



First Electric
Cooperative

A Member-Owned
Cooperative

800-489-7405

www.firstelectric.coop

Underground facility clearances important to service reliability

To improve aesthetics of new neighborhoods, developers often put in underground power lines. While this eliminates utility poles and overhead wires, it requires installing pad-mounted transformers in yards. Some homeowners, concerned about curb appeal, attempt to screen pad-mount transformers from view — creating an unsafe situation for all concerned, including First Electric servicemen.

“We realize landscaping represents an investment of time and money,” Right-of-Way Maintenance Supervisor Tim Felty said. “We respect the effort and care our members invest in making their properties attractive. However, landscaping around electrical equipment interferes with our ability to deliver reliable power.”

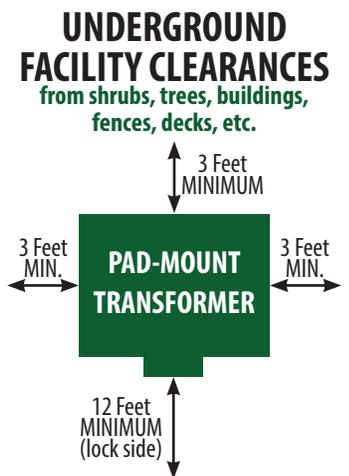
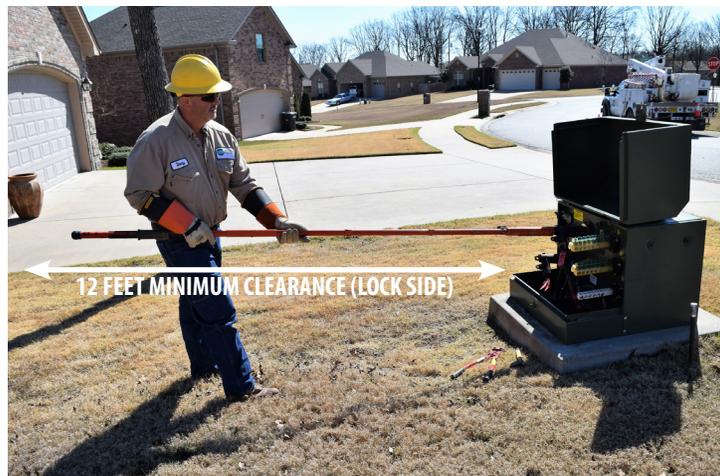
First Electric recommends leaving at least 12 feet of clear space on the access panel and three feet on all other sides of pad-mount transformers.

Servicemen repair units while energized so homeowners don't experience a service interruption. To ensure safety, they use an 8-foot fiberglass hot stick that requires about 12 feet of room on the lock side of the access panel.

Maintenance on pad-mount transformers is performed as needed by First Electric. Crews are currently working in the Hot Springs Village area.



Landscaping with bushes, fences or flower beds around pad-mounted transformers can create hazards. When surrounded by vegetation or structures, transformers may overheat and cause service interruptions when the air circulation around it is compromised. First Electric recommends a 12-foot minimum clearance on the lock side and a 3-foot minimum clearance on all other sides.



Underground Pad-Mount Transformer Guidelines:

- Never let anything grow closer than 12 feet from a pad-mount transformer access panel (lock side). The panel is marked by a handle, lock, and sticker on the front. Leave a minimum three-foot clearance around all other sides.
- Obstruction such as fencing will have to be removed when it limits proper access for the equipment needed to maintain underground facilities.
- Never allow children to play near pad-mount transformers.
- Never pour waste oils, chemicals, or other liquids on or near a pad-mount transformer. These liquids can seep into the ground and damage underground cables.

Paperless Billing

Sign up for Paperless Billing by Earth Day, April 22 to be entered in a drawing to **WIN AN AMAZON ECHO!**



Paperless Billing is free, convenient and good for the environment

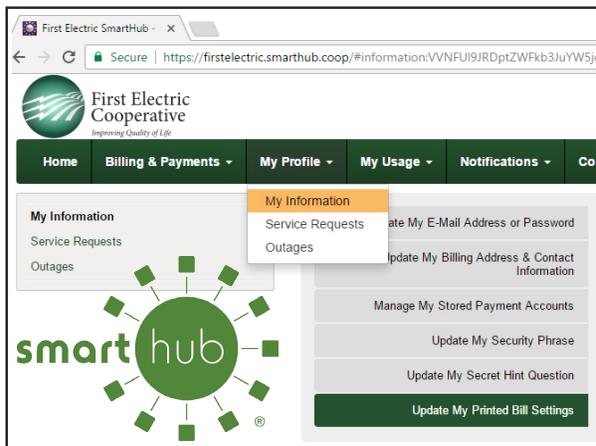
Sign up for Paperless Billing and reduce your monthly paper usage — and mailbox clutter — by reviewing and paying your monthly electric bill online. It's free, convenient and secure. Members who enroll by Earth Day, April 22 will be entered into a drawing to win an Amazon Echo.

To sign up for Paperless Billing, log in or create a new account using SmartHub. Download the SmartHub mobile app or go to <https://firstelectric.smarthub.coop>. Once logged in, click on "My Profile" and then "Update My Printed Bill Settings."

Once you enroll in Paperless Billing, you'll receive an email each month alerting that your bill is available for viewing. It allows access to

your account and bill online and provides an online filing system of up to 24 months billing history that can be accessed, saved or printed for your records.

Have questions? Call 800-489-7405, and a member service representative can help you with Paperless Billing.



Five Easy Ways to

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

Every Day

1. Conserve water by taking showers instead of baths.
2. Turn off all lights when you leave a room.
3. Bring your reusable bags to the market and other stores when shopping.
4. Go paperless. Pay as many bills as possible online.
5. Ditch the car and walk when possible.

Annual Meeting to be held June 22

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the members of First Electric Cooperative will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2017, in the Office of the Cooperative at 1000 South J.P. Wright Loop Road, Jacksonville, Pulaski County, Arkansas, beginning at 10 a.m. for the following purposes:

- To pass on reports for the previous fiscal year;
- To elect two (2) directors for the cooperative to serve a term of six (6) years; and,
- To transact such other business as properly may come before the meeting.

Any member planning to attend the annual meeting, who has special needs, is asked to contact the cooperative at 800-489-7405 prior to the annual meeting for assistance.

Respectfully,
Robert Maertens
Secretary/Treasurer

APRIL 10, 2017 IS NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY.



#ThankALineman