

# InTouch

WITH MEMBERS OF  FRANKLIN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

April 2022

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



## The power behind your power

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11

their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training, and hands-on learning. Did you know that to become a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience, and an on-going mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the many challenges, Franklin REC's lineworkers are committed to powering our communities. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, sometimes days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers.

Here in Franklin and the surrounding counties, your electric cooperative has seven (7) lineworkers responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain over 850 miles of power lines or the equivalent of driving from Hampton to Shreveport, Louisiana! In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, and other technologies to map outages, survey damage, and troubleshoot.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life. So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 11, and follow "#ThankALineworker" on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.

A WORD FROM



**Garrett Thompson**  
Chief Executive Officer

You've likely noticed Franklin REC's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our service territory. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers. The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to

### Board room highlights

At their February meeting, Franklin REC directors:

- Reviewed and approved the Strategic Planning Action Matrix.
- Reviewed and approved an Operation Round Up fund application.

### SPARKS of news

- Reviewed and approved a Federated Insurance proposal.
- Reviewed financial reports.
- Received updates from the management team regarding the solar arrays, annual meeting planning, and the new metering system.



## Lineworkers go above and beyond.

### Lineworker Appreciation Day: Monday, April 11

They are our heroes in hard hats--leaving family gatherings, working in the freezing cold and sweltering heat, and going to work in the middle of the night. THANK YOU, LINEWORKERS, for restoring power in all types of circumstances. We appreciate you!



## Beware of warm-weather scammers

Springtime is scam season. If you need work done around your house, visit the website of the Iowa agency responsible for licensing contractors (<https://bit.ly/3tEsDXt>) or join a contractor referral network that recommends only contractors who are licensed, insured, bonded, and experienced.

A few other tips:

- Be wary of contractors with out-of-state license plates or detachable, magnetic company signs on their trucks.
  - Do not pay in cash, and do not pay up front.
  - Get bids from three reputable companies before you start.
  - Don't fall for: "I just finished a job at your neighbor's house and I'll give you a good price if you hire me today because I'm already in the neighborhood" or "I have leftover materials from a job and I'll sell/install them here for a discount."
- Hiring contractors can be expensive. Don't waste your money on one who's not licensed and legitimate.

Your Touchstone Energy cooperative encourages you to **MOVE OVER AND SLOW DOWN** when you approach a vehicle with flashers on.

Let's make sure everyone arrives safely!



**MOVE OVER  
SLOW DOWN**

## RECare MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

Franklin REC has traditionally extended a helping hand to those needing it. In response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, your REC has established RECare, a program of members helping members.

RECare will provide funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and to assist in weatherization of homes of low-income consumers. You may make a one-time contribution or a monthly pledge that will be automatically added onto your monthly electric bill. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others.



## RECare Authorization Form

- I will contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month. I understand this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.
- I will make a one-time contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to RECare. My check is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to Franklin REC, 1560 Hwy. 65, PO Box 437, Hampton, IA, 50441**

# Grain bin requirements

When you start to plan for a new grain bin, please contact your electric cooperative. We will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable and permanent augers, conveyors and elevators.

The drawings at the right show the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact your cooperative listed here.

## According to the Iowa Electric Safety

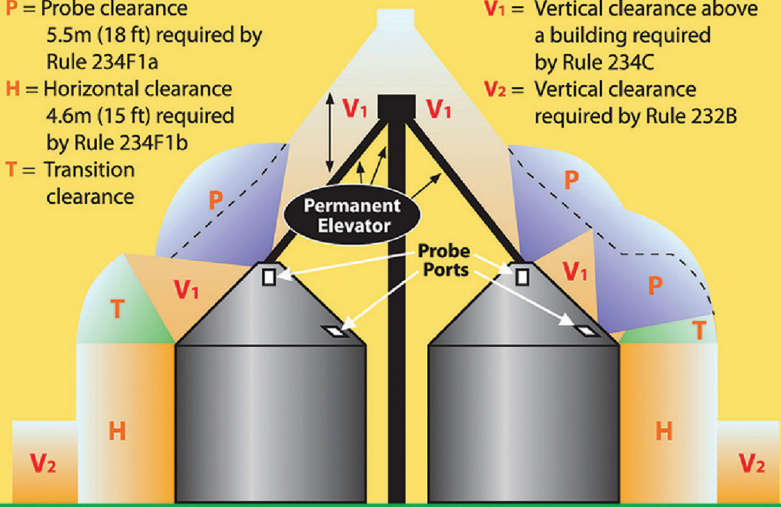
Butler County REC.....	319-267-2726
Corn Belt Power.....	515-332-2571
Franklin REC.....	641-456-2557

**Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 -- 25.2(3) b.** An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C2-2017 "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234F. This paragraph "b" shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after September 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevator systems installed after December 24, 1997. (The Iowa Utilities Board has adopted this language.)

**Disclaimer:** These drawings are provided as part of Iowa electric cooperatives' annual public information campaign and are based on the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code. To view the actual drawings refer to that publication. Every care has been taken for the correctness of the contents of these drawings. However, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives accept no liability whatsoever for omissions or errors, technical inaccuracies, typographical mistakes or for damages of any kind arising from the use of the contents of these drawings, whether textual or graphical.

## Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by permanently installed augers, conveyors or elevators

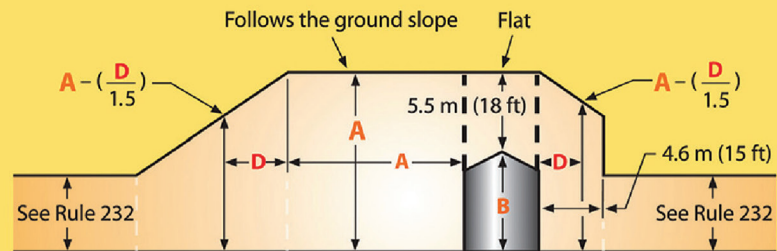
- P** = Probe clearance  
5.5m (18 ft) required by Rule 234F1a
- H** = Horizontal clearance  
4.6m (15 ft) required by Rule 234F1b
- T** = Transition clearance
- V<sub>1</sub>** = Vertical clearance above a building required by Rule 234C
- V<sub>2</sub>** = Vertical clearance required by Rule 232B



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## Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by portable augers, conveyors or elevators

### ELEVATION

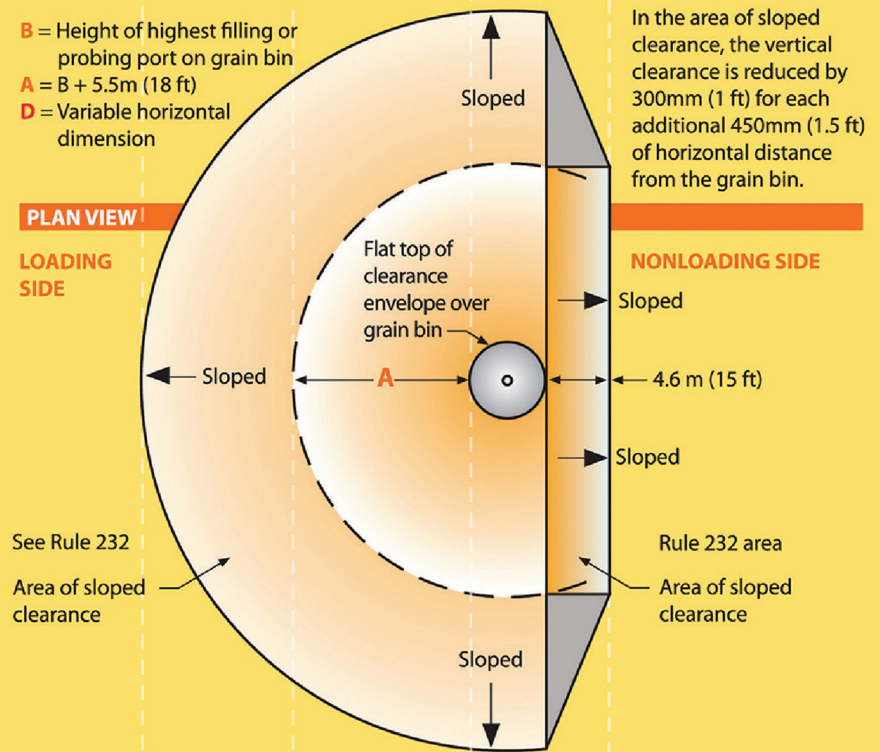


- B** = Height of highest filling or probing port on grain bin
- A** = B + 5.5m (18 ft)
- D** = Variable horizontal dimension

In the area of sloped clearance, the vertical clearance is reduced by 300mm (1 ft) for each additional 450mm (1.5 ft) of horizontal distance from the grain bin.

### PLAN VIEW

#### LOADING SIDE



#### NONLOADING SIDE

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# Thank you, Franklin REC employees!

The employees at Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative show an unmatched commitment to our members and community. Thank you for your dedicated service. We appreciate you!



Franklin REC line crew (L to R): Austin Neff, Hunter Sutter, Tom Demro, Cole Marzen, Al Fink, and Jens Hovenga. Not pictured: Chace Klein and Justin Wenzel



Franklin REC office staff (L to R): Madison Alert, Emily Rush, Christy Mason, and Brenda DeYounge



Franklin REC management team (L to R): John Quasdorf, Chad Foster, Karen Ringleb, and Garrett Thompson



(L to R) Christy Mason and Emily Rush



Don Greimann

## Employees recognized for service

Franklin REC is pleased to recognize the following employees for their years of service: Christy Mason, office assistant, 5 years; Emily Rush, accountant, 10 years; and Don Greimann, director, 25 years. Congratulations and thank you!

## Planning to move?



Before you move, please notify us at the Franklin REC office.

We will need to know the date of transfer and your forwarding address so your dividend records can be updated.

Contact our office at  
**641-456-2557**

INTouch® is published monthly for members of Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative  
1560 Highway 65 • PO Box 437 • Hampton, IA 50441  
PHONES: 641.456.2557 • FAX: 641.456.5183  
OFFICE HOURS: Mon. - Fri., 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
CEO/GENERAL MANAGER: Garrett Thompson • EDITOR: Anne Gardiner, CCC



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