

Power Line

YOUR CO-OP NEWS | SEPTEMBER 2026



Dry conditions weaken trees

Prolonged dry conditions during summer have caused trees to weaken across Clay Electric's service area, especially pines. Vegetation Management crews have seen a record number of dead and dying trees near power lines.

A decline in soil moisture causes pines to conserve water, reducing photosynthesis and the energy available for growth and maintenance. Drought also limits resin production, weakening a pine's natural defense against bark beetles. These insects typically target already-stressed or dying trees and can hasten their decline.

Dead, decayed or severely leaning trees may fall onto power lines, damaging equipment, creating safety hazards and causing outages. Clay Electric inspects every circuit annually for these "danger trees," in addition to its regular right-of-way maintenance.

When a danger tree threatens a power line along the edge of the right-of-way, Clay Electric may cut it down or reduce its height. In maintained areas such as yards, crews cut the tree into manageable lengths and leave the wood and debris on-site. In unimproved areas such as woods, the material may be left in place, where it can decompose naturally and return organic matter to the soil.

Clay Electric does not clean up, remove or haul away debris from dead and danger trees. This work is intended to remove hazards near power lines and help maintain safe, reliable electric service.

Members concerned about a tree near a power line can call **1-800-511-5998** or email vegmgt@ClayElectric.com.

BOARD MEETINGS

Clay Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees will meet at the headquarters building in Keystone Heights at 11 a.m. (or shortly thereafter) on Sept. 22, Oct. 22, Nov. 16 and Dec. 17.

ClayElectric.com

800-224-4917

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When power's out, we're all working

When the power goes out, Clay Electric focuses on repairs that can restore service to the greatest number of members.

Every outage is different. Before repairs begin, crews must locate the cause, assess damage and determine what equipment and materials are needed. Some problems are immediately visible; others, including failed transformers, can take longer to find and repair.

Safety hazards and critical facilities are addressed first. Crews then follow the flow of electricity, beginning with substations and major power lines before moving to smaller lines and individual services. Restoring these larger parts of the system allows crews to bring more members back online before addressing outages affecting fewer locations. That is why members in one area may have power restored before those nearby.

Restoration is a cooperative-wide effort. Dispatchers coordinate crews, engineers and field personnel assess damage, vegetation crews clear hazards, member service representatives assist callers, and communicators provide updates.

Report an outage through **MyClayElectric** or by calling **1-888-434-9844**.



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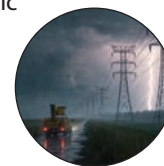
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Here's your sign: Make a plan

September is National Preparedness Month — a reminder to take a few simple steps so you and your loved ones are ready for an emergency.

1. Make a plan. Talk with your family about where you will go, how you will communicate and where you will meet during an emergency.

2. Build a supply kit. Gather water, nonperishable food, flashlights, batteries, medications and first-aid supplies.

3. Stay informed. Turn on local weather and emergency alerts on your phone.



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