

### **Notice to Customers of Elroy Electric Utility:**

Tree trimming is essential to maintaining electrical safety and reliability. Trees and power lines are not a good combination—especially when storms bring lightning, ice or high winds. That is why Elroy Electric Utility works hard to keep trees around overhead power lines properly trimmed. As part of our ongoing preventative maintenance program, we annually identify areas to clear trees and limbs away from pole-to-pole power lines.

### **We consider several factors when determining whether to trim or remove a tree:**

- For safety reasons, we are required to maintain a minimum distance of 10 feet between tree limbs and energized wires and equipment.
- To maintain this clearance, we must consider how much the tree will grow between now and the next trim cycle. Slower-growing trees require less trimming; faster-growing trees require more trimming.
- We plan ahead for weather conditions. Will strong winds cause the tree to make contact with the wires? Will movement in the wires, such as sagging due to high temperatures or the weight of ice cause the wires to contact the tree?
- And, we consider the impact of trimming on the overall health and stability of the tree.
- If removal is necessary, the responsibility for removal falls on the property owner if the tree is on private property. The Utility crew will remove sufficient branches to ensure safe removal of the tree by a private contractor. If the tree is in street right-of-way, the Utility crew may remove the tree. Line clearance crews may be in your neighborhood to trim tree limbs that are too close to power lines. Our crews are professionally trained to recognize electrical hazards associated with trimming around power lines. We use the most current practices set forth by the National Arbor Day Foundation to preserve the health of trees. We also comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations regarding worker safety.

Elroy Electric Utility does not remove or perform trimming on trees for the service wire (line from the pole to your home). We will disconnect service free of charge to allow for safe pruning. Advance notice of 48 hours or more is needed before disconnection.

### **What can you expect?**

- If a tree is located beneath or within 10 feet of a power line, it will likely be trimmed.
- On routine cycle trimming, our crews will chip and haul away brush and small branches.
- All stumps in street right-of-way will be removed by city workers. Removal of stumps on private property will be the responsibility of the property owner.
- We may need to remove a tree if it is dead or dying, it has a badly split trunk or limb, leans dangerously close to wires, or is a fast-growing, weak-wooded variety.
- A representative from Elroy Electric Utility will contact you in person if a tree must be removed from your property. Any questions or concerns can be directed to the Power House at 507 Franklin St. (608) 462-2415 or City Hall at 225 Main St. (608) 462-2400.