

### ***What is the width of the right-of-way that SEC trims?***

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Our right-of-way widths vary depending on the type of line and voltage present. For single-phase and three-phase distribution lines, SEC trims 20 feet on each side of the line. For transmission lines, the crews will trim 50 feet on each side of the line.

### ***Does SEC trim the service conductors that run to my house?***

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Yes, these lines have a five foot radius trimmed during our regular six-year cycle. SEC does not trim services at any other time.

### ***Within the SEC right-of-way, can members trim their own trees or hire contractors to trim their trees instead of allowing SEC contractors to trim their trees?***

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Within the SEC right-of-way, members may not trim trees or hire contractors to trim trees. SEC must first obtain proper clearance required by the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) in American National Standards Institute (ANSI) code Z133.1. On secondary and service wires, SEC may choose to obtain clearance by first removing the line and then the member may trim or remove the tree.

### ***How does SEC trim trees?***

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Lateral trimming is the method used by the Cooperative, which was developed by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and approved by the National Arborist Association, and the National Arbor Day Foundation. Lateral pruning leaves the overall structure of the tree stronger and more resistant to high winds. Future growth is directed away from the power lines. Topping trees (rounding over or shaping) is NOT endorsed by the ISA because it leaves trees prone to disease and insect infestation.

### ***Can SEC legally trim the trees on my property within the right-of-way?***

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Yes. The Cooperative has the right and the obligation to its members to maintain any and all vegetation within its right-of-way. This allows for brush control, trimming, and removal of trees in and outside of the right-of-way that may pose a hazard to our power lines.

### ***Does SEC remove or clean up trees and vegetation debris following a storm?***

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After a storm, our top priority is restoring electricity to our members, not tree removal. During the outage restoration process, SEC (and its contractors) may cut any tree or branch within the right-of-way that presents an immediate obstruction to our electrical infrastructure. Beyond this priority we do not focus on tree and debris removal during this time. However, trees cut within the right-of-way during the outage restoration process remain the private property of the member and will be left on the premises.

Removal and cleanup of debris is done only during our routine right-of-way trimming program. This program is meant to prevent outages before they cause an interruption.

### ***Does SEC remove danger/hazard trees near the line?***

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Yes, SEC has a program that targets danger/hazard trees along our main lines. Cooperative personnel (or contractors) patrol these lines and look for dead, diseased, or leaning trees that may endanger the line.

### ***How does SEC handle member requests for tree trim or removal?***

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When a member calls us with concerns about a tree, SEC will send out a representative to determine whether tree removal or trimming is necessary. After deciding what action, if any, needs to be taken, an SEC representative will either leave a door hanger at the house or contact the member by phone with an explanation. Should our representative indicate that tree trimming or removal will be required; SEC will add this as work required and given to a crew when they are in that particular area. Depending on crew location and work load, it may take several months to complete the work.