

SPRING'S IMPACT ON LINE CREWS: *Battling Storms, Flooding, and System Upgrades*

As the seasons change and winter gives way to spring, line crews face a new set of challenges that come with unpredictable weather, rapid vegetation growth, and changing ground conditions. While spring brings longer days and milder temperatures, it also brings storms, heavy rain, and flooding—all of which impact the work of Southeastern Indiana REMC's dedicated crews.

Storm Preparedness and Response

Spring is notorious for severe thunderstorms, high winds, and even tornadoes, all of which can cause power outages by bringing down trees, damaging power lines, and knocking out equipment. Line crews stay on high alert during this time, responding quickly to restore service while navigating difficult conditions, such as muddy roads, flooded areas, and storm debris.

Before storm season peaks, lineworkers inspect and reinforce the system, looking for weakened poles, aging infrastructure, and potential problem areas to help prevent outages before they happen.

Wet Ground and Flooding: Challenges Below the Surface

One of the biggest obstacles line crews face in spring is saturated soil and standing water. When the ground becomes oversaturated from heavy rain or melting snow, it creates unstable conditions for poles and equipment, increasing the risk of leaning or downed poles.

Working in muddy or flooded areas presents extra hazards:

- **Difficult Equipment Access:** Heavy bucket trucks and service vehicles may struggle to reach work sites due to soft, unstable ground. In some cases, crews must use specialized off-road vehicles or even work on foot in flooded areas.
- **Risk of Underground Cable Damage:** Excess moisture can compromise underground electrical lines, leading to short circuits or outages that require time-consuming repairs.
- **Increased Safety Precautions:** Working in wet conditions means a higher risk of slips, falls, and electrocution hazards, requiring extra caution and safety measures.



Vegetation Management: Controlling Spring Growth

As trees, shrubs, and other vegetation start growing rapidly in the spring, they pose a greater risk to power lines. Line crews work proactively to trim trees and clear branches before they interfere with electrical lines, helping to prevent outages and improve system reliability.

However, wet ground and flooded right-of-ways can make it difficult to access areas in need of clearing, requiring crews to carefully plan their approach and wait for drier conditions when necessary.



Infrastructure Maintenance and System Upgrades

Spring is also an ideal time for maintenance and upgrades, as temperatures are milder and the increased daylight hours give crews more working time. Lineworkers focus on:

- **Repairing damage from winter storms and ice**
- **Upgrading aging equipment to improve reliability**
- **Expanding the electric grid to serve new homes and businesses**

Despite the advantages of spring work, soft, wet ground can make pole replacements more challenging. Crews often have to take additional steps, such as reinforcing the soil or using alternative equipment, to ensure new poles remain stable in saturated ground.

A Season of Hard Work and Preparation

Spring is one of the busiest seasons for Southeastern Indiana REMC's line crews, who work tirelessly to ensure safe and reliable power, no matter the weather. Whether they're restoring outages after a storm, battling floodwaters to reach damaged lines, or upgrading infrastructure for the summer ahead, their dedication keeps the community connected.

As the season unfolds, remember to stay alert for downed power lines after storms, avoid flooded areas with electrical equipment, and always call 811 before digging near underground utilities. Together, we can power through spring safely and efficiently!



STAY SAFE THIS SPRING



**STAY ALERT FOR DOWNED
POWER LINES AFTER STORMS**



**AVOID FLOODED AREAS WITH
ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT**



**CALL 811 BEFORE DIGGING
NEAR UNDERGROUND UTILITIES**