

Right-of-Way Spraying Helps Reduce Outages

Volunteer Energy Cooperative's Integrated Vegetation Management Program is scheduled to get underway in mid-June and run through September, according to Brad Rhea, VEC's Right-of-Way Superintendent.

Rhea said herbicide spraying is necessary to help prevent extended power outages by removing incompatible species that threaten electric service and to assist with quick power restorations by improving access for service crews.

"We spray when growth is most active," Rhea said. "We only use EPA-approved herbicides that are rated the safest and we use them in low concentrations."

The herbicides VEC will be using are very safe and are environmentally friendly. They are non-restricted herbicides that any homeowner can purchase and apply to their property without a license. VEC does not use any form of Glyphosate (Roundup™). Copies of the Material Safety Data Sheets for each herbicide are available at VEC customer service centers.

Rhea said the technique used is selective, low volume and low concentration, backpack spraying to prevent drift. All herbicides are applied by trained applicators in accordance with the product labels as well as State and federal laws.

Customers with questions in the Benton, Cleveland, Decatur, Georgetown and Spring City service areas should contact Allen Ratledge at 423-334-7034. Customers in the Byrdstown, Crossville, Jamestown and Monterey service areas should contact Brad Rhea at 931-248-1884.

TASSO/Cleveland

From Leamon Road South down Michigan Avenue, Pin Oaks Drive, Royal Oaks Drive, Fleetwood Drive, Live Oak Trail, Occoneechee Circle, Fairhill Drive, Oak Hill Court, Fair Oaks Court, Michigan Avenue, Wilkinson Road, Brock Road, Urbane Road, Weatherford Drive, Tillie Road, Covington Road, Fieldstone Drive, Caperden Drive, Mulberry Drive, Blossom Trail, Redspire Way, Bartlett Circle, Old Tasso Place, Old Charleston Road, Meadow Lane, Ashley Court, West Meadows Lane, Cline Road, Falling Leaf Circle, Fall Court, Turning Leaf Trail, Glenoaks Drive, Diamond Ridge Trail, Tallwood Trail, Sparrows Point Drive, Princess Lane, Ashlin Woods Lane, Ashlin Ridge Drive, Tasso Lane, Woodstream Place, Bland Drive, Sells Lane, Robbie Court, Patricia Place, Oakwood Circle, James Point, Jenkins Road, Tri Circle, Mansion Hill, Whisperwood Trail, Pebble Brook Circle, Low Brook Court, North Brook Drive, Goldpoint Drive, Treemont Circle, Meade Court, Lake Circle Drive, Chattata Drive, Cloudplace Drive, Connie Court, American Drive, Heritage Hill Drive, Chattata Valley Road, Julian Road, Evans Road, Kersey Road, Chilcutt Road, Wright Lane, Union Grove Road, Stevenson Lane, Morgan Road, Old Bacon Road, Cates Lane, Tasso Road, Dry Valley Road, Beeler Ridge Road, Sheffey Lane, Bellfonte Road.

Benton

Hooker Road, Parksville Road, State Hwy 64, Indian Creek Road, Benton Springs Road, Burris Lane, Disney Lane, Pankey Lane, Maple Drive, Brock Drive, Hwy 411, Rock Drive, Quarry Road, Ballet Road, Park Circle, Hunt Lane, Swan Drive, Airport Road, Town Creek Road, Pleasant Road, Circle R Drive, Hickory Lane, Thomas Road, John Hale Road, Upper River Road, Hitch Drive, Freeman Circle, Hickory Road, Lightfoot Drive, Chestuee Road, Mt. Harmon Road, County Line Road, Geren Road, Moby Road, River Lane, McDonald Road, Pinhook Road, Lakeview Drive, Bream Lane, Wooten Road, Athens Road, Shenendoah Road, Leamon Road, Buckner Road, Dentville Road, Friendship Lane, Martin Lane, Columbus Road, Moss Road, Pillar Road, B Davis Road, Linsdale Road, Trew Lane, Hwy 163, Moss Road, Ellis Lane, County Roads 966, 968, 970, 780, 783, 787, Oak Grove Road, Quarry Road, Pope Road, Horton Bridge Road, George Bates Road, Harrison Mill Road, Mt. View Road, Parris Branch Road, Timber Hills Drive, Crystal Geysers Drive.

Hiwassee/Cleveland-Charleston-Calhoun

Lee Hwy North To Hwy 163, Harpo Street, Harper Street, Ramsey Street, Stuckey Drive, 56 Street, Anatole Court, Canary Drive, Oriole



Drive, Robin Lane, Old Charleston Road, Sunset Lane, Quail Run Trace, Roberts Lane, Covy Court, Chipewah Circle, Hickory Hills Drive, Lewis Lane, Hidden Oaks Trail, Brushwood Court, Moore Circle, Phillis Drive, Hendricks Lane, Geiger Road, Bellfounte Road, Liner Road, Carriage Drive, Carriage Lane, Wilson Heights Road, Wilson Heights Circle, Wilson Way, Mustang Drive, Mustang Drive, Billings Street, Apple Valley Court, Maple Crest Circle, Maple Court, Northwest Drive, Worth Lane, Hill Street, Maddux Road, Hiwassee Road, Worth Lane, Swafford Lane, Morgan Nicole Drive, Newport Street, Wool Lane, Scott Lane, Cass Lane, Water Lane, Pine Lane, Corner Of Hwy 163 And Hwy 11 In Calhoun, Chattata Valley Road, Deer Ridge Trail, Doe Run, Council Road, Mccalister Road, Upper River Road, Union Grove Road, Old River Circle, Bradford Road, Riverbend Trail, River Pointe Circle, Mees Lane, Old Wagon Road, Bolen Lane, Rochelle Circle, Megan Lane, Dry Valley Road, Hiwassee Drive, Riverside Drive, Worth Lane, Worth Street, Water Street, Scott Street, High Street, Bates Street, Wool Street, Cass Street, Market Street, Brook Lane, Church Street, Main Street, 6Th Street, Valley Drive, County Roads 950, 978, 733, 734, 736, 737, Walker Valley Road, Mouse Creek Road, Glendale Lane, C.G. Earnest Road, Hughes Avenue, Wacker Blvd, Dillard Road, Old Lower River Road, Haney Circle, Lower River Road, Potters Place Place, Jenkins Lane, Candies Creek Ridge Road, Lookout Tower Road, Curtis Drive, Ledford Island Road, Marina Hills Circle, Gary Drive, Walker Valley Road, Golf View Drive, Par Court, Birdie Court, Golden Court, Annabelle Drive, Breckinridge Drive, Kyle Lane, Colony Lane, Davis Road, Westbrook Circle, Wilson Lane, West Brook Drive, Walker Brow Trail, Walker Brow Ridge Road, Meadow Brook Lane, North Lane, Pintall Drive, Drake Drive, Mallard Tr, Leathe Lane, Goodwin Road, Lauderdale Mem. Hwy, Maddux Road, Mouse Creek Road, Haney Road, Laguna Drive, Monza Lane, Eldridge Circle, Thurman Lane, Frontage Road.

Spring Creek/Athens

County Roads: 170, 171, 172, 165, 166, 167, 305, 210, 212, 195, 191, 215, 216, 217, 214, 219, 220, 221, 222, 166, 105, 102, 103, 104, 180, 184, 187, 188, 189, 190, 113, 139, 130, 121, 132, 133, 138, 128, 129, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 169, 173, Rocky Mount Road.

Riceville

County Roads: 652, 688, 654, 659, 679, 660, 752, 675, 678, 729, 677, 676, 684, 604, 657, 656, 669, 671, 672, 673, 674, 686, 682, 710, 711, 712, 86, 101, 156, 1150, 1151, 1153, 1154, 1155, 135, 136, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 116, 702, 718, 719, 1120, 112, 711, 709, 711, 135, 157, 67, 130, 137, 160, 161, 116, 118, 120, 63, 65, 61, 89, 90, 100, HWY 39 West.

Athens/Riceville transmission line

Hwy 39 West, Daniel Street, West Street, County Road 174, Congress Parkway, Decatur Pike.

Crossville

Pine Ridge Circle, Browns Gap, Buzzard Lane, Reed Road, Houston Lane, Fred Tollett Road, Big Lick Area, Ike Burgess Road, Vandever Road, Big Lick Road, Jack Tollett Road, Clint Lowe Road, Parnell Road, Breckenridge Area, Ashford, Drive, Dublin Drive, Sligo Street, Limerick Drive, Timothy Drive, Fields Road, Camille Lane, Davis Road, Blaylock Road, Crosswinds Blvd, West Wind Road, Cook Road, Short Road, Hill Top Drive, Industrial Blvd Hillcrest Drive, Phyllis Street, Louise Street, Old Jamestown Hwy, Hill Street, Clover Lane, Manchester Tank Area South Side Of Walker Hill Circle.

Fairfield

Lakeview Drive From Fairway Drive To Bainbridge Road, Fairway Drive, Lisa Lane, Prescott Lane, Morris Lane, Druid Circle, Greenwood Road, Brokenwood Lane, Sugarbush Circle, Baltusrol Road, Bromley Lane, Albemarle Lane, Amherst Lane, Wycliff Lane, Snead Drive, From Greenwood Road To Southgate Lane, Dublin Lane, Cheshire Terrace, Birchwood Circle, Folkstone Road, Hunterwood Lane, Lafayette Point, Eagle Lane, Eagle Court, Cromwell Lane, Southgate Lane, Fairfield Blvd, Berkshire Loop, Warehouse Road Peavine Road Between Westchester Road And Eagle Lane, Westchester Drive From Peavine Road To Scarborough Drive, Queensbury Lane, Saint George Drive From Westchester Drive To Bainbridge Road, Tawny Oak Loop, Adler Lane, Brambleton Drive, Pomeroy Drive, Newcastle Lane, Pomeroy Court, Beachwood Drive, Meadow Wood Lane, Sinclair Terrace, Hawes Circle, Carnoustie Drive, Tavistock Lane, Windsor Point, Dalefield Loop, Malvern Road, Cappshire Road, Andover Road, Felix Court, Conrad Circle, Thrushwood Drive, Beachwood Lane, Stratford Drive, Marmaduke Drive, Thornhill Lane, Wimberly Road, Laswell Lane, Dovecote Terrace, Lancashire Road, Scarborough Drive, Catoosa Blvd To Just Past Walden Ridge Drive, Mountain View Drive, Walden Ridge Drive, Maintenance Blvd, Drury Lane, Kingsboro Drive And All Roads Coming Off Of It, Belvedere Lane, Havenridge Circle, Claremont Circle, Marquette Terrace, Stonehenge Drive From Village Drive To Ivydale Lane And All Roads Off Of Stonehenge Drive, Springdale Drive, Lynhurst Drive, Benwick Court, Wexford Lane, Hanning Drive, Valarian Drive, Cathedral Drive, Laurelton Lane, Brixton Lane, Mariners Drive, Dylan Lane, Hurstwood Lane, Forest Hill Drive, Keswick Lane, Forest Hill Terrace, Pamala Lane, Forest View Drive, Leyden Drive, Castlebridge Lane, Minetta Drive, Inwood Drive, Renwick Drive, Leaf Circle, Kenwood Drive, Thames Court, Thames Terrace, Holly Lane, Brooks Lane, Wilbourn Drive, Dickens Lane, Lechmere Drive, Pinehurst Court, Clason Point, Ivydale Lane.

Jamestown

South York Hwy From Wilder Road To Hoodtown Road, S York Court, Sweat Road, Berks Loop, Thacker Road, Goney Road, Lacy Drive, Davis Cook Road, Old Grimsley Road, Hack Beaty Road, L D York Road, Old Wilder Road, Maynard Drive, Chuckwagon Trl, Grimsley Hill Road, Author Lane, Larue Road, Stephens Loop, Fred Young Road, Old Taylor Turnpike, Payton Richards Road, Banner Roslin Road, Fire Hall Road, Wyman Beaty Road, Bicknell Road, Banner Springs Court, York Morgan Road, Bill Black Road, Leaman Hall Road, Banner Springs Road, Mount Gilead Road, Joe Rogers Road, River Bluff Road, Terry Lane, Holts Poore Road, Murray Lane, Horse Creek Road, George Young Road, Press Beaty Road, Pierce Road, Youngs Ford Road, Nash Road, Roslin Road, Atkinson Road, Keri Lane, Ernest Norris Road, Hall Road, Jonesville Road, Virgil Beaty Road, Bridge Creek Road, Meister Hill Road, Brodio Road, Standing Rock Road, James Henry Road, East Bowater Road, Larue Lane, Cottle Lane, Old Sunbright Road, Bill Linder Road, Graveyard Road, Old Ws Baldwin Road, Woodland Drive, Leo Norris Road.

Byrdstown

Byrdstown City Limits, Rich Cemetery Road, Greenview Drive, South Main Street, East Main Street, Honeysuckle Lane, Groce Lane, Sunset Drive, Bank Street, North Main Street, West Main Street, Pickett Street, Maple Street, Magnolia Ave, Melrose Ave, Holly Drive, Woodlawn Drive, Skyline Drive, Westgate Drive, Cross Street, Pendergrass Drive, Asberry Drive, Grandview Street, Hillcrest Drive, Highland Ave, Craig Street, Olympus Drive, Lacy Drive, Oak Street, Keising Drive, Poplar Street, Pine Street, Moodyville Road, Clark Mountain Road, Gib Moles Road, Cedar Ave, Walnut Street, North Main Street, Holly Drive, Spring Road, Beason Road, Sam Neal Road, Parker Road, Hysco Road, Harlan Lee Road, Wildflower Road, Dorothy Mcdonald Lane, Lick Creek Road, Claude Flowers Road, Ruby Taylor Road, Rector Bottom Road, Old Static Road, Red Hill Road, Dennis Gunter Road, Lee Road, Mullins Road, North Lick Creek Road, Greenbriar Road, Hill Ford Road, Branch Road, Branch Spur Road, Old Kentucky Road, S P Dowdy Road, Owl Hollow Road, Hunter Barn Ridge Road, Millie Stalley Road, Gunnels Road, Bakers Point Road, May Martin Road, Huddleston Lane, Spring Road, Industrial Drive, Old Story Road, Hwy 111, Richardston Road, Star Point, Star Point East Road, Cordell Hull Memorial Drive, Cave Valley Drive, Pendergrass Road, Hassler Lane, Hassler Loop, Plank Yard Road, Water Plant Road, Cove Creek Road, Fairview Road, Parris Road, Cosby Parris Road, Lakeview Drive, North Road, Center Lane, Smyrna Road, Jolley Road, Means Road, Jones Chapel Road, Turney Groce Road, Love Lady Road, Hassler Road, Hulda Point Road, Reagan Road, Griffin Road, Roughshod Hollow Road, Cove Branch Road, Jolley Creek Road, Bob Neal Lane, Eagles Cove Road, Black Oak Lane, Lillydale Road, Taylor Road, Amnett Ridge Road, Falcon Drive, Eucalyptus Drive, Cherokee Road, Pawnee Road, Seminole Road, Cheyenne Trail, Seminole Road, Sioux Lane, Choctaw Road, Shoshoni Road, Redbud Road, Southgate Road, Blue Bird Ridge Road, Moodyville Road, Huddleston Court, Billy Zachary Road, Clark Cemetery Road, Amnett Road, Pendergrass Road, Reedertown Road, Mount Union Road, Firetower Road, Anderson Road, Etter Church Road, Molly Lowery Road, Stanford Road, Mount Airy Road, Robbins Lane, Bond Cemetery Road, Moodyville Loop Road, Moody Road, Stepp Gap Road, Woody Road, Waterfall Hollow Road, Dry Creek Road, Double Top Road, Tate Hill Road, Sensabaugh Road, Robbinstown Road, Winingham Road, Crab Mountain Road, Hinds Chapel Road, Stokley West Road, Cedar Grove Road, Pritchett Cemetery Road, Burntmill Ford Road, Cedar Grove Road, Red Hill Road, Buck Mountain Road, Angley Overlook Road, Reed Cemetery Road, Possum Trot Road, Deer Fork Road, Caney Creek Road, Election Road, Joe Sells Road, Crockett Lane, Homer Lee Road, Hwy 127, Upchurch Loop Road, Mt View Road, South Fork Road, Begley Branch Road, Osco Williams Road, Koger Mountain Road, Horace Russell Road, Rock View Road, Tex Crabtree Lane, Crabtree Lane, Reed Cemetery Road.



POWERLINES

JUN 2021

Volunteer Energy Cooperative Newsletter



Rody Blevins
President/CEO
Volunteer Energy
Cooperative

Working to Improve Reliability

As we have discussed in previous articles, power system reliability is always a main concern of VEC staff. Providing reliable service to our members will always be a priority for VEC.

Some of our biggest challenges to providing reliable power have centered on problems with the aging Tennessee Valley Authority transmission system and the major outages it has caused our members. Eighteen months ago, we embarked on

a major capital project in the south end of the VEC system. This was a multimillion-dollar project to upgrade a large area of our distribution system and construct several miles of a 161 kV transmission line to get off the 105-year-old Tennessee Valley Authority transmission facilities in Bradley and Polk counties. We are nearing the completion of this large project. We plan to have the new facilities in service by June. This should improve reliability and reduce outages for this part of the VEC system.

In addition to the significant upgrades in the south end of the VEC system, we are also undertaking significant upgrades in the Cumberland, Putnam and Fentress County areas. These are also multimillion-dollar upgrades to our transmission systems. We are in the process of rebuilding the VEC transmission lines from Crossville to the Mayland area. We will also soon start to rebuild the VEC transmission line from our Campbell Junction Substation to our Grimsley Substation north of Clarkrange. These are some of the largest capital projects ever undertaken on the VEC system.

In addition to these projects, we are currently working on the engineering to upgrade additional transmission lines between our substations in Cleveland, Riceville and Athens. We hope to start on these projects later this year.

VEC is committed to the constant improvement of our power system. We are investing millions in the power system to provide reliable power to our members for decades to come. Reliability for our members will remain a priority for VEC.



Upgrades in the Ocoee Substation



New Transmission pole installation in Polk County



The VEC Customers Share program funded community service grants totaling \$34,100 in April. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, over \$7.2 million in grants has been awarded. The deadline for grant applications is the last working day of each month. For additional information, contact the Office of Marketing and Economic Development at 423-334-7051. Applications are also available online at www.vec.org.

Organizations receiving grants in April

Byrdstown Grief Support Group	\$2,450	Friends of Harrison Bay State Park	\$700
C5 Christian Counseling Center of Cumberland	\$2,250	Cumberland County Emergency & Rescue Squad	\$574
Bradley Central High School Softball	\$2,000	Pickett County 7th Grade Math Club	\$550
CSTHEA Patriots Basketball	\$1,800	Grace & Mercy Ministries	\$500
Boy Scout Troop 374	\$1,750	Ocoee Theatre Guild	\$500
Bledsoe County Community Food Bank	\$1,750	Tennessee Prime 12	\$500
Crab Orchard Care Center Inc.	\$1,426	Roane County Youth Leadership/RSCC Foundation	\$500
Project Lifesaver	\$1,200	Cedine Ministries	\$500
Polk County Retired Teachers Association	\$1,000	Bledsoe County Honor Guard	\$500
Meigs County Historical Society	\$1,000	BonDeCroft PTO	\$500
Meigs Decatur Public Library	\$1,000	Pall Mall Fire Department	\$500
Clear View Ministries	\$1,000	Covenant Youth Group	\$500
Polk County High School Baseball Booster Club	\$1,000	Muddy Pond Volunteer Fire Dept	\$500
York Elementary First Grade Classes	\$800	Braves Little League	\$350
Midway High School Prom Committee	\$800	Friends of Fentress Co. Imagination Library	\$350
Monterey Sports Network	\$750	PHS Tech Club	\$350
Willsonthropic Inc.	\$750	McMinn County Rescue Squad	\$250
E.K. Baker PTO	\$750	Meigs County Tennis Boosters Club	\$250
McMinn County Education Foundation	\$750	Meigs County HS Baseball Booster Club	\$250
Wilson Elementary School 8th Grade Class Trip	\$750	Monterey Unfinished Youth Group	\$250
		F.O.P. State Trooper Lodge #44	\$250

Trimming Trees Now Keeps the Power on Later

Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) provides energy to 119,000 homes and businesses in 17 counties. To keep the power on, we maintain 10,000 miles of power lines. Lined up end to end, our lines would stretch across the United States from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans 3 times.

Keeping these powerlines maintained and functional is not an inexpensive undertaking. We invest more than \$6 million each year, maintaining the Right of Way. It may surprise you that one of our most significant expenses on average is not poles or wire but trimming trees.

Reliable energy is essential to the co-op and to the homes and businesses we serve. Keeping trees and other vegetation safely away from power lines is crucial for our ongoing system maintenance. While some power outages are out of our control – things such as car accidents or lightning – many outages can be prevented by making sure trees and other vegetation are kept well away from the lines.

Each year the co-op and our tree-trimming contractors clear limbs and brush and in some cases remove entire trees that are too close to the lines or near other electrical equipment. They carefully follow guidelines and best practices provided by the International Society of Arboriculture.

“It’s pretty simple,” says Brad Rhea, Right-of-Way Superintendent. “When trees and other vegetation get too close to the lines, it will result in a power outage. One tree could knock out the power for a hundred homes. Keeping them away from the lines is necessary to keep the lights on.”

Proper right-of-way maintenance is a good investment that keeps the lights on for our consumer-members. “To keep everyone in our community safe, our distribution system is designed to cut the power when it detects a contact with the power line,” says Rhea. “We can’t tell if the contact is from a child flying a kite, a car accident or a limb brushing against the line. This means that trees and limbs can knock out the power even if they don’t break the lines. If they do break the lines, the outage can last even longer. That’s why it is so important to keep vegetation away from the lines.”



Bucket Trucks and other large equipment are used to remove branches and trees that are in the ROW.



A cleared ROW.

In addition to planning and managing the ROW program, Brad Rhea works to educate our members on the ‘right tree in the right place.’ The best prevention is to plant the right tree far enough to prevent it from becoming a problem or safety hazard for the power lines. The University of Tennessee Agriculture Extension office prepared the following guidelines for power line-friendly tree planting:

- Small trees – 30 feet or less– should be planted at least 10 feet from buildings and 20 to 25 feet away from power lines.
- Medium trees – 30 to 70 feet in height – should be planted at least 15 feet from buildings and 30 to 35 feet from power lines.
- Large trees – those reaching 70 feet or more in height – should be planted at least 25 feet from buildings and 40 to 45 feet from power lines.
- No tree trunk, no matter how small the tree, should be within 10 feet of a utility pole.

Co-op members can help maintain a reliable flow of electricity in your community by reporting any potential problems you see. It’s also important to be understanding when tree trimming crews are working on or near your property - the work they are doing impacts both you and your neighbors. Though co-ops like VEC have the right to inspect and maintain power lines without property owners’ consent, we make every effort to contact property owners to discuss the work ahead of time.

From homes to hospitals and farms to factories, much of our lives depend on reliable energy. Power is essential to maintain health, safety, comfort, productivity and connection, and VEC is passionate about fulfilling our responsibility and meeting your expectations.



ROW contract crews cleaning up the large limbs with a portable chipper.



Tennessee Valley Authority

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment Effective

May 1, 2021

1.870¢

For the most current FCA information, visit www.vec.org

Volunteer Energy Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.

