



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
Reliable. Affordable. Responsible



April 2022

The Power Behind Your Power

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11th

You've likely noticed RVEC's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11th.

April is Safe Digging Month!

RVEC is reminding all member-owners to call Iowa One Call by dialing 811 before you dig, whether your project is a deck addition, planting a tree, trenching in fields or landscaping. Although light gardening typically doesn't call for deep digging, other seemingly simple tasks like planting shrubs or installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines. A severed line can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm the person digging and potentially result in fines and repair costs.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



**Lineworkers go
above and beyond.**

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a

lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you. 14.36.13

Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Despite the many challenges, RVEC's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power.

— CEO Comments —



Jim Gossett

Corn Belt Power Cooperative joined the CHARGE EV network late last year to provide its members, including RVEC, the opportunity to join with electric cooperatives throughout the upper Midwest to offer education and electric vehicle (EV) charging solutions to our member-owners.

CHARGE EV, LLC, was created in 2020 by 31 electric cooperatives throughout Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin to help promote EV adoption. The network has more than doubled in size since then. CHARGE™ will expand its national charging network throughout rural America. Rural electric cooperatives serve more than 42 million people across 48 states.

Interest among RVEC member-owners is growing. We will work with CHARGE EV to educate RVEC member-owners on EV technology and navigate the future of EVs on our systems.

Like our entry into community solar, and solar array sales through Iowa Choice Renewables, the adoption of EVs is an economic issue for RVEC. We take a conservative approach to these new technologies, being careful to be fair to adopters, as well as their neighbors on RVEC lines that do not have a desire for an EV and do not want to subsidize those that do.

As a part of the CHARGE EV network of rural electric cooperatives, we can help interested member-owners learn more about EVs while giving RVEC a trusted partner as we deliver options to member-owners who want more charging opportunities. This may include the sale of EV chargers to businesses on our system.

While we try to satisfy the needs of what is currently a slowly growing EV market in our service territory, we have not in any way abandoned our member-owners who produce biofuels or those that grow the grain. With a careful approach to new technologies in EV charging and new technologies in biofuel production in our service territory, we can do both. And we must.

RVEC has a responsibility to satisfy our member-owner's desire for EVs, and one way to do that is to use the cooperative principle of "Cooperation Among Cooperatives", joining CHARGE EV to address the opportunity to meet the needs of our member-owners. Look for more information in the coming months about CHARGE EV. Meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to us with your questions. 06.15.02

Alternate Energy Purchase Program

All member-owners of RVEC may contribute money toward a fund that will assist in the purchase of alternate or "green" energy in Iowa.

Member-owners may participate in the Alternate Energy Program by writing in the amount of their contribution on their electric bill. Member-owners may contribute in increments of one dollar (\$1.00) and may enter or leave the contribution program at any time.

Member-owners who contribute are not guaranteed that electricity generated with renewable resources will be delivered to their individual meters. Their contributions are given to assist in the development of alternate energy in Iowa and will be spent to deliver renewable energy into the Corn Belt Power system from which the member-owners' electric cooperatives receive power.



It's a Boy

First Class Lineman Brian Heun and wife Amanda welcomed Brooks Dean to their family. Brooks was welcomed home by big sister Charlotte and big brother Colton. Congratulations!!

Grain Bin Notice

When you start to plan for a new grain bin, please contact RVEC.

RVEC and Corn Belt Power Cooperative will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable and permanent augers, conveyors and elevators.

To the right are drawings of the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact RVEC. 34.33.01

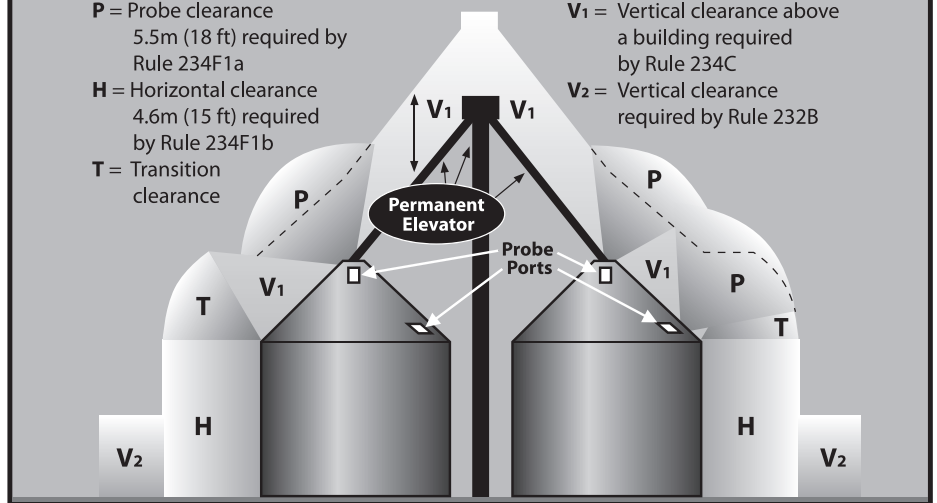
According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 -- 25.2(3) b. *an electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C2-2012 "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234F. This paragraph "b" shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after September 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevator systems installed after December 24, 1997. (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board)*

The cooperative is required by the Iowa Utilities Board to provide this annual notice to farmers, farm lenders, grain bin merchants, and city and county zoning officials. If you have any questions concerning clearance regulations, please call RVEC.

Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by permanently installed augers, conveyors or elevators

P = Probe clearance
5.5m (18 ft) required by Rule 234F1a
H = Horizontal clearance
4.6m (15 ft) required by Rule 234F1b
T = Transition clearance

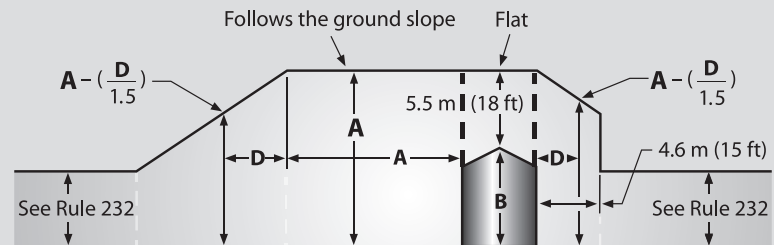
V₁ = Vertical clearance above a building required by Rule 234C
V₂ = Vertical clearance required by Rule 232B



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Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by portable augers, conveyors or elevators

ELEVATION



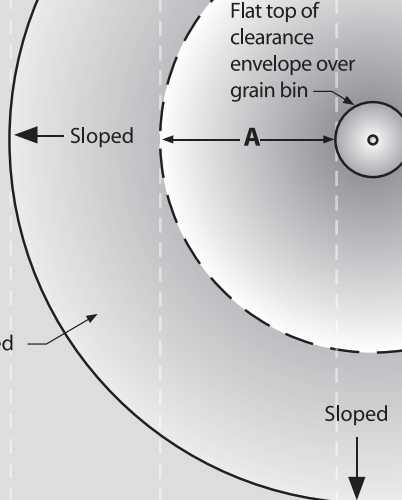
B = Height of highest filling or probing port on grain bin
A = B + 5.5m (18 ft)
D = Variable horizontal dimension

In the area of sloped clearance, the vertical clearance is reduced by 300mm (1 ft) for each additional 450mm (1.5 ft) of horizontal distance from the grain bin.

PLAN VIEW

LOADING SIDE

See Rule 232
Area of sloped clearance



NONLOADING SIDE

Sloped
4.6 m (15 ft)
Sloped
Rule 232 area
Area of sloped clearance

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Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
(RVEC) is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.



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Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
Reliable • Affordable • Responsible



Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

Automatically Pay Your Bill

With your permission, RVEC is able to have your electric payment automatically withdrawn from your bank account. Our bank will accept pre-authorized payments from any bank.

Payments would be withdrawn from your bank account on the 20th of each month. At this time, there is no charge for this service; however, if our bank would begin charging us, we would then begin charging you a fee. If there are insufficient funds in your bank to cover your pre-authorized payment, an insufficient funds processing charge of \$30.00, plus bank charges will be applied.

Please contact RVEC if you would like your payments automatically withdrawn from your bank account. 29.03.03

Tornado Safety Tips

Practice and Prepare

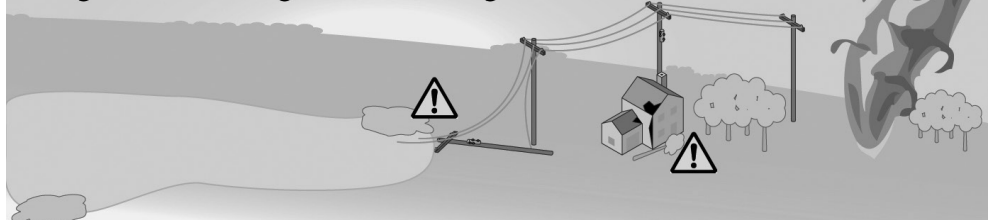
Know where you'll meet your family during the tornado (and after). Practice a tornado drill annually. Keep a weather radio in your storm shelter, along with safety supplies.

Seek Shelter

Go to your basement, a small interior room, or under stairs on the lowest floor of the house. If you live in a mobile home, get out and look for a stable building. If outside, find low ground—away from trees and cars—and lie face down with your arms protecting your head.

After the Storm

Stay away from downed power lines, and avoid flooded areas—power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Don't enter seriously damaged buildings and avoid using matches and lighters in case of gas leaks.



Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Funnel, Inc.

Spot Your Number

Read Watts Current and watch for your location number. If you spot it, call RVEC by the 20th of the month and you will receive an electrical bill credit for \$25.00.