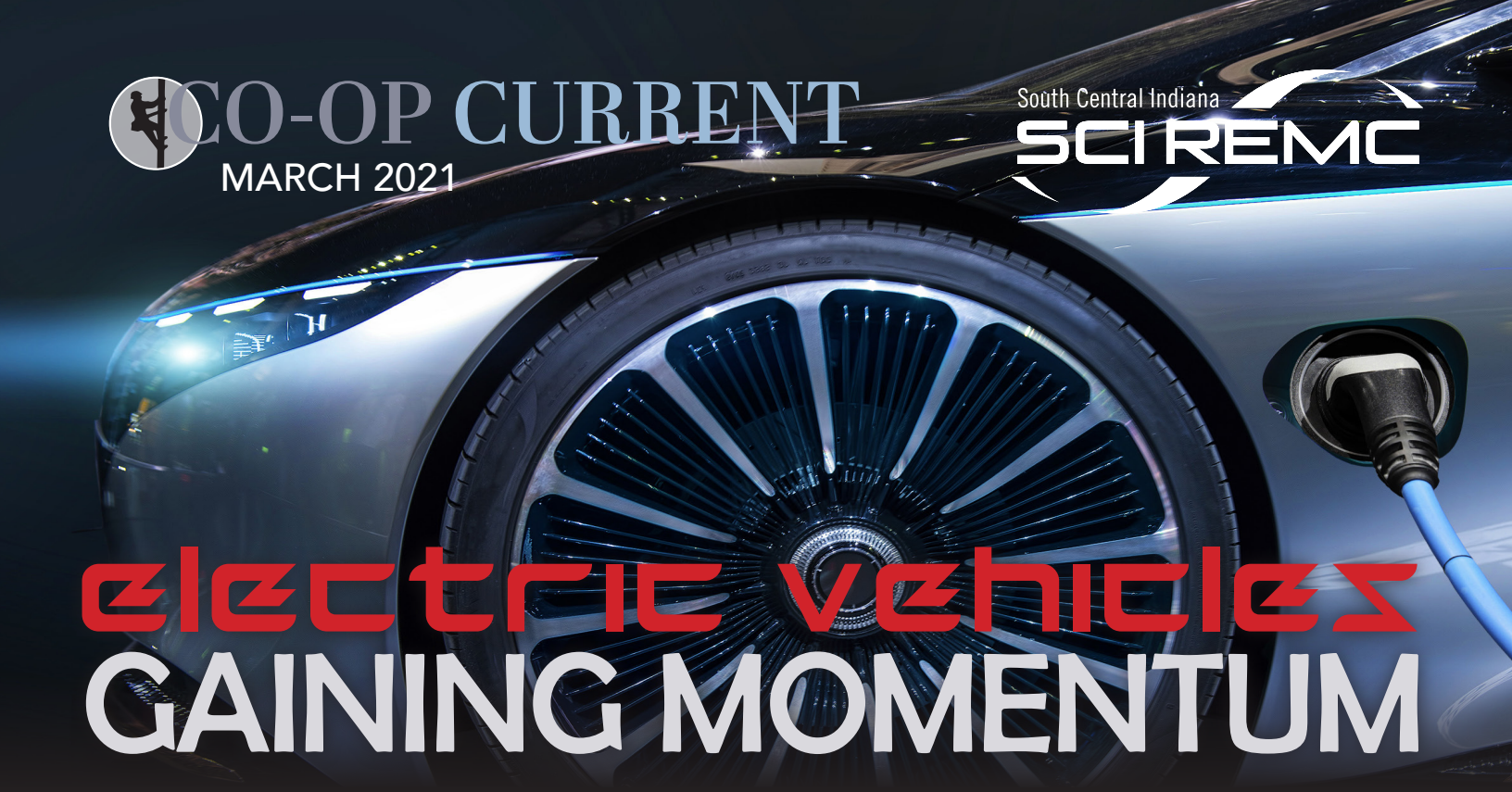
CO-OP CURRENT
MARCH 2021
South Central Indiana
SCI REMC



electric vehicles GAINING MOMENTUM

The appeal of electric vehicles is gaining momentum. But before getting too far into this transportation evolution, let's have a quick history review about EVs.

The first known electric car was developed in 1837 in Aberdeen, Scotland. Early models were powered by galvanic cells rather than rechargeable batteries. The lead-acid battery was invented in 1859, evolving into industrial-scale manufacturing around 1880, which allowed for rechargeable batteries to be installed in vehicles.

Soon, manufacturers were selling a wide array of EVs ranging from trams to trolleys, cars, and even locomotives. Interest in electric vehicles blossomed in the late 1890s and early 1900s.

As roads improved and became more extensive, demand for a greater range emerged. A variety of solutions were put forth, including the first battery exchanges by an electric utility in Connecticut in 1910 and the first hybrid automobile in 1911. It would not be long until America led the world in the number of EVs on the roads.

The rapid expansion of the country and the limitation of electricity to major cities and towns spelled the end of the electric car. The world wanted to be mobile, and EVs did not have the range required. Enter Henry Ford and the mass-produced, affordable internal combustion engine, and the fate of EVs was sealed.

Fast forward to modern times, EVs are increasing in popularity because electricity is available everywhere in the U.S. the majority of roads are paved, and society is increasingly concerned about the environment.

While many drawbacks of EVs are gone, there is still a significant concern limiting EV growth dubbed "range anxiety." This stems from the persistent limited range of all EVs. While the Tesla Model S provides a 390-mile range before recharging, this pales in comparison to gas-powered vehicles when considering the lack of rapid charging infrastructure. Just like their 20th-century predecessors, pure EVs are great "city cars."
(continued on back)

Fortunately, advances in battery technology are hammering away at the range issue. The range is steadily expanding, and battery management systems are squeezing out more miles. Simultaneously, more companies and utilities are installing efficient charging stations at their places of business and in popular public locations.

Range anxiety notwithstanding, EVs have a bright future. Prices are dropping, and the range is expanding, so owners can confidently drive nearly anywhere with a little bit of planning.

Further, if you've never driven an electric vehicle, you are in for a treat. While an internal combustion engine must rev up to speed, an EV has full power at its disposal instantly. They are quiet, well-appointed inside, and allow you to bypass the lines at the gas station forever—unless you need some snacks and a slushy.

To learn more visit
sciremc.com/electric-vehicles

If you plan to use a Level 2 or "Fast Charger," please let SCIREMC know so we can review your service to ensure it is sized correctly to support the additional energy demand. Adding a "Fast Charger" does increase the electrical needs of your home and, unless carefully designed, can negatively impact both your service and possibly the service of your neighbors.

WHY WE CLEAR rights-of-way

By AJ Kaufman
Superintendent Vegetation Management

At SCI REMC, we are committed to providing safe, reliable electrical service from overhead power lines. We start on the ground: in the right-of-way under and around power lines.

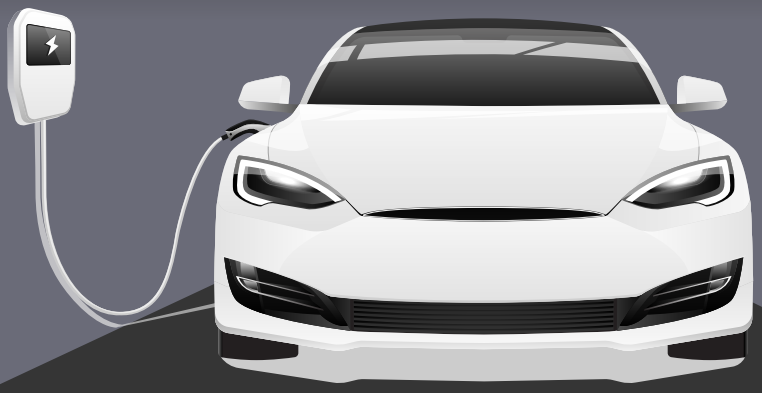
A right-of-way is an agreement with property owners that grants the SCI REMC the right to manage small portions of that property to maintain power lines that bring the electricity to your home, farm, or business and those of your neighbors.

Generally, the most common cause for power outages and blinking lights are trees that contact power lines. Limbs that touch power lines can become energized or even break and fall, bringing the lines down with them.

Right-of-way programs trim, control, and, if necessary, remove trees and other vegetation around 10 to 15 feet on either side of the centerline of electric lines.
A good right-of-way maintenance plan helps ensure less damage and shorter outages when Mother Nature brings strong winds and ice.

INTERESTED IN ELECTRIC VEHICLES?

We'd like to hear from you!



SCI REMC is forming a user group of interested members to share ideas and information about electric vehicles and chargers. If you are interested in joining the user group please email us at EVINFO@SCIREMC.COM with your contact information.

CO-OP CURRENT
APRIL 2021

South Central Indiana SCI REMC

SCI REMC | 300 Morton Avenue | Martinsville, IN 46151 | sciremc.com | 765.342.3344

Thank a Lineworker

Being a lineworker takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and, equally important, a sense of service and commitment. That's why in April, we celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

"Lineworker" is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is expected as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

Lineworkers are willing to leave the comfort of their home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions when most of us are sheltering comfortably at home. This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart.

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at South Central Indiana REMC, it's important to note that there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations. Member service representatives are always standing by to take your calls and questions. Our information technology (IT) experts are continuously monitoring our system to help safeguard sensitive data. And these are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn't be able to "bring the light" to our community.

Board of Director Position Opening

More information on back

2021 RESIDENTIAL REBATE PROGRAM

For More information visit
sciremc.com/rebates-credits

Water Heater (Heat Pump or Hybrid)
New construction or replacing gas or electric

Geothermal Heat Pump
New construction or replacing electric resistance heat, gas, heat pump or geothermal

Air Source or Dual Fuel Heat Pumps
Heat pump replacing gas, existing AC or heat pump or new construction

Heat pump replacing 100% electric resistance heat

Mini-Split Heat Pump
Single room or whole home installations

MEMBER SERVICES:
M-F 7:30 am - 7:00 pm
800.264.7362

EMAIL:
askus@sciremc.com

FACEBOOK:
fb.com/SCIREMC

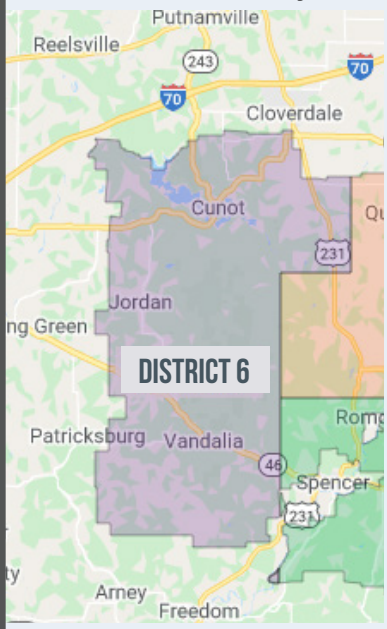
YOUTUBE:
youtube.com/SCIREMC

INSTAGRAM:
instagram.com/sci_remc

Editor and Designer: Dayana Sanchez

Board of Director Position Opening

South Central Indiana REMC (SCI REMC) is seeking applicants for the Board of Director opening in District 6 due to the recent passing of Stephen Williamson of Poland, Indiana. Mr. Williamson was a former Owen County Commissioner, a bus driver for 54 years, a farmer, and served on the SCI REMC Board of Directors for 31 years.



Members interested in fulfilling the remainder of Mr. Williamson's term for District 6 of approximately 15 months should contact Stacey Sauer at staceys@sciremc.com to request a director candidate certification form. Forms must be submitted by **May 21, 2021,** to be considered. Members must live in District 6 to be eligible. A district map is available at sciremc.board.maps.

A committee consisting of two directors and the President/CEO will review and interview eligible candidates. The committee will then make a recommendation to the SCI REMC Board of Directors at the June meeting.

About SCI REMC and the Role of a Director:
SCI REMC is a not-for-profit electric distribution and member-owned cooperative. The cooperative is a leader in distribution technology and is headquartered in Martinsville, Indiana. SCI REMC serves approximately 29,000 members in seven counties, including Morgan, Monroe, Owen, Brown, Johnson, Putnam, and Clay. SCI REMC launched a fiber division in 2018 and has connected almost 5,000 members with affordable, reliable high-speed internet.

Cooperatives believe strongly in building communities through the democratic process. As a member of a cooperative, you have a voice in how your cooperative is run. Directors are elected from the membership to represent you on the cooperative board. Director elections are open to all members. Elections occur during the business section of the Annual Member Meeting, which will be held in Fall. **Additional details are provided in the South Central Indiana REMC bylaws.**

Key Functions and Responsibilities of an SCI REMC Board of Director:

- Managing general business administration
- Employing a President and CEO to direct the operation of the co-op
- Adopting short and long-term strategic plans for the co-op
- Establishing and maintaining legal entities
- Setting rate and fee schedules
- Reporting to members on the financial condition of the co-op
- Establishing controls to ensure effective operations

Visit sciremc.com/directors to learn more about the SCI REMC Board of Directors.

Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard… especially to power lines.

LARGE TREES

Height/spread of more than 40 feet, such as:

- Maple
- Oak
- Spruce
- Pine
- Birch
- Sweetgum
- Linden

MEDIUM TREES

Height/spread of 25 to 40 feet, such as:

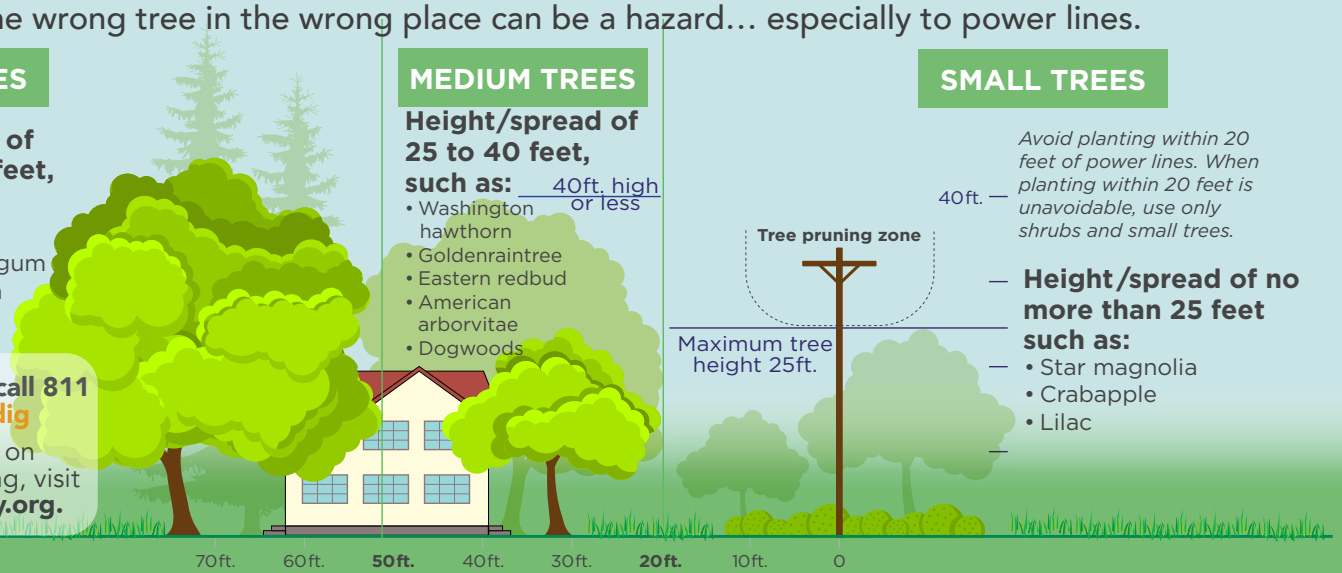
- Washington hawthorn
- Goldenraintree
- Eastern redbud
- American arborvitae
- Dogwoods

SMALL TREES

Avoid planting within 20 feet of power lines. When planting within 20 feet is unavoidable, use only shrubs and small trees.

Height/spread of no more than 25 feet such as:

- Star magnolia
- Crabapple
- Lilac



Be safe! Always call 811 before you dig

For more tips on smart tree planting, visit **www.ArborDay.org.**

CO-OP CURRENT
AUGUST 2021

South Central Indiana SCI REMC

SCI REMC | 300 Morton Avenue | Martinsville, IN 46151 | sciremc.com | 765.342.3344

COMMITTED TO A CO-OP CULTURE FOR ALL

Our business model sets us apart from other utilities because, as a co-op, we adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values, and service to the greater good of the community.

Electric cooperatives, including SCI REMC, have a unique and storied place in our country's history. We democratized the American dream by bringing electricity to rural areas when for-profit electric companies determined the effort too costly. Back then, cities were electrified, and rural areas were not, creating the original rural-urban divide. Newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunities in rural areas. Today, that spirit of equity and inclusion is a vital part of our co-op DNA.

EQUAL ACCESS FOR ALL

When our electric co-op was founded, each member contributed an equal share to gain access to electricity that benefited individual families and the larger local community. Each member had an vote in co-op matters.

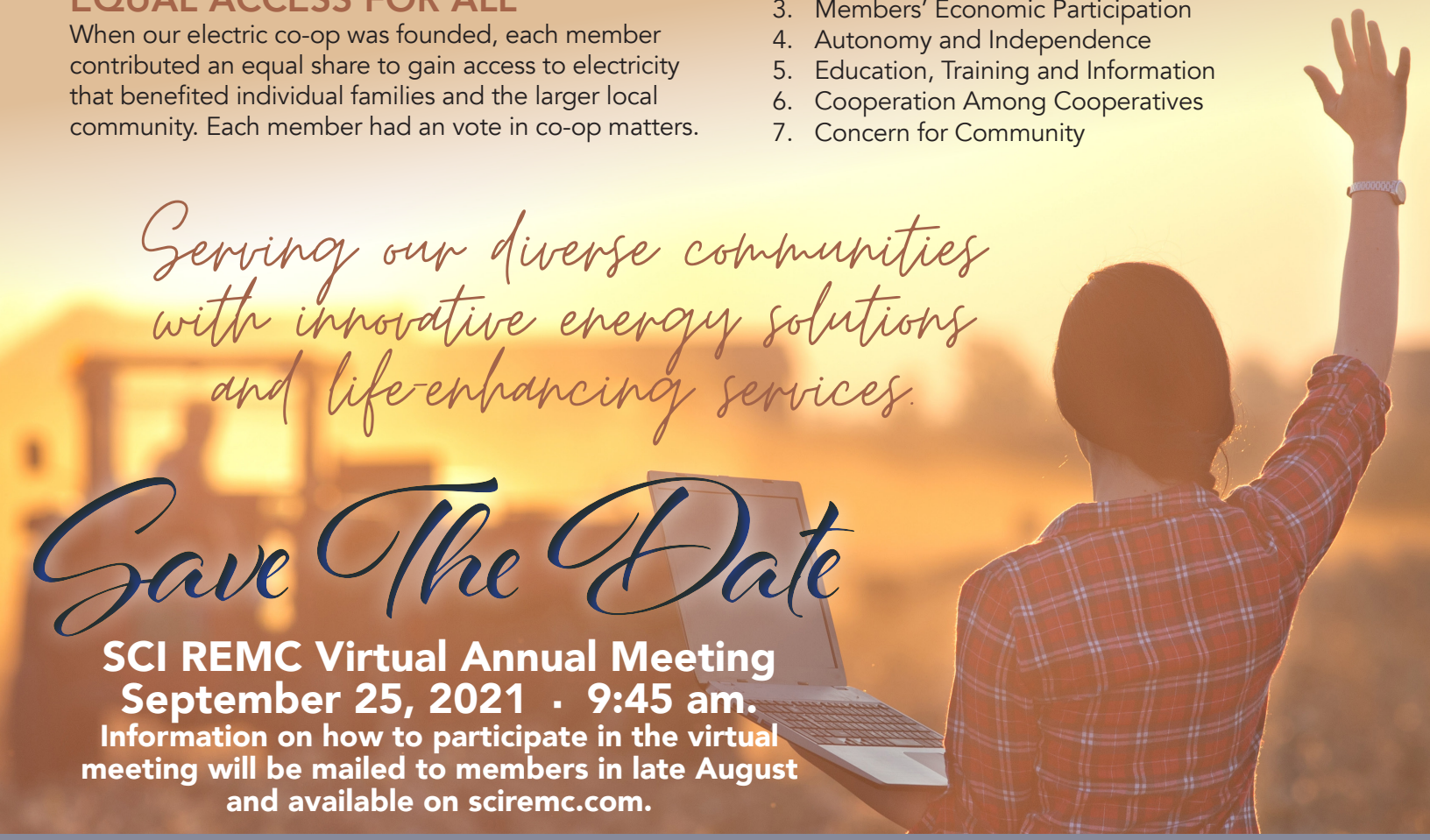
That sense of equity and inclusion is still how we operate today. SCI REMC was built by and belongs to the diverse communities and members we serve. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory.

By virtue of paying your electric bill each month, you're a member of the co-op, and every member has an equal voice and vote when it comes to co-op governance. This ties back to our guiding principles of equitable economic participation and democratic control of the co-op.

SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

Serving our diverse communities with innovative energy solutions and life-enhancing services.



Save The Date

SCI REMC Virtual Annual Meeting
September 25, 2021 · 9:45 am.
Information on how to participate in the virtual meeting will be mailed to members in late August and available on sciremc.com.

MEMBER SERVICES:
M-F 7:30 am - 7:00 pm
800.264.7362

EMAIL:
askus@sciremc.com

FACEBOOK:
fb.com/SCIREMC

YOUTUBE:
youtube.com/SCIREMC

INSTAGRAM:
instagram.com/sci_remc

Editor and Designer: Dayana Sanchez

Understanding Power Surges and Blinks

Have you ever noticed your lights blink during a thunderstorm? Or perhaps you've seen a blinking microwave clock when you arrive home. When this happens, you've likely experienced a brief disruption to your electric service. Was it a power surge or blink? While many use these terms interchangeably, what's happening behind the scenes can be quite different.

What's a power surge?

Power surges are brief overvoltage spikes or disturbances of a power waveform that can damage, degrade or destroy electronic equipment within your home or business. Most electronics are designed to handle small variations in voltage; however, power surges can reach amplitudes of tens of thousands of volts—this can be highly damaging to your electronic equipment.

Surges can be caused by internal sources, like HVAC systems with variable frequency drives, or external sources, like lightning and damage to power lines and transformers.

At SCI REMC, we encourage our members to install surge protective devices (such as a surge protector) to safeguard your sensitive electronics. If you're experiencing frequent surges in your home or business and you believe the cause is internal, contact a qualified electrician to inspect your electrical system.

What's a power blink?

Power blinks are brief service interruptions typically caused by a protective device that's working in reaction to a fault (short circuit). Faults can occur for various reasons, like squirrels, birds, or other small animals contacting an energized power line, tree branches touching a power line, lightning, and other similar events. When it comes to power disruptions caused by critters, squirrels reign supreme.

The majority of faults are temporary in nature, such as a tree branch falling through power lines. Briefly interrupting power to a faulted line allows most faults to clear before damaging electric facilities. Believe it or not, these brief power blinks caused by protective devices are actually good because that means the equipment is working as it should to prevent a prolonged outage.

Regardless of the cause, SCI REMC crews will be on their way to inspect the damage and make necessary repairs after a power outage. And you can help too! If you experience repeated disruptions to your electric service, please get in touch with us.

Ways to report an outage:
1) Visiting **sciremc.com** & click "Report an Electric Outage."
2) Downloading the "SCI Connect" app
3) TextPower, **sciremc.com/textpower**
4) Calling **800.264.7362** or **765.342.3344**

Safeguard electronics with surge protectors

Surge protectors save your electronics from power surges or increases in voltage significantly above the intended level in the flow of electricity. The excess voltage can cause an arc of electrical current, which heats and damages electronic devices. Smaller surges may still damage electronics and gradually shorten the device's life.

SURGE PROTECTOR VS. POWER STRIP

POWER STRIPS

Power strips act only as an expansion of a wall outlet and are not designed to protect from powerful surges.

SURGE PROTECTORS

Surge protectors provide the same features as power strips; they still allow users to plug in multiple electronic devices. But surge protectors reduce the chance of power surges and spikes from damaging your electronics.

Find us on

fb.com/SCIREMC

CO-OP CURRENT
NOVEMBER 2021

South Central Indiana SCI REMC

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We are Thankful!

By James Tanneberger
President and Chief Executive Officer

During this season of giving thanks, we want to let you know how grateful we are to you, our members, and the impact you have made on our co-op and the greater community, likely in ways you may not even realize.

We are thankful for the opportunity to provide you with electricity and fiber internet services and be an essential part of south central Indiana. As a cooperative, we are unique because we are non-profit and locally owned and governed by you, our members. We exist to serve you with innovative energy solutions and life-enhancing services.

We are committed to providing reliable electric service. To honor this commitment, we continue to improve our electric system reliability. Our goal is to leverage our new fiber communications network to control switching and sectionalizing devices to re-route and restore service during outages to improve our reliability by 30% by 2025 and 50% by 2030. We are also increasing our line clearing mileage by adding vegetation management personnel and equipment, and we are evaluating our worst-performing lines. In many cases, we are adding protective devices and relocating or burying parts of our lowest-performing and least accessible power lines.

I am excited to say that SCI Fiber has reached nearly 7,000 active fiber subscribers, and we have nearly 2,000 miles of fiber installed in just over three years of construction. We expect to have the majority of the project completed by this time next year, and we'd be excited to see around 10,000 active accounts or more over time.

We are thankful for our role in local economy. SCI REMC is invested in the future of our communities. In the last year, we have continued giving back. One example is Operation RoundUp. Through this program, our members have distributed over $3.3 million to charitable organizations and civic groups since 1995. This program also funds the John D. Rudd scholarships program providing up to five $1,000 scholarships every year. We are also reaching out to members with energy efficiency tips and rebates to help save money. Another example of our community involvement is our electric safety education program. Through this program, we offer live-line safety demonstrations to local schools, first responders, and other organizations. To learn more about our various community and youth programs, visit sciremc.com.

We have been focusing efforts on making sure information is more easily accessible to you. To that end, we have refreshed our website, updated the SCI Connect app, enhanced our newsletters, and increased social media frequency. We've also added several new ways to get and report information during outages.

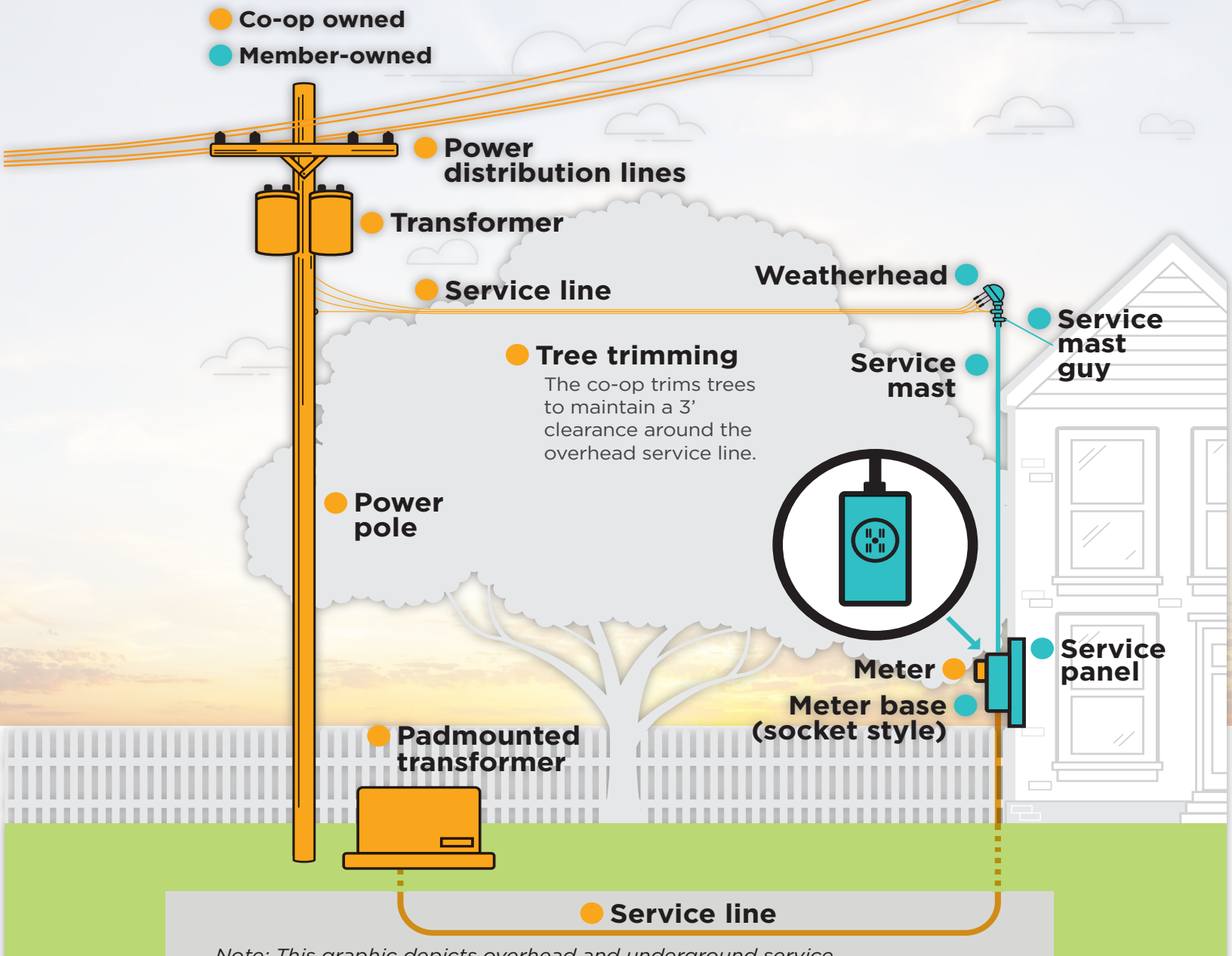
On a more personal note, we appreciate the countless acts of kindness our lineworkers and other employees receive when they are working in severe weather and dangerous conditions. Our employees are thankful for your patience and consideration when trying to restore power during challenging situations and prolonged periods.

I'm excited about what the future holds for us and am proud of our team and cooperative. At SCI REMC, we are committed to offering reliable service, addressing challenges with innovative solutions, and growing our positive relationships with our members and our local communities.

Who Owns What?

Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.



Note: This graphic depicts overhead and underground service.
Please be aware of which type of service you receive at your home or business.

CO-OP CURRENT
FEBRUARY 2022

South Central Indiana SCI REMC

SCI REMC | 300 Morton Avenue | Martinsville, IN 46151 | sciremc.com | 765.342.3344

SCI REMC Responds To Virginia Winter Storm Damage

Ten Indiana electric cooperatives, including SCI REMC, send crews to storm-damaged areas.

SCI REMC was one of ten Indiana electric cooperatives to send crews and equipment to assist with the power restoration effort in Virginia after winter storms moved through the state, causing significant damage to the area's electric distribution system.

Thirty Indiana electric cooperative lineworkers left at the beginning of January for Rappahannock Electric Cooperative* in Culpeper, Virginia, to assist in the power recovery effort after more than 85,000 of the electric distribution cooperative's consumers were left without electricity. In addition to SCI REMC, crews from nine other Indiana electric cooperatives responded.

In the Indiana electric cooperative family, every cooperative is integral to a state and national network of hundreds of fellow cooperatives. It is incumbent upon us to work together and help one another in times of disaster, to make sure our power delivery systems are repaired as quickly, safely, and cost-effectively as possible.

At SCI REMC, we take care of emergency needs at home first, but our crews are eager to help those in need. They take a tremendous amount of pride in representing their home cooperative and the state of Indiana. They represent us well with how hard, professionally, and safely they work.

The Indiana Electric Cooperative Mutual Aid Program provides cooperative assistance in service restoration from storms or other events that result in significant power outages.

*Rappahannock Electric Cooperative provides electric service to nearly 170,000 connections in portions of 22 Virginia counties.

10 Quick Tips to Lower Winter Bills

Looking to lower your bills this winter? Use the 10 tips below to conserve energy.

1.  Seal air leaks and insulate well to prevent heat from escaping and cold air from entering your home.
2.  Reduce waste heat by installing a programmable thermostat.
3.  Turn off lights when not in use.
4.  Lower your water heater temperature. The Dept. of Energy recommends using the warm setting (120 degrees) during fall and winter months.
5.  Unplug electronics like kitchen appliances and TVs when you're away.
6.  Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home.
7.  Close blinds and curtains at night to keep cold, drafty air out.
8.  Use power strips for multiple appliances, and turn off the main switch when you're away from home.
9.  Wash clothes in cold water, and use cold-water detergent whenever possible.
10.  Replace incandescent light bulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy.

SPEND A DAY AT THE STATEHOUSE

WITH STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE STATE

APPLY BY JAN. 26

GoIEC.org/2022pageday

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JUNE 8-11, 2022

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APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MARCH 1, 2022!

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You must be a junior to apply!

MONUMENTS. MUSEUMS. LEGISLATORS. FRIENDS. HISTORY. TRIP OF A LIFETIME.

Applications are due March 4, 2022

INDIANA YOUTH TOUR '22 WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 16-23 2022

APPLY NOW

What are you doing this summer?

SCI REMC wants to send you on a weeklong, all-inclusive trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C.