



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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**BLUEBONNET ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE TO INCREASE MAINTENANCE  
ALONG ITS POWER LINES; SAFETY AND RELIABILITY PRIMARY REASONS**

**(BASTROP)** - Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative's members and residents in its service territory will see an increase in tree trimming and vegetation maintenance in the rights-of-way along the cooperative's power lines. The increase in maintenance will begin in early November and will continue through the end of 2008.

"Tree limbs falling on power lines during storms or high winds are a major source of outages for our members," said Thomas Ellis, Bluebonnet's field operations manager. "Clearing vegetation from our right-of-way and trimming the trees around our power lines enables us to safely and reliably provide power to our members with minimal interruptions."

Electrical outages and fires can result when trees and vegetation come in contact with power lines. Maintaining utility rights-of-way creates a safer electric delivery system and decreases the potential for power outages and property loss due to fires. Bluebonnet has contracted with Asplundh Tree Expert Company, McCoy Tree Surgery and The Davey Tree Expert Company to perform the maintenance.

"Safety is one of Bluebonnet's Foundation Values," Ellis said. "We take every possible precaution and measure to make sure our system is safe for our members, the general public and our employees. We also respect the environment and the property owners along our power lines. Our contractors only clear what is necessary, using proper pruning techniques and adhering to industry standards."

Most of the maintenance will be focused in the following areas: Hwy 71 in and around the town of Plum; Blake Manor Rd., Brown Cemetery Rd., Lockwood Springs Rd., Damita Jo Rd., Ed Acklin Rd. and Burlson Manor Rd. in the Manor and Webberville areas; Hwy 290, Bluebonnet Hills, FM 2447, Caney Creek Rd., Chadwick-Hogan Rd., Nicholson Lake Rd., Browning Rd., Mulberry Rd. and the town of Chappell Hill in the Chappell Hill area; Old Mill Creek Rd., Pecan Mill Rd., Indian Creek Rd., Beckerman Rd., Happy Hollow Rd., Cooks Crow Rd., Old Gay Hill Rd., North Berlin Rd., Strangemeier Rd., Hoddeville School Rd., Old Burton Rd., Hwy 290, Greenvine Rd., and Boehmann Rd. in the Brenham area; and Hwy 290, FM2104, Old Pin Oak Rd. and the town of Paige in the Paige area.

Bluebonnet members and landowners, whose property maintenance crews will need to access, will be notified before the maintenance begins.

"We make a concerted effort to notify our members and landowners along our rights-of-way in advance that we will be performing necessary maintenance," Ellis said.

For more information regarding maintenance of Bluebonnet's rights-of-way, go to [www.bluebonnetelectric.coop](http://www.bluebonnetelectric.coop) or view a Right-of-Way Vegetation Management display at any Bluebonnet Member Service Center located in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart or Manor.

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative serves nearly 80,000 meters and owns and maintains about 11,000 miles of power lines, located across more than 3,800 square miles within 14 southeastern Texas counties. Bluebonnet's service area stretches from Travis County to Washington County and from Milam County down to Gonzales County. For more information about Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative go to [www.bluebonnetelectric.coop](http://www.bluebonnetelectric.coop).