



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
Reliable. Affordable. Responsible



September 2020

Know the Dangers of Large Equipment as Harvest Begins

As farmers begin this season's harvest, it's important to remember some important safety steps. The rush to harvest can reap grim results if steps to ensure safety are bypassed. Each year, across the U.S., hundreds of farm workers are injured and many are killed when their farming equipment makes contact with power lines. Power lines must be avoided – and taking that extra step – can ensure you continue to have a safe and productive harvest.

Today's farming operations often involve large and complex machinery. Large combines, raised dump beds, oversized wagons, grain augers, planters, spraying equipment and metal irrigation pipes are all excellent conductors of electricity. Equipment contacting overhead power lines is the leading cause of farm electrocution accidents in the Midwest. Everyone working on a farm should be aware of power lines and keep farm equipment away from the lines. It's also important to thoroughly evaluate new or used equipment that is being used on your property. Take special note of larger, modern equipment such as tractors and combines with higher antennas that may create a clearance threat.

Moving portable grain augers continues to pose one of the greatest threats to workers. Those who are moving the equipment on the ground can provide a direct path for electricity if there is contact with overhead wires. Grain augers should always be lowered before moving them. Things like wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can create an unexpected result. When moving large equipment use a spotter or someone to help make certain that contact is not made with a line. Areas near grain bins pose a dangerous threat if equipment is too large or is used improperly. If you're installing new grain bins, contact RVEC to help place electrical service lines.

If the equipment you are in comes into contact with power lines make sure you:

- Stay in the cab and call for help
- If there is imminent risk of fire, jump clear of the vehicle and land with both feet on the ground at the same time – do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and ground at the same time.

If you question the height of power lines nearing your working areas, don't attempt to measure the line heights yourself. Contact RVEC to help determine line height in each area of the farm. 30.31.03

The best way to handle a farm-related accident is prevention. Respect electricity and avoid contact with overhead lines. Look up, look down and be safe this harvest season!



Overhead power lines aren't the only risk during this season. Pole guy wires are grounded and a supporting part of the pole or structure. If one is broken, it can cause an electric current disruption and electric hazard or even cause the pole to break. If you hit a guy wire and break it, call RVEC immediately. Do not fix it yourself.

— CEO Comments —



Jim Gossett

The July RVEC Board Meeting was the last with Dennis Kennebeck serving as Director of District 2. Our Articles of Incorporation dictate that directors need to reside in and receive service in the district they are elected to represent. Dennis resigned as director when he and Julie moved out of the district. Dennis served five years on the board. He provided thoughtful insight in the boardroom and always put the member-owner first. He will be greatly missed and we wish him the best! 08.13.05

Steve Schable was appointed by the board to serve as Director until the seat is up for election again in 2021. Steve and his wife Ashley have been member-owners since 2009 and live south of Carroll with their four children. He is an athletic trainer and Director of Sports Performance at St. Anthony Regional Hospital. Steve is a member of the Carroll High School Booster Club and volunteers as a high school coach. He is a member of Ducks Unlimited. Welcome Steve!

Most of us followed the devastation left behind by the August derecho storm as it ripped through central and eastern Iowa and beyond. RVEC experienced 125 outages scattered through the territory. Our crews and staff responded safely and quickly, restoring power by mid-evening. Cost to recover was a little more than \$10,000 and the community solar array near Breda suffered moderate damage. The day after the storm, RVEC sent three linemen and three trucks to East-Central Iowa REC in Urbana to assist their restoration under the state's mutual aid agreement.

Clearly our area was fortunate when it comes to outages. Still, we recognize the loss incurred by our member-owners who had crop damage from derecho storm and continue to suffer the extreme drought. 2020 has a grip on us. What we are going through makes it even more important that all of us at RVEC continue to focus on safely providing you with reliable power. Together we will deal with whatever comes our way.

As you know, the Board decided in June to cancel the in-person Annual Meeting this year. We knew asking you to gather in that way was not wise given the circumstances. As expected, RVEC member-owners responded to the request to mail-in their ballots for director elections. We expect to exceed the required number of ballots to make it official. We are already looking forward to the Annual Meeting in September 2021!

Finally, while fall will be especially challenging this year, I want to express my wishes for a successful and safe harvest.

Outage Information

If you don't have power or have an emergency call 712.659.3649.

RVEC phones are answered 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Fallen Power Line Safety

- Stay far away from fallen power lines and from anything that is touching them. Assume the lines are energized and dangerous.
- Fallen lines are most common after storms and high winds. Debris from a storm can hide fallen power lines. Fallen trees may contain energized power lines.
- Shuffle, don't run, from a fallen power line. Shuffle with your feet together and on the ground. Running or taking large steps can increase the chance that you will be shocked or even killed.
- If a power line falls on your car, stay inside unless the car catches fire. In such a case, jump clear of the car without touching metal and the ground at the same time.

Report outages and hazards!

Call RVEC if your power goes out or you see an electrical hazard such as a downed power line. Our phones are answered 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

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.

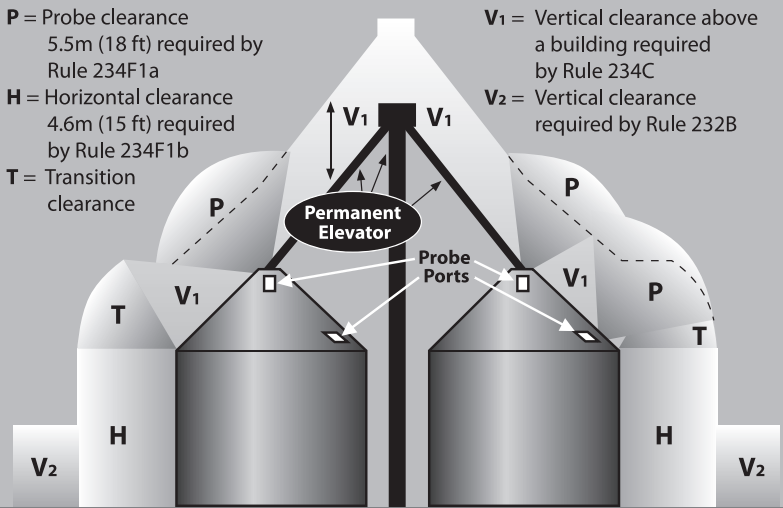
To the right are drawings of the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact RVEC.

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) C2-2017 "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) 22.25.04*

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

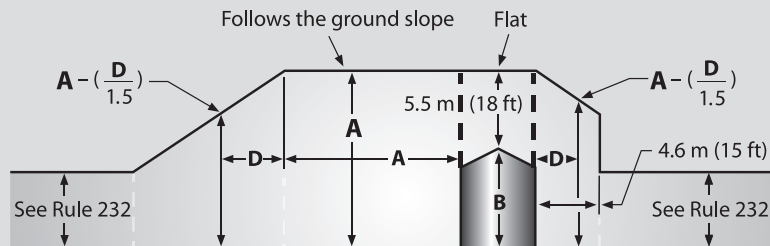
- P = Probe clearance
5.5m (18 ft) required by Rule 234F1a
- H = Horizontal clearance
4.6m (15 ft) required by Rule 234F1b
- T = Transition clearance
- V₁ = Vertical clearance above a building required by Rule 234C
- V₂ = Vertical clearance required by Rule 232B



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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

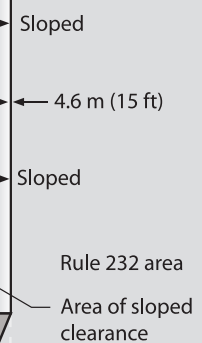
In the area of sloped clearance, the vertical clearance is reduced by 300mm (1 ft) for each additional 450mm (1.5 ft) of horizontal distance from the grain bin.

PLAN VIEW

LOADING SIDE



NONLOADING SIDE



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Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

-- Directors --

David Onken, Pres. Glidden
Mark Adams..... Glidden
Jeff Cranston Odebolt
Steve Schable..... Carroll
Mark Ludwig Breda
Steve Seidl Coon Rapids
Karen Werner Schaller

-CEO-

Jim Gossett

-Office Address-
Headquarters

PO Box 486, 28725 Hwy 30
Glidden, IA. 51443
Phone: 712.659.3649
800.253.6211
Fax: 712.659.3716
Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

www.rvec.coop
e-mail: info@rvec.coop

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



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Blinking Lights

Blinking lights and brief power interruptions are frustrating. Momentary power interruptions or "blinking lights" are most often caused by uncontrollable circumstances.

Wind, trees, lightning, birds, animals, equipment failure and humans can all disrupt the normal flow of electricity both momentarily and longer. Trying to find the exact cause of the blinks sometimes resembles trying to find the needle in the haystack, which equally frustrates the line crew.

While blinks can be annoying, they show that an electrical system is working exactly as designed. When a breaker in your house or business senses a power problem, the breaker trips and power flow stops until someone resets the breaker. Breakers on the RVEC's power lines are designed to sense a problem on the lines, stop power flow momentarily and then automatically reset – potentially avoiding a much longer outage.

Before digital clocks and computers, blinks oftentimes went unnoticed. In today's world, flashing digital displays and loss of computer data can get people excited. 38.21.06

RVEC member-owners need to protect computers and other sensitive electronic equipment by buying and using uninterruptible power supply (UPS) systems. These relatively simple and inexpensive measures will go a long way towards increasing power reliability and protecting fallout from blinks.

RVEC member-owners also need to notify the Cooperative when blinking light problems repeatedly occur. Then, be patient and give line crews a chance to find and correct the problem. We all want the same thing – high quality, reliable electric service.



TIPS TO AVOID SCAMS

Scammers can threaten you with everything from shutting off power to your home to legal action. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.

Here are a few reminders from your electric co-op.

- Co-op employees will never show up at your door to demand payment.
- Never give personal information to an unknown caller or visitor. Co-op representatives have access to the details they need to service your account.
- Demands for immediate payment by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, gift cards or cash reload cards should immediately raise red flags.
- If you think you've been contacted by a scammer falsely representing the co-op, please let them know as soon as possible.

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.