



# WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative  
*Reliable. Affordable. Responsible*



April 2021



To our heroes  
in hard hats,  
thank you for  
keeping the  
lights on.

## Thank a Lineworker — Lineman Appreciation Day April 12th

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with RVEC, you would probably picture a lineworker. One of the most visible employees of RVEC, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

“Lineworker” is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable 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 get the job done.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That’s why we set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at RVEC, it’s important to note that there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes to ensure RVEC delivers the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn’t be able to “bring the light” to our community.

Our dedicated lineworkers are proud to represent RVEC, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way and remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes whose commitment to service runs just as deep.

## 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. 06.08.01



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

**Always Remember,**

**SAFETY  
FIRST!**

## — CEO Comments —



Jim Gossett

Each month, I like to look back to past years' CEO message before I sit down to share my thoughts in this space. Last April was the first messages about a pandemic. I am happy to see vaccinations rolling out and am looking forward to a better, healthier 2021.

Considering the pandemic, some damage from the Derecho, and February's extreme conditions from the Polar Vortex, it is natural to wonder what is next. At RVEC, we have talked a lot over the past year about how basic crisis response planning and execution is designed to prepare us for whatever comes our way. Still, each situation is different and difficult in its own way. We adapt our approach given the situation with one principle in mind: To safely deliver Reliable, Affordable Responsible service to our member-owners.

Former U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said during the Iraq War, there are 'known' unknowns (the risk of a cancelled flight). Then were 'unknown unknowns' (risks that come from situations that are so unexpected that they would not be considered, such as rolling blackouts). The past 12 months have without question presented plenty of "unknown" unknowns. No doubt, it has been a period of uncertainty, of firsts and events that we would rather not happen again. 18.20.05

Thorough, thoughtful response planning for the "known" unknowns and flexibility in how those plans are carried out will make all the difference in the ability of RVEC to adequately serve its stakeholders. Consistent execution of this planning is key to dealing with the "unknown" unknowns. As always, we would like to hear your thoughts and concerns, including what information we can provide. Contact us at 712.659.3649 and info@rvec.coop. Or stop by! The lobby is open.

## Access to Member-Owners Property

Maintaining our electric distribution system to ensure that we are delivering safe and reliable power is our main objective. We have hundreds of miles of wire, poles, transformers, fuses and miscellaneous hardware that has to be inspected and maintained. RVEC linemen are in the field performing these duties every day from the substation to your meter. There are times when we may need to access your property to inspect our facilities that are serving you and your neighbors. Our employees will always be respectful of your privacy and property.

Our vehicles are easily identifiable with our co-op logo and name. Our outside employees have our co-op logo on their clothing.

We appreciate your understanding and patience, if you have questions or concerns please call our office at 712.659.3649.

## 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.

# Grain Bin Notice

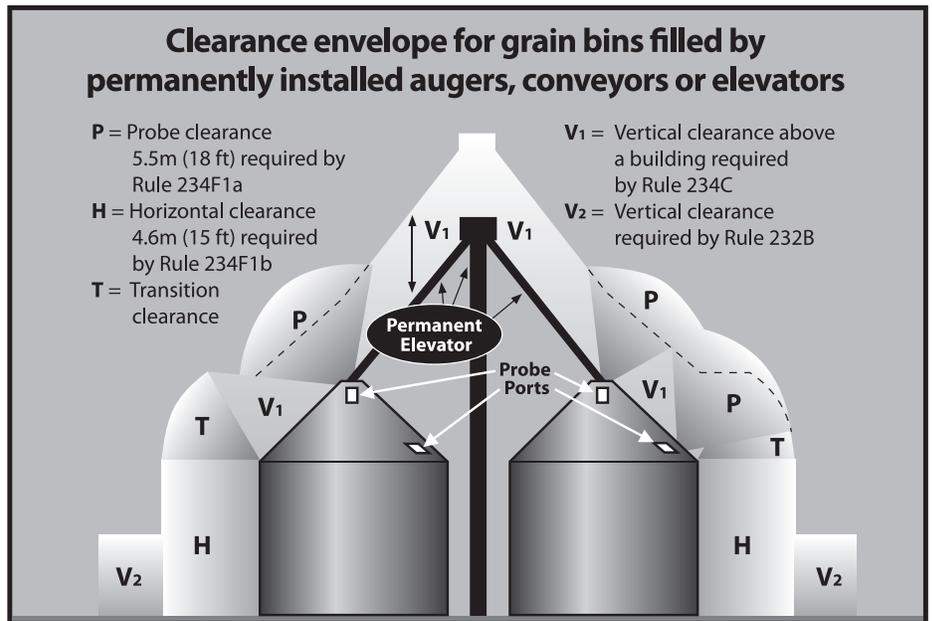
When you start to plan for a new grain bin, please contact RVEC.

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.

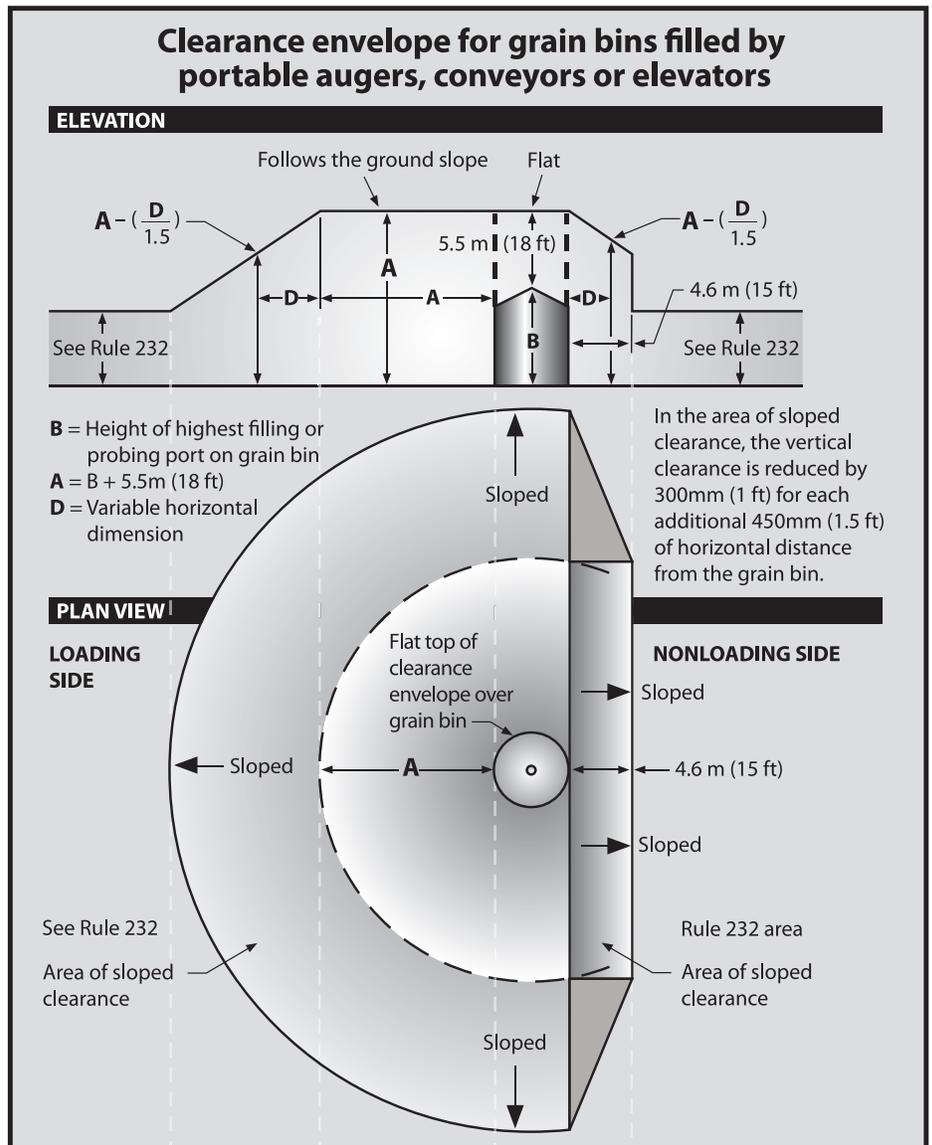
To the right are drawings of the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact RVEC.

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) 34.10.02*

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.



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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*



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*The power of human connections*

## Watch Cooperative Property when Burning Ditches

It's that time of the year when many of you may be burning off the weeds, grass, etc. in your ditches.

This burning helps clean things up, but it can also cause problems if a fire is allowed to burn around RVEC poles, anchors, guy assemblies, underground cabinets and so forth.

Burning close to RVEC property not only can cause a lot of damage, but it can also be dangerous and could cause future electric service problems. Any member involved may be invoiced for damage they cause to RVEC property. 29.06.02

To avoid damage to RVEC property, future service problems and danger to yourself and others, please watch where you burn.



## Tornado Safety Tips

### Practice and Prepare

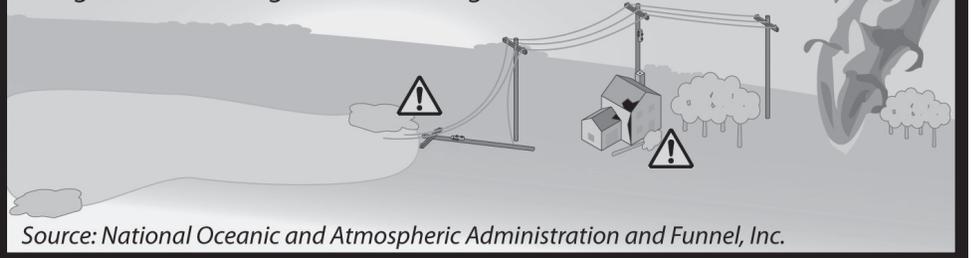
Know where you'll meet your family during the tornado (and after). Practice a tornado drill annually. Keep a weather radio in your storm shelter, along with safety supplies.

### 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.