

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 should contact Brad Rhea at 931-248-1884.

THE FOLLOWING AREAS WILL BE SPRAYED IN 2020

Crab Orchard

Chestnut Hill Rd from Crab Orchard to Oakes Rd, Crab Orchard City Limits, Renegade Mtn, Hwy 70 east toward Ozone, Grieviers Chapel, Ozone Rd, Fall Creek Rd, Peavine Rd from substation towards Hebbertsburg, Hebbertsburg Rd, Orlie Young Rd, Hedgecoth Rd, Smith Mtn Rd, Hamby Rd, Brock Ln

Fairfield Community

Snead Dr, Lakeshire Dr, Anglewood Dr, Lakeview Dr, Trafalgar Dr, Shore Ln, Lakewood Dr, Jasper Dr, Ivybrook Ln, Highgate Dr, Glenwood Dr, Norcross Dr, Oxford Cir, Kingsdown Dr, Britton Ln, Meadowview Dr, Tuttle Ln, Wilshire Heights Dr, Peavine Rd, Woodlands Cir, Canterbury Dr, St George Dr, Devon Rd, Delbridge Ln, Dovenshire Dr, Fairview Rd, Crestview Loop, Brown Creek Dr, Dartmoore Dr, Drew Howard Rd, Runnymede, Rugby Rd, Hampshire Ln, Avon Ln

Crossville

Haves St, Cleveland St, W Adams St, Justice St, Dorton Rd, Old Mail Rd, Prentice St, Storie Ave, Stanley St, Spier Way, Myrtle Ave, Fourth St, Tulip dr, Canary Dr, Palmetto Dr, Cumberland Dr, Hwy 70 East, Rockwood Ave, Ivy Ave, Braun St, Webb Ave, Stanley St, Lee June St, Neecham St, Yvonne Ave, Lawson Dr, Crossville City Limits

Monterey

Clarkrange Hwy, Muddy Pond Area, Old Walton rd, Callahan Rd, E Peter Ave, Farley Ave, Hanging Limb Hwy, Anderson Rd, Buckner Rd, Lake Hill rd, Norrod Ln, Obey City Ln, Cliff Springs Muddy Pond Rd, Union B Rd, Low Gap Ln, Ridge Ln, Armstrong Ln, Coal Ln, Murphy Ln, East Fork Ln, Key Hollow Rd, Honey Springs Rd,

Wildier Grimsley Community

Wildier Rd, Robs Rd, Pioneer Rd, Colony rd, Pilgram Dr, Long Point Rd, Sandy Shortcut Rd, Sandy Rd, Savage Boles Rd, Parkstown Rd, Veterans Lookout, Panther Falls Rd, East Obey Ln, Big Piney Loop, Vines Ridge Rd, Big Laurel Rd, Cravenstown Rd, Cooktown Rd, Muddy Lane rd, Mangled Vine Trl, Lilly Ln, Bearknob Rd,

Jamestown

North York Hwy, Flat Rock Rd, Squirrel Flats, Panther Branch, Charlie Doss, Livingston Hwy, Old Copley Rd, Campbell Rd, Buck Hollow, Buzzard Roost, Upper Crab, Double Top, Old Stevens Rd, Riverton rd, King Mtn Rd, New Hope Church Rd, Conaster Hollow Rd, Fairgrounds Rd, Gouldstown Rd, Flat Spur, Holden Hollow Rd, Yellow Cliff, Rotten Fork, Delk Creek, Reed Creek Rd, Shellotte Loop Rd, Wes Goodwin Rd

Ten Mile

10 Mile Valley Rd, County Rd 312, N Nopone Valley Rd, County Roads 218, 188, 193, 192, Sewee Creek Rd, Jordan Rd, Clearwater Rd, Old St Hwy 68, Butler Rd, Kyler Rd, McHone Ln,

Athens

Overland Dr, County Roads 375, 393, 422, 420, 362, 364, 372, 373, 361, 364, 362, 405, 307, 360, 350, 357, 358, 359, 383, 252, 251, 201, 196, 197, 172, 173, 249, 253, 208, 213, 207, Mt Harmony Rd

Athens/Decatur

Rocky Mount Rd, Hwy 30 W County Roads 110, 111, 112, 113, 89, 106, 105, 99, 96, 60, 82, 52, 58, 53, 69, 61, 125, 168, 127, 121, 130, 139, 114, 126, 122, 123, 169, 128, 129, 131

Riceville

Hwy 39 W, Hwy 11 S County Roads 79, 80, 76, 77, 78, 70, 94, 91, 93, 81, 50, 701, 720, 725, 715, 683, 727, 726, 700, 751, 740, 728, 739, 758, 755, 754

Spring City

Hwy 27, Kings Hill Rd, Kemmer Rd, Hinch St, Toestring Valley Rd, Broyles Smith Ln, Vanns Creek Rd, Holiday Point Dr, Rhea Springs Rd, Ruth Rd, Muddy Creek Rd, Mars Hill Rd, Haskel Ln, Payne Ln, Piney Point Rd, Buzzard Roost Rd, Cypress Dr, Ware Farms Rd, Spruce Dr, Maple Dr, Osage Ct, William Dr, Bill Miller Rd, Jim Grasham Rd, Hwy 68 to Coal Creek Dr, Possum Trot Rd, Highlander Rd, Jonas Holloway Ln, Big Neck Rd, Neck Rd, Doc Loy Rd, Sherry Ln, Walt Reed Rd, Fire Tower Rd, Hemlock Dr, Burdette Rd, Tower Rd, Jewett Rd, Jolley Rd, Garrison Rd, Happy Top Rd, Sabo Rd, New Lake Rd, Moon Ln, Wolf Creek Rd, Old Rhea Springs Rd, McCabe Rd, Doc Smith Rd, Pittman Ln, Torbett Rd, Irvine Ln, Wildier Rd, Lake Forest Dr, Sunset Dr, Hidden Ln, Harbor Dr, Basil Fugate Rd, Sable Rd, Old Stage Rd, Dividing Ridge Rd, Harrison Rd, Texas Grove Rd, Tom Garrison Rd, Walter Smith Rd, Pleasant Rd, Tyler Rd, Lee Henderson Rd, Old Dixie Hwy, Smith Bend Rd, Breedenton Ferry Rd, John Ross Rd, Thea Fugate Rd, Crosby Rd, New Lake Rd, Broyles Rd, Tennessee St, Kennedy St, Hillcrest Dr, Mahogany Rd, Scenic Hill Dr, Lakeshire Dr, Laurel Dr, Marshall Dr, Sycamore Rd, Rhea Dr, Watts Bar Dr, Lakeview Dr, Lake Hills Ln, Lake Hill Cir, Adams St, Ellis St, Front St, Clinton St, Spring City city limits, Ideal Valley Rd, Price Rd, Cemetery Rd, Macedonia Rd, Cawood

Rd, Euchee Chapel Rd, Cunningham Rd, Red Cloud Trl, Sunset Hills, Clearwater Dr, Groover Rd, Lake Front Dr, Trevitt Rd, Tonya Dr, Dixie Lee Hwy, Roddy Rd, Shut in Gap, Lowes Gap, East Ridge Rd, Overlook Trl, Hubb Swafford Rd, Hollaway Ridge Rd, East Log Rd, West Log Rd, Roberts Ln, Luminary Mtn area

McDonald

McDonald Rd, Brock Ln, Old Alabama Rd, Pine Hill Rd, Parks Rd, Teague Rd, Baker Rd, Tunnel Hill Rd, Powell Rd, Bullington Rd, Old Chattanooga Pike, Blue Springs Church Rd, Lead Mine Valley Rd, Lead Mine Rd, Waddell Rd, Cook Rd, Blue Springs Rd, Brook Bryson Rd, Hickory Top Rd, Varner Dr, Johnston Rd, Miller Rd, Scott Ln, Bancroft Rd, Old Bancroft Rd, Corinth Church Rd, Kirkpatrick Rd, Baugh Spring Rd, Banther Rd, Firetower Rd, Owl Hollow Rd, Old Harrison Rd, Mountain Rd, Roark Ln, Spring Branch Rd, Brymer Creek Rd, Pleasant Grove Rd, Erin Ln, Landfill Rd

Ocoee

Hwy 411, Voyles Dr, Sloans Gap Rd, Kirksey Dr, Curbow Bridge Rd, Wheeler Rd, Frazier Rd, Jones Rd, Beach Springs Rd, Jot Rd, Old Federal Rd, Ed Kirksey Rd, Dunn Rd, Swan Rd, Davis Curbow Rd, Rymer Rd, Stafford Rd, Mountain Dr, Pine Dr, Old Fort Rd, Brackett Rd, Bill Miller Rd, Frey Rd, Horns Creek Rd, Massa Rd, Sand Mountain Rd, Brewer Rd, Ladd Springs Rd, Bill Howard Rd, Cook Ln, Waters Rd, Browder Rd, Samples Chapel Rd, Hoyt Browder Rd, Boanerges Church Rd, Easy Ford Rd, Liberty Church Rd, Gann Rd, Sima Branch Rd, Ball Play Rd, Kirby Ln, Ocoee Cir, Reynolds Bridge Rd, Hilldabrand Rd, Crews Dr, Bishop Rd, Rivers Edge Ln, River Heights Dr, Mt View Dr, Welcome Valley Rd, Roblyer Rd, Hwy 64, Longley Rd, Stump St, Shilos Church Rd, Adams Rd, Dixon Rd, River Bend Dr, Copeland Rd, Blackberry Ln, Porter Rd, Horns Ford Rd, Casson Rd, Hidden Hills Rd, Cookson Rd, Sugarloaf Dr, YMCA Dr, Bullens Rd, Benton Station Rd, York Rd, Theres Ln, Old Chestuee Rd, Goldston Rd, Shipman Ln, Benton Pike, Lightfoot Rd, Carson Rd

Benton

Hwy 411, Oak Grove Rd, Quarry Rd, Pope Rd, Horton Bridge Rd, George Bates Rd, Mountain View Rd, Harrison Mill Rd, Paris Branch Rd, Crystal Geyeser Dr, Timber Hills Dr

The Winners - 2020 Washington Youth Tour Short Story Contest

The Washington Youth Tour Creative Writing and Scholarship Competition, sponsored by Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) and the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, is open to high school juniors that live in VEC service areas. The Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, in a historically unprecedented move, decided to cancel the 2020 Washington Youth Tour amid concerns over COVID-19.

The event presented by the state's consumer-owned electric cooperatives takes more than 130 high school juniors from across the state to Washington, D.C., each summer. The students learn about history, leadership and public policy. The COVID-19 Pandemic required a new strategy that included both respecting the safety of students and rewarding skill and effort. This year the winners will each receive a scholarship as well as several other scholarship opportunities.

This year's winners are Ashlyn Liner, Braley Moorehead, Isis Wales, Keely McDonald, Megan Salazar, Bryce McKenzie, Sara Ukani and Zoey Greene. Please join us in congratulating these exceptional students.



Zoey Greene



Ashlyn Liner



Keely McDonald



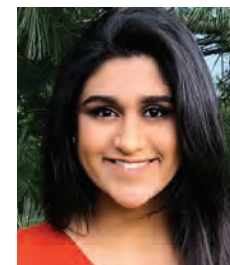
Bryce McKenzie



Braley Moorehead



Megan Salazar



Sara Ukani



Isis Wales



POWERLINES

JUL 2020

Volunteer Energy Cooperative Newsletter

2020 - A Challenging First Half

We are facing new realities as a co-op in 2020. Many of the challenges are a direct result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We have witnessed our residential and commercial members struggle to make ends meet as a result of the national shutdown. The way we socialize, work, even attend church has changed. One aspect we have not changed is our commitment to the communities we serve.

In response, we worked with our members during the shutdown. We provided individualized assistance (direct and indirect) for members who called us regarding financial difficulties resulting from the COVID-19 shutdown. VEC Customer's Share program gave the March and April funding (\$53,865 plus) to food banks in the communities we serve. We closed our service center's lobbies to protect the health of our workers and members, but we left the drive-thru open and extended hours in our call center.

In addition to the COVID-19 related changes, the VEC service area sustained damage from several major storms, including two tornadoes. In March and April alone, storms resulted in more than 150 damaged power poles. Right-of-Way crews cleared trees and debris, and servicemen repaired the damage caused by straight-line winds. Linemen worked as carefully and quickly as possible, restoring power and repairing lines.

Through all the changes, our employees have worked hard and met the challenge. They are excelling not only at work but also in their communities. The cooperative way of doing business is community-centric. It has brought us this far and will help us through the second half of 2020.



Rody Blevins
President/CEO
Volunteer Energy
Cooperative





As I put together this month's Powerlines, America and the world are still in the COVID-19 pandemic. Tennessee is beginning to lift the restrictions from the Governor's Stay at Home order. Many families in our communities have lost jobs or faced a multi-week layoff without pay. Taking all these issues into consideration, VECustomers Share Board Members decided to give the money collected to food banks.

VECcustomers Shares is a grant program funded through the rounding up of member's bills to the nearest dollar. The most an individual member would pay within a year is \$11.88. Our members usually average \$5.50 each yearly.

In return for the rounded up change from our members, we contribute to organizations across our 17 county service area. Each month the VECustomers Share Board meets and distributes the funds collected in the previous month. A board member represents every service area. In April, VECustomers Share Grants totaled \$27,315.

Organizations receiving grants in April

5 Loaves Food Pantry	\$3,035	Cumberland Good Samaritans	\$3,035
Helping Hands Community Food Pantry	\$3,035	Calhoun Charleston Food Pantry	\$3,035
West Polk County Baptist Food Bank	\$3,035	Bags of Blessings-Meadowview	
Salem Baptist Church Food Pantry	\$3,035	Baptist Church	\$3,035
Meigs Ministry	\$3,035	Fentress County Food Bank	\$3,035

Climbing Higher

Off Tennessee Highway 30 is a little historic cemetery, and inside the cemetery are several towering old-growth trees. After the creation of the cemetery, Interstate 75 was installed, and an exit was built less than a mile away. Subsequently, this area of McMinn County has grown significantly, and the need for power has increased.

In McMinn County, we share poles and equipment with the Athens Utility Board (AUB). When we can, VEC likes to partner with neighboring utilities to minimize cost. We live the principle of Cooperation among Cooperatives and include other nearby energy distributors as well.

A double circuit (AUB and VEC power lines) serving this area was at high risk for tree damage. Because of the size of the tree, even a limb breaking off would have the same impact as a fully mature tree falling. The location of the tree, the tree's height, and the proximity of power lines created a very complex problem.

Towering over the tallest bucket truck available, AUB right-of-way contractors recommended a specialized tree service. AUB contacted VEC regarding splitting the cost of the tree service. VEC's former right-of-way superintendent Steve Scott called our contractor Kendall (Seelbach). Kendall had a crew with the skills to trim a tree so large it required climbing.

The Kendall contract crew was made up of supervisor Juan Ramirez, Francisco Bojórquez, Jason Grau Solis and Santiago Valladares. Crewmember

Jason Solis rode in the bucket as high as it could safely extend (100 ft) and climbed with a rope, chain saw and safety equipment.

After securing his position with climbing safety gear, he cut the top limbs in smaller segments that he lowered to the ground using a rope and pulley system. Many of the parts were thicker than most fully-grown trees. Solis would move from limb to trunk using climbing gear, safety ropes and skill.

The other Kendall crew members worked the bucket controls and manned the pulleys that brought the tree limbs down. The width of the trimmed branches was so large when they were on the ground that

they were as tall as the waist of the Kendall supervisor. To say the tree was tall requires perspective. For that VEC's Steve Scott, who is 6'3 tall, stood next to the base of the tree to measure the width.

Trimming the tree took two full days to bring the limbs down safely. During this time, the power lines remained energized AUB and VEC linemen, along with VEC's Superintendent of Safety, monitored the operation. Once the Kendall crews completed the tree trimming, AUB's right-of-way crew cleaned up the oversized debris.

Partnering with our neighboring utility, we were able to remove a danger tree, maintain the power, and have the lowest possible impact on the historic cemetery. Working together, VEC, AUB and Kendall, safely resolved a potential threat to power and neighboring businesses.



Steve Scott (green shirt) standing next to the tree to measure the BCH.



Kendall Crew from left to right: Juan Ramirez, Francisco Bojórquez, Jason Grau Salis, and Santiago Valladares.



A drone image of the tree and the 100 ft. bucket truck.

UPDATE YOUR PHONE NUMBER TODAY

When you update your phone number(s) you will become eligible for a prize drawing.

You can update your information by calling your service center, using SmartHub, or by logging into your account at vec.org. You can also use the form on the back of your bill.



Tennessee Valley Authority

Residential & Outdoor Lighting
Fuel Cost Adjustment
Effective **June 1, 2020**

1.533¢

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

Volunteer Energy Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.