2026

Working Safely with Baldwin EMC

BALDWIN EMC
ERIC TURNER

BALDWIN EMC | 19600 State Hwy 59 Summerdale, Al 36580

WELCOME

Baldwin EMC and our members appreciate your help during this emergency. While you are here, your top priority should be to protect yourself, other workers, and the public from an accident, injury or incident.

Our employees work and live by our safety commitment, always keeping in mind that our safety target is zero injuries or unsafe acts. We expect the same commitment from you. Before working on our system, you will have the opportunity to attend a safety briefing.

About Baldwin EMC

Baldwin EMC is a member-owned cooperative supplying electric service to more than 93,000 meters across over 5,100 miles of line throughout Baldwin and southern Monroe County in southwestern Alabama. Our service territory is diverse, ranging from the resort area on the Alabama Gulf Coast, to the rural timber and farmland in the northern region. We are the largest cooperative in the state of Alabama and one of the fastest growing electric cooperatives in the nation. Baldwin EMC was organized in 1937, and experienced leadership combined with sound business principles and a highly skilled, motivated team have allowed us to thrive as an organization.

Outage Management System

Baldwin EMC uses an outage management system to monitor and analyze power outages. Our control center updates the system as power is restored. Crews and crew leaders are responsible for reporting the following to the control center for each outage: switch number, brief description of the problem, and actual time of restoration. If taps are opened or taken offline, the control center must be notified and given the pole location or device number as work is being done.

Transmission

Baldwin EMC does not work on transmission lines.

Distribution

Baldwin EMC's distribution system is predominately a three-phase, multi-grounded wye. This extends to open wye (two-phase) and single-phase distribution. Distribution voltage is 7.2/12.5 kV. Red release tags or danger hold tags are used for clearance on the distribution system. This tag must be installed at the open point to make other crews aware that you are working in the area. When completed, tags must be returned to your crew leader for filing.

Standard Fuses

Type "QA" fuse links are expulsion fuses for use on overhead distribution lines. The standard fuse sizes used by Baldwin EMC are QA: 10-100. Your crew leader must assist on selecting the proper size and type of replacement fuse.

16-Hour Workdays

You may work a maximum of 16 hours on any shift.

EMC Crew Leader

A crew leader, who is familiar with the local area, will be assigned to visiting crews based on your working location. Your crew leader will help you find your way around and obtain information, supplies, and equipment related to your work at Baldwin EMC. Your crew leader will also provide you with contact names and telephone numbers and assist you with required clearances from the Baldwin EMC control center.

Basecamps

All crews will be asked to report to a check-in location at our Summerdale headquarters. This will aid in effective crew assignments and ease in the distribution of materials. The contact person and the location for this site will be discussed by your crew leader.

Safety

At Baldwin EMC, safety is our highest priority. The goal of our safety program is to prevent accidents, injuries, and incidents. We strive to eliminate all unsafe practices from our activities. We believe that our work is never so urgent or important that we cannot take the appropriate time to do it safely.

Baldwin EMC promotes a positive attitude towards safety, continually works to improve safety processes, demonstrates leadership and promotes a comprehensive safety culture.

We require individual accountability and expect all employees, mutual aid crews and contractors to adhere to our safety standards.

Baldwin EMC has a **ZERO TOLERANCE** when it comes to compromising **SAFETY**. It is essential as well as mandatory that all Baldwin EMC employees, mutual aid crews, and contractors strive to meet or exceed all OSHA, NESC, and DOT safety regulations for our industry. OSHA representatives may be present during the restoration process to serve as a proactive resource. Everyone is responsible for following safe work practices and for preventing accidents, injuries, and incidents; up to and including the stoppage of work. Thus, working safely is a condition of employment. We strive to ensure that at the end of the day everyone goes home in the same manner as when they came to work.

Your involvement, cooperation, and personal commitment to safety are essential. Together, we CAN prevent accidents and injuries. Safety personnel will be involved in the restoration process and available for consultation. Baldwin EMC will not tolerate at-risk behavior, which can jeopardize the well-being of yourself, your fellow workers, and the public. Anyone observed working in such a manner will be asked to leave the property.

In the event of an accident or emergency, please report it immediately to your crew leader so he or she can notify the appropriate Baldwin EMC personnel for further instructions.

Oil Spills

Baldwin EMC strives to be environmentally responsible. Employees, mutual aid crews and contractors must recognize and report oil spills.

Any oil spill that is known to consist of 24 gallons or more should be reported to the Baldwin EMC crew leader immediately.

Any oil spill that is known to involve PCB oil must be reported to the Baldwin EMC crew leader immediately.

Entry Pass Requirements for Gulf Shores and Orange Beach

Entry passes are required in certain cities. Contact your crew leader to obtain these passes.

Release, Consent, and Hold Harmless Agreement

Your crew leader will provide a release, consent, and hold harmless agreement that must be signed by the property owner (or their representative) before re-energizing a home with water damage.

Maps

Crew leaders will have circuit and road maps to assist you with your duties.

Lodging and Meal Guidelines

Baldwin EMC has made arrangements for your lodging and meals. You will receive this information at check-in. Please understand we have done the best job we can to make your stay comfortable.

Room Assignments

Each visiting crew member will be assigned lodging. If you are assigned a hotel room, **please be aware that nothing can be charged to your hotel room.**

Substance Abuse

Baldwin EMC will not allow anyone to work who is under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or medication that could compromise the safety of workers, members, or property.

Prohibited Drugs

Baldwin EMC does not permit the consumption or possession of alcohol or prohibited drugs while on Cooperative property, facilities or while on duty representing the Cooperative.

Tobacco Use

Baldwin EMC does not permit smoking, or the use of smoke-less tobacco, vapor cigarette, or electronic cigarettes in any of its vehicles or buildings, with the exception of designated smoking areas at each of the Cooperative's facilities.

Firearms

Baldwin EMC prohibits its employees, mutual aid crews, and contractors from carrying firearms on their person, whether concealed or openly carried, while on duty, while on

Cooperative property, or while occupying a motor vehicle which is owned or leased by Baldwin EMC.

We do not prohibit the storage or transportation of legal firearms with a non-Cooperative, privately owned motor vehicle located in designated parking areas on Baldwin EMC's property, provided that it is done in compliance with state and federal laws pertaining to firearms.

Your SAFETY is our TOP PRIORITY

If you have any questions related to Safety or need any safety related items, please contact your crew leader.

For your convenience and any other concerns, please see the attached list:

Baldwin EMC Contact List:

Eric Turner, Safety Coordinator: 251-979-3151

Johnny Brinkman, North Baldwin DMO: 251-510-1483

Buddy Miller, Summerdale DMO: 251-979-6402

Sol Flemming, South Baldwin DMO: 251-597-8398

Kevin Barnhill, Work Force Coordinator: 251-232-4861

Office Locations

Summerdale (Headquarters) 19600 State Hwy 59 Summerdale, AL 36580	North Baldwin 47525 Highway 59 Bay Minette, AL 36507
South Baldwin 21801 University Lane Orange Beach, AL 36561	

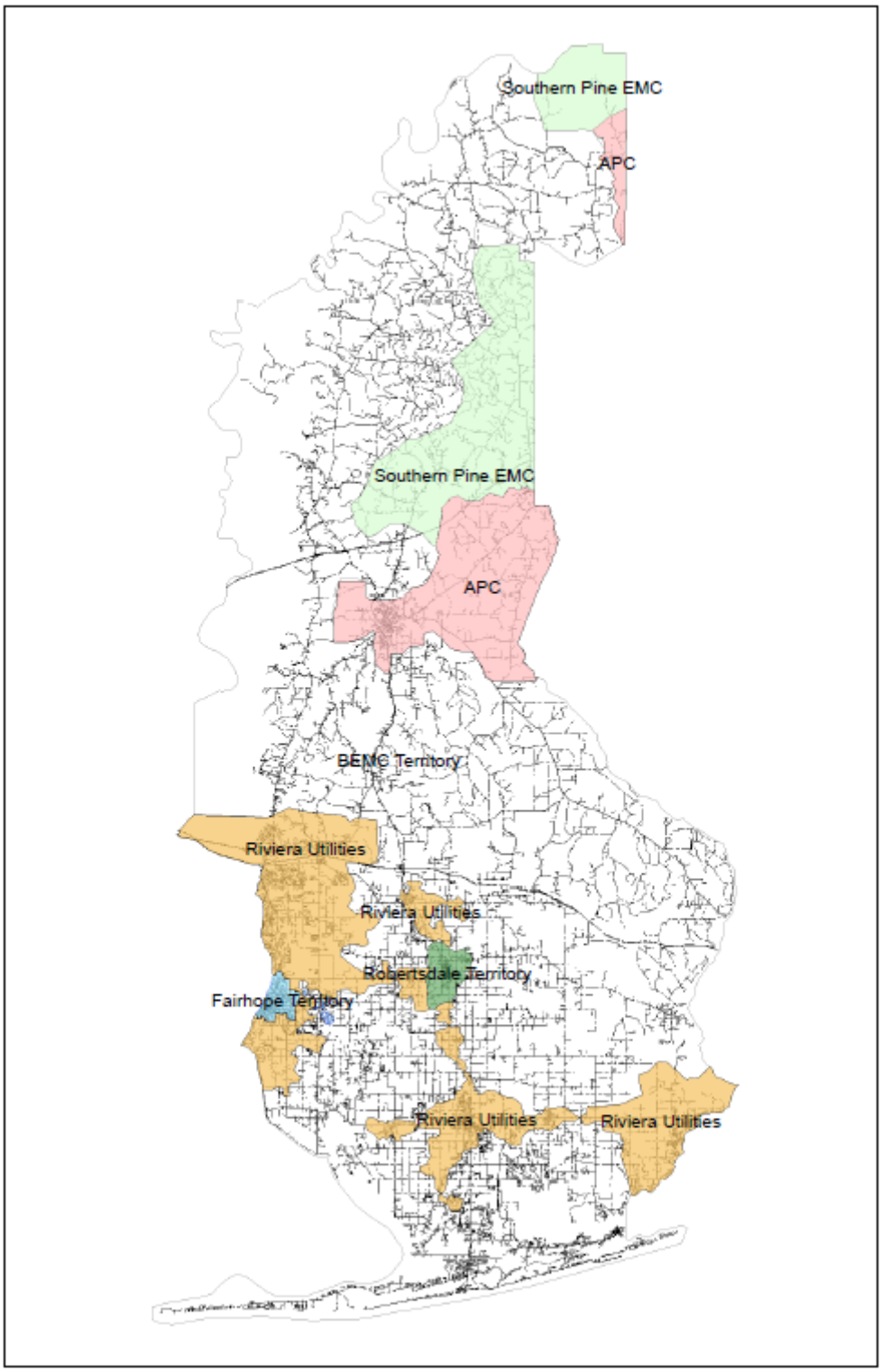
Base Camp Locations

North Baldwin Basecamp 47433 State Highway 59 Bay Minette, AL 36507	Summerdale Basecamp 18750 Couch Plant Road Summerdale, AL 36580
Go Here First ➔	**Baldwin Storm Check-in** **18825 Couch Plant Road** **Summerdale, AL 36580**

Substation Locations

Silverhill Sub 15040 State Hwy 104 Silverhill, AL 36576	South Foley Sub 20141 Keller Road Foley, AL 36535
Hurricane Sub 42005 Hwy 225 Bay Minette, AL 36507	Shomo Creek Sub 10288 Hwy 59 South Uriah, AL 36480
Gulf Shores Sub 201 W 23rd Ave Gulf Shores, AL 36542	Steelwood Sub 34008 State Hwy 59 Loxley, AL 36551
Barnwell Sub 13511 County Road 13 Fairhope, AL 36532	Orange Beach Sub 4500 Orange Beach Blvd Orange Beach, AL 36561
Gulf Park Sub 540 East 2nd Ave Gulf Shores, AL 36542	Rosinton Sub 20990 County Road 64 Robertsdale, AL 36567
Stockton Sub 52140 State Hwy 225 Bay Minette, AL 36507	Shell Banks Sub 11258 State Hwy 180 Fort Morgan, AL 36542
Miflin Sub 10049 County Road 95 Elberta, AL 36530	Elsanor Sub 26050 Brewer Road Robertsdale, AL 36567
Romar Beach Sub 23499 Perdido Beach Blvd Orange Beach, AL 36563	Summerdale Sub 20265 Dubose Road Summerdale, AL 36580
Magnolia Springs Sub 15500 Laurent Rd Foley, AL 36535	South Bay Minette Sub 42596 Whitehouse Fork Rd Bay Minette, AL 36507
Fish River Sub 17319 County Road 33 Fairhope, AL 36532	Loxley Sub 4280 North Magnolia St Loxley, AL 36551
Water Tower Sub 3371 Orange Beach Blvd Orange Beach, AL 36561	Beach Express Sub 9615 Foley Beach Express Foley, AL 36535
Cotton Creek Sub 6011 Roscoe Road Gulf Shores, AL 36542	Sonora Sub 16029 Underwood Road Foley, AL 36535

Service Map


Southern Pine EMC
APC
Southern Pine EMC
APC
BEMC Territory
Riviera Utilities
Riviera Utilities
Robertsdale Territory
Fairhope Territory
Riviera Utilities
Riviera Utilities

Key Information

Contacts:

Baldwin EMC Crew Leader:

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

Other Contacts:

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

Emergency Contact Information

Medical

Hospitals in the area:

North Baldwin Infirmary 1815 Hand Avenue Bay Minette, AL 36507 251-937-5521	**Baldwin Health** 1613 N McKenzie St Foley, AL 36535 251-949-3400
Thomas Hospital 750 Morphy Ave Fairhope, AL 36532 251-928-2375	**Baldwin Health – Freestanding ER** 3590 Gulf Shores Pkwy Gulf Shores, AL 36542 251-215-4853

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Eric Turner, Safety Coordinator: 251-979-3151

Johnny Brinkman, North Baldwin DMO: 251-510-1483

Buddy Miller, Summerdale DMO: 251-979-6402

Sol Flemming, South Baldwin DMO: 251-597-8398

Kevin Barnhill, Work Force Coordinator: 251-232-4861

In the event of an accident or emergency, please report it immediately to your crew leader so he or she can notify the appropriate Baldwin EMC personnel for further instructions.

Safety Guidelines

Compliance with OSHA Federal Regulations is mandatory.

In addition, the following rules apply:

- **Baldwin EMC system voltage**: 7.2/12.5 KV.
- **Baldwin EMC does not work on transmission lines.**
- **Red release tags or danger hold tags** are used for clearance on the distribution system. The tag must be installed at the open point to make other crew aware that you are working in the area. When completed, tags must be returned to your crew leader for filing.
- **Hard hats** shall be worn anytime you are exposed to overhead hazards, falling or flying objects, or electrical shock and burns.
- **Safety glasses** meeting the ANSI Z87 standard shall be worn when there is a danger from flying objects, liquid chemicals, electrical flash, or other eye hazards. Clear, amber, or blue safety glasses are required at night.
- **Visiting utilities** should protect their employees appropriately. Please wear the Arc rated clothing provided at your company.
- **Conductive articles**, such as necklaces, bracelets, pocket watch chains, key/wallet chains, etc. must not be worn when working in an energized area.
- **Body harnesses and lanyards** are required when working from buckets.
- **High visibility traffic vests** are required to be worn when working within 10 feet of roadway. The vest must conform to MUTCD chapter 6 standards.
- **Chainsaw Chaps** are required to be worn while operating a chainsaw except while operating from a bucket truck.
- Gloving on energized primary from the pole position is not permitted.
- All lines and equipment shall be worked as energized unless disconnected from all sources of electricity (visible open), tagged, properly tested, and grounded.

Safety Reminders

Heat-related illness

Recognizing and treating the most common heat disorders

Disorders	Cause	Signs & Symptoms	Treatment
Heat Rash	Clogged sweat glands	Rash of pink pimples, intense itching, tingling	Cleanse area & dry; apply calamine or other lotion
Dehydration	Excessive loss of water and salt	Fatigue, weakness, dry mouth	Drink fluids and replace salt
Heat Cramps	Excessive loss of water and salt	Painful spasms in arms, legs and abdomen; hot moist skin	Drink fluids, massage cramped areas, rest
Heat Exhaustion	Excessive loss of water and salt	Heavy sweating, intense thirst, skin is pale and cool, rapid pulse, fatigue /weakness, nausea & vomiting headache, blurred vision, fainting	Move to cool area, rest with legs elevated, loosen clothing, drink plenty of fluids
Heat Stroke	Total breakdown of body's cooling system	High body temp (>103°), sweating stops and skin is hot red and dry; headache, dizziness, weakness, rapid pulse	**Treat as a medical emergency**; move victim to cool area, immerse victim in cool water or massage victim's body with ice. **do not give liquids**

What can be done to prevent a heat-related illness?

- Drink plenty of water: 8 to 10oz every 20 minutes
- Choose proper clothing: Wear light colors if working outside and choose lightweight/breathable material
- Take frequent short breaks in cool shade
- Eat smaller meals before work activity. Save biggest meal until evening
- Avoid caffeine, sodas, large amounts of sugar or alcohol
- Be aware of what medications you are taking. They may have adverse effects while working in the heat

Generator Back feed

Be extremely cautious of generator back feed. All lines and equipment you are working on must be disconnected from all sources of back feed and grounds must be properly installed within sight before working on them as de-energized.

Basic Switching Procedures for Clearance on Lateral or Tap

1. The line must be ridden or walked out before proceeding with any switching
2. All switches, disconnects, jumpers, taps, and other means through which known sources of electric energy may be supplied shall be opened
3. A Red release tag or danger hold tag shall be attached to the open point
4. The lines and equipment to be worked shall be tested by an approved method to ensure the absence of voltage
5. Protective grounds shall be installed on each side of the worksite
6. Following completion of steps 1 through 5, the lines and equipment maybe worked as de-energized

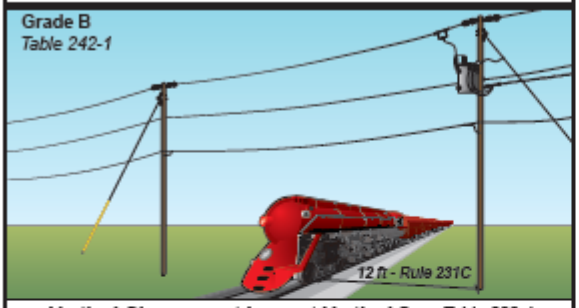
Remember: “It is not dead, until it is visually disconnected (opened), tested, and grounded.”

System Requirements and Construction

Baldwin EMC builds RUS Specifications. The system should be built as permanent construction. Any temporary construction should be approved by Baldwin EMC employees. Clearances are to follow NESC Guidelines.

Application Guide for 2023 NESC Table 232-1 *- see NESC for details and exceptions*

Railroads*

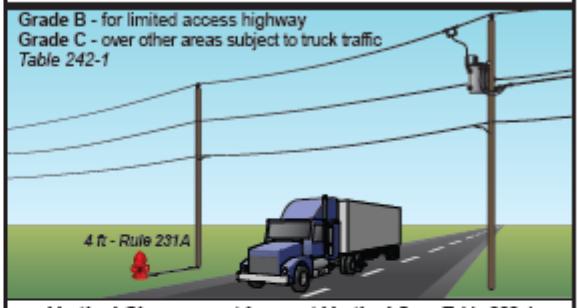


Vertical Clearance at Largest Vertical Sag *Table 232-1*

Neutral or Comm.	Span Guy	TPX	7.2/12.5 kV	14.4/25 kV	19.9/35 kV
23.5 ft		24.0 ft	26.5 ft		

**Railroad company may require greater clearance*

Trucks Over 8 Feet*

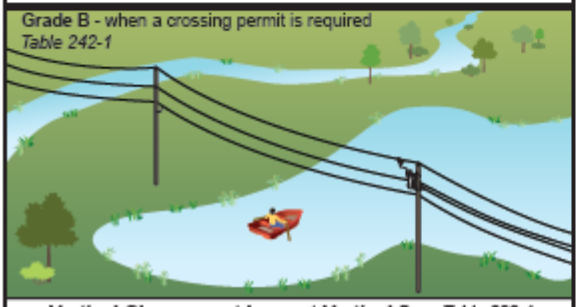


Vertical Clearance at Largest Vertical Sag *Table 232-1*

Neutral or Comm.	Span Guy	TPX	7.2/12.5 kV	14.4/25 kV	19.9/35 kV
15.5 ft		16.0 ft	18.5 ft		

**DOT may require greater clearance*

Water - No Sailboats



Vertical Clearance at Largest Vertical Sag *Table 232-1*

Neutral or Comm.	Span Guy	TPX	7.2/12.5 kV	14.4/25 kV	19.9/35 kV
14.0 ft		14.5 ft	17.0 ft		

**see NESC for sailboat clearances*

Over fields, orchards, forest, etc.

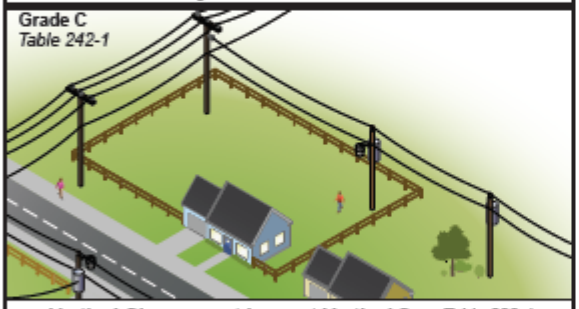


Vertical Clearance at Largest Vertical Sag *Table 232-1*

Neutral or Comm.	Span Guy	TPX	7.2/12.5 kV	14.4/25 kV	19.9/35 kV
15.5 ft		16.0 ft	18.5 ft		

**used by vehicles over 8 feet tall or riders on horses*

Pedestrians Only*

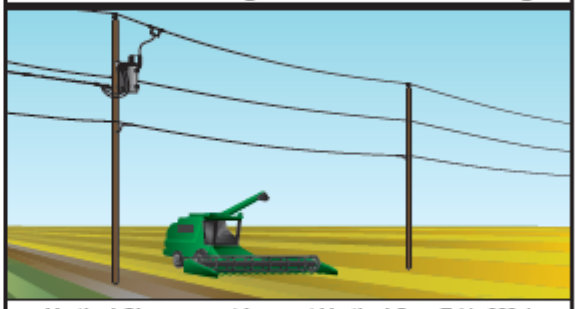


Vertical Clearance at Largest Vertical Sag *Table 232-1*

Neutral or Comm.	Span Guy	TPX	7.2/12.5 kV	14.4/25 kV	19.9/35 kV
9.5 ft		12.0 ft	14.5 ft		

**Not normally used by trucks or riders on horses (very steep hills, swamps, etc.)*

Oversized Vehicles - greater than 14 feet in height



Vertical Clearance at Largest Vertical Sag *Table 232-1*

Neutral or Comm.	Span Guy	TPX	7.2/12.5 kV	14.4/25 kV	19.9/35 kV
X + 1.5 ft		X + 2 ft	X + 4.5 ft		

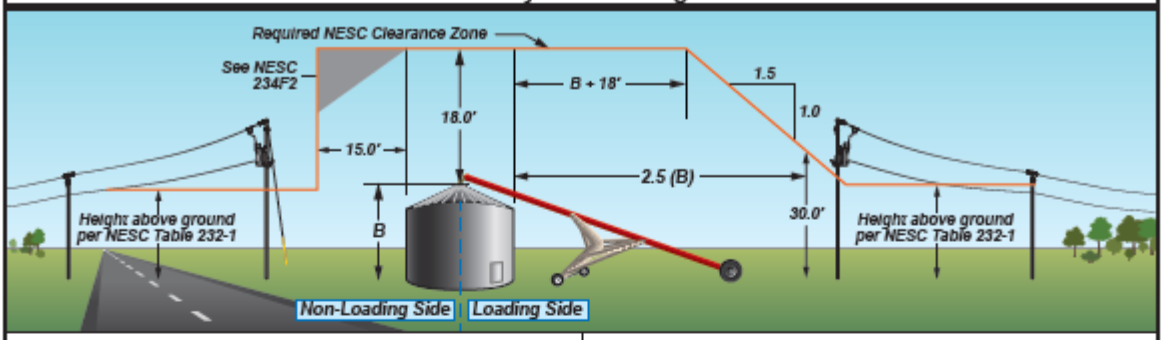
X = Known Height of oversized vehicle

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Application Guide for 2023 NESC - *see NESC for details and exceptions*

Clearance Over* or Near Grain Bins Loaded by Portable Auger NESC 234F2



B = Vertical height to highest filling or probing port

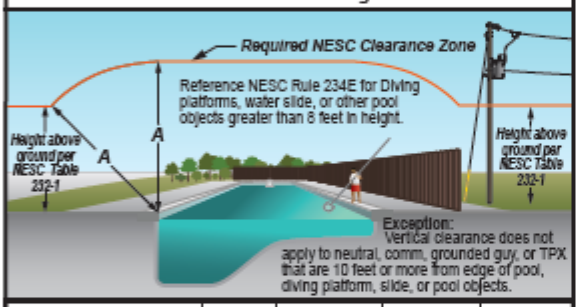
Note: If B > 12 feet, vertical height of conductors is 30 feet at a distance equal to 2.5 times B

*Largest vertical sag

Non-Loading Side is when use of portable auger is limited by:

1. Permanent building/structure
2. Physical obstruction
3. Public road or other right of way
4. Designation or agreement

Clearance Over* or Near Swimming Pools NESC 234E1

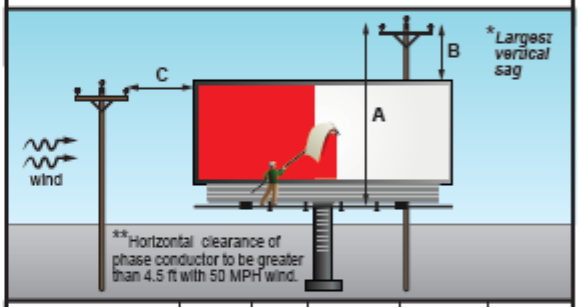


Neutral	TPX	7.2/12.5 kV	14.4/25 kV	19.9/35 kV
22.0 ft	22.5 ft	25.0 ft		

*Largest vertical sag

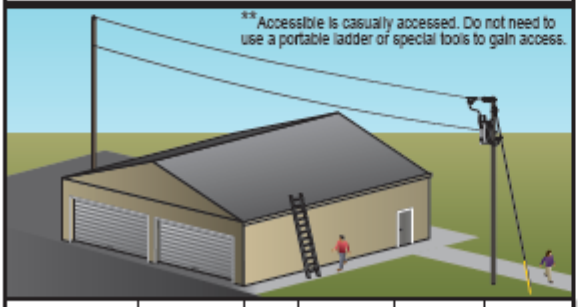
Aboveground pool with deck or ladder, clearance is from highest point upon which people can stand.

Clearance Over* or Near Billboards NESC 234C



	Neutral	TPX	7.2/12.5kV	14.4/25kV	19.9/35kV
A-Where personnel walk	9.5 ft	10.0 ft	14.5 ft		
B - Other Surface	3.0 ft	3.5 ft	8.0 ft		
C - Horizontal**	4.5 ft	5.0 ft	7.5 ft		

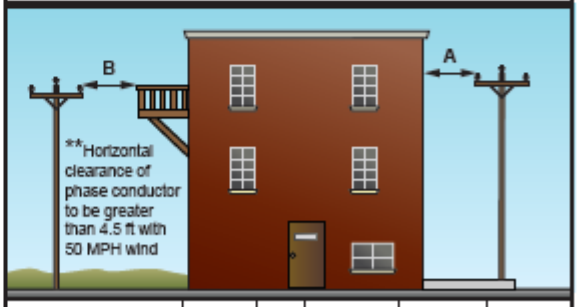
Vertical Clearance Over* Buildings NESC 234C



Roof	Neutral	TPX	7.2/12.5kV	14.4/25kV	19.9/35kV
Accessible**	9.5 ft	10.0 ft	14.5 ft		
Non-Accessible	3.0 ft	3.5 ft	12.5 ft		

*Largest vertical sag

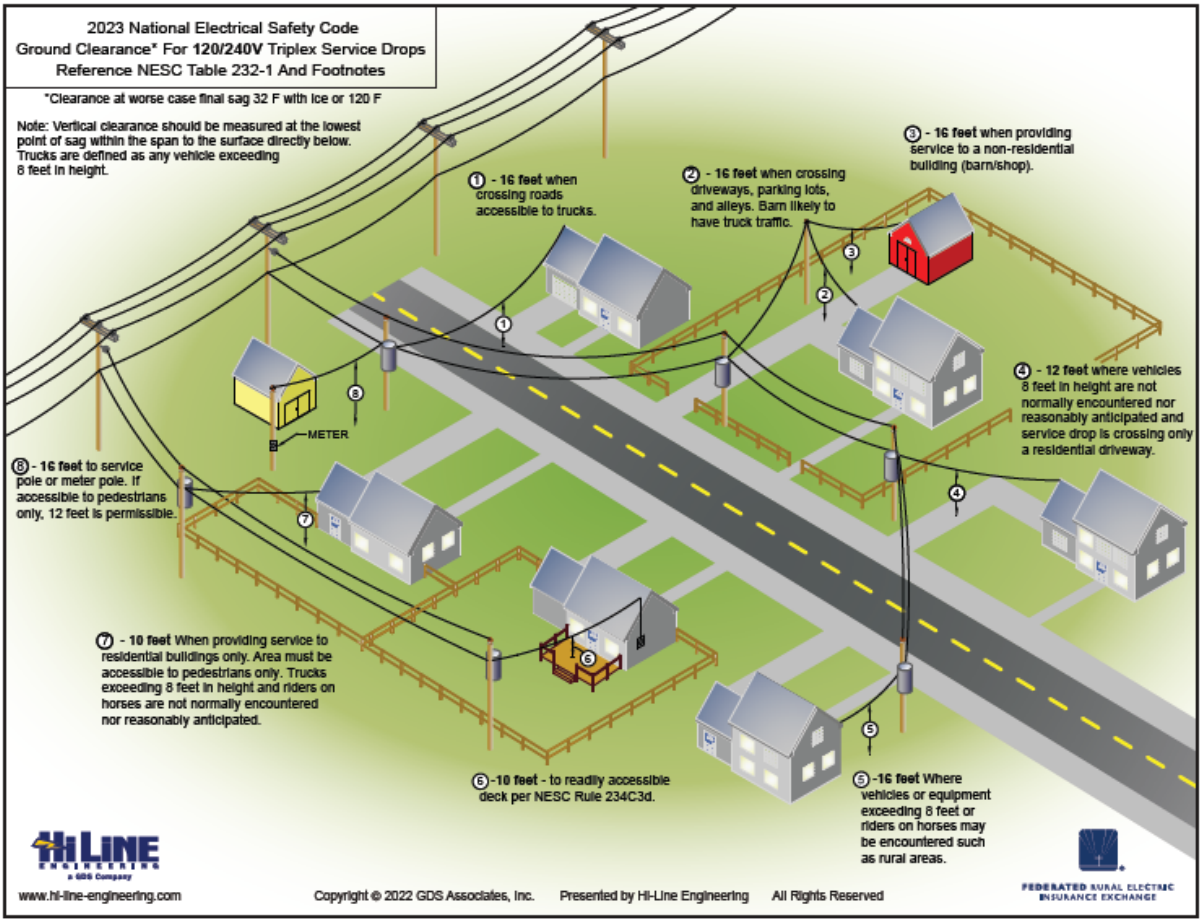
Horizontal Clearance Adjacent to Buildings NESC 234C



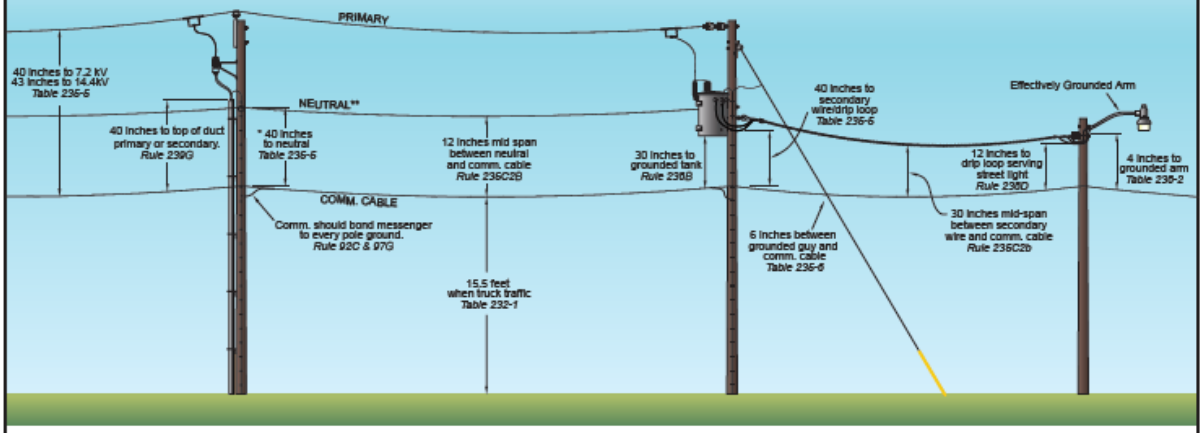
	Neutral	TPX	7.2/12.5kV	14.4/25kV	19.9/35kV
A-To Walls**	4.5 ft	5.0 ft	7.5 ft		
B - Accessible Areas**	4.5 ft	5.0 ft	7.5 ft		

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FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC INSURANCE EXCHANGE


2023 National Electrical Safety Code
Ground Clearance* For 120/240V Triplex Service Drops
Reference NESC Table 232-1 And Footnotes
*Clearance at worse case final sag 32 F with ice or 120 F
Note: Vertical clearance should be measured at the lowest point of sag within the span to the surface directly below. Trucks are defined as any vehicle exceeding 8 feet in height.
1 - 16 feet when crossing roads accessible to trucks.
2 - 16 feet when crossing driveways, parking lots, and alleys. Barn likely to have truck traffic.
3 - 16 feet when providing service to a non-residential building (barn/shop).
4 - 12 feet where vehicles 8 feet in height are not normally encountered nor reasonably anticipated and service drop is crossing only a residential driveway.
5 -16 feet Where vehicles or equipment exceeding 8 feet or riders on horses may be encountered such as rural areas.
6 -10 feet - to readily accessible deck per NESC Rule 234C3d.
7 - 10 feet When providing service to residential buildings only. Area must be accessible to pedestrians only. Trucks exceeding 8 feet in height and riders on horses are not normally encountered nor reasonably anticipated.
8 - 16 feet to service pole or meter pole. If accessible to pedestrians only, 12 feet is permissible.
METER
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Summary of 2023 NESC Clearances to Communication Cables *- see NESC for details and exceptions*



* 30 inches is allowed if the communication messenger is bonded to the neutral throughout the service area. *Table 235-5*

** Fiber Optic Cables in the supply space (*Rule 224A*) will have the same required clearance to communication cables in the communication space as a multi-grounded neutral (*Rule 235C*)

A **communication worker safety zone** is vertical space between lines/facilities in the supply space and lines/facilities in the communication space *Rule 235C4 & 238E*

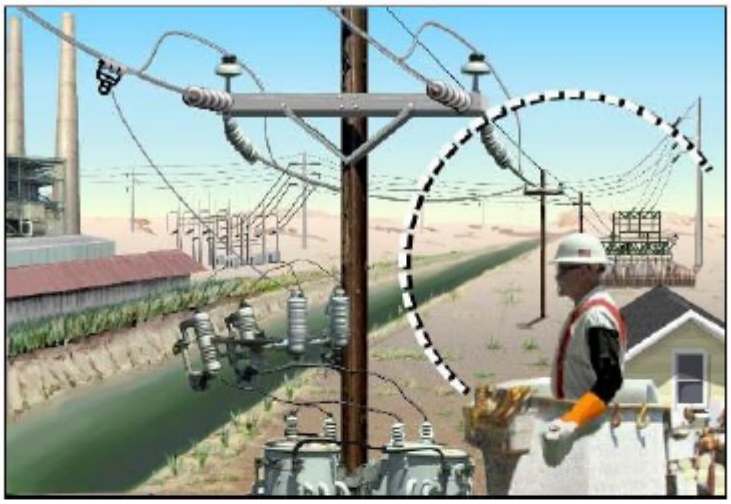
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Minimum Approach Distances



The above schematic is showing the minimum approach distance for a line worker. Depending on the voltage of the line (see table below), a worker or conductive object, must keep the minimum distance specified below between them and any energized part of the power line. See the link below for altitude correction factors to the minimum approach distances in the table. Changes in weather have been factored into the minimum approach distances.

Table R-6—Alternative Minimum Approach Distances for Voltages of 72.5 kV and Less[1]				
Nominal voltage (kV) Phase to phase	**Distance**			
	Phase-to ground exposure		**Phase-to-phase exposure**	
	m	**ft**	**m**	**ft**
0.050 to 0.300[2]	Avoid Contact		Avoid Contact	
0.301 to 0.750[2]	0.33	1.09	0.33	1.09
0.751 to 5.0	0.63	2.07	0.63	2.07
5.1 to 15.0	0.65	2.14	0.68	2.24
15.1 to 36.0	0.77	2.53	0.89	2.92
36.1 to 46.0	0.84	2.76	0.98	3.22
46.1 to 72.5	1.00	3.29	1.20	3.94

[1] Employers may use the minimum approach distances in this table provided the worksite is at an elevation of 900 meters (3000 feet) or less. If employees will be working at elevations greater than 900 meters (3000 feet) above mean sea level, the employer shall determine minimum approach distances by multiplying the distances in this table by the correction factor in Table R-5 corresponding to the altitude of the work.

[2] For single-phase systems, use voltage to ground

Baldwin County E.M.C. Reclosure Coordination Specifications

Type L

Single Phase Type L
Nominal Operating Voltage Rating 2.4 - 14.4 KV
Impulse Withstand 110 kvBIL

QA Fuse		Trip-Coil Continuous Current (amps)	Minimum Trip Current (amps)	Interrupting Current (rms symmetical amps) 60 X Coil Size
MIN.	MAX.			
*15A	20A	25	50	1500
20A	*25A	35	70	2100
*30A	40A	50	100	3000
40A	*50A	70	140	4000
*60A	75A	100	200	4000
		140*	280	4000
		200*	400	4000
		280*	560	4000

* Preferred Size

* TCC's vary slightly. For tight coordination refer to Reference Data R280-91-3

Type H

Single Phase Type H
Nominal Operating Voltage Rating 14.4 KV
Impulse Withstand 95 kv BIL

QA Fuse		Trip- Coil Continuous Current (amps)	Minimum Trip Current (amps)	Interrupting Current (rms symmetical amps) 25 X Coil Size
MIN.	MAX.			
		5	10	125
		10	20	250
		15	30	375
*15A	20A	25	50	625
20A	*25A	35	70	875
*30A	40A	50	100	1250

*Preferred Size

The 6 Deadly Snakes in Our Territory

Copperhead





Adults grow to a typical length of 20-37 in. The head is noticeably wider than the neck. The top of their head is a copper color, hence the name copperhead. Dark “hourglass cross bands” are common to both species. The body may be colored from a light brown to tan or pinkish in the southern copperhead. The northern copperhead usually has a darker and more reddish brown body color. It belongs to the group of snakes called “pit vipers”. They get this name because of a pit, or tiny hole, located between the eye and nostril. These pits are heat seeking sensors that help the snake locate warm-blooded prey. Copperheads have elliptical pupils. Pit vipers have a set of well developed fangs capable of injecting venom. Copperheads are found in greatest numbers in forested areas that have numerous rocky bluffs and ravines. Along the Coastal Plain, the preferred habitat seems to be floodplains, swamp edges, and hilly terrain dominated by hardwoods.

Cottonmouth





Adult snakes usually vary in length from 30 to 48 inches up to a maximum of 74 inches. They are generally dark above – olive, brown, or black. A lighter to darker cross-banding

pattern may be seen, especially on the sides. Juveniles are brightly-colored with reddish-brown cross-bands and have a sulfur-colored tail. A thoroughly aroused cottonmouth throws its head upward and backward and holds its mouth wide open, revealing a white interior – the origin of the name cottonmouth. They inhabit brackish waters and are commonly found in swamps, streams, springs, ponds, sloughs, reservoirs, marshes, and road side drainage ditches. The cottonmouth commonly suns itself on branches, logs, or stones at the water's edge. It will sometime wander away from its normal habitat in search of food.

Timber Rattlesnake





Adult timber rattlesnakes average 36 to 60 inches in total length. The coloration of this species varies from blackish to yellowish to pinkish, or grayish with dark, bent crossbands aligned along the dorsal length of its body. On many specimens a reddish dorsal stripe runs between the crossbands. The velvety black tail is short and thick, tipped with a tan rattle. Some people refer to the timber rattlesnakes found in the southern Alabama as "canebrake rattlesnakes." Timber rattlesnakes inhabit upland and lowland habitats such as hardwood forest with rocky outcrops, pine flatwoods, bottomland hardwood forests, and cane thickets.

Pigmy Rattlesnake





Generally, pigmy rattlesnakes, as their name would imply, are miniature rattlesnakes. Sometimes referred to as “ground rattlers”, they range in length from 15 to 24 inches at maturity, and when in a coiled position are roughly the size of a loblolly pine cone. The tip of their tail contains a very small delicate rattle or button that is not much wider than the end of the tail itself. When vibrated for a warning, the rattle is often difficult to hear and has been compared to the sound of an insect buzzing. This species is found in a variety of habitats including everglades prairies, palmetto-pine flatwoods, sandhills, mixed pine-hardwood forests, borders of cypress ponds, and in the vicinity of lakes and marshes. One note is that they are seldom found in extremely dry habitats.

Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake





The eastern diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*) is the largest species of rattlesnake in the world. It is a heavy-bodied snake that can reach lengths close to seven feet, although the average adult is four to five feet. The tail is short and stout with a rattle or button at the end. The rattle is composed of hollow, interlocking segments that click against each other when the tail vibrates. The topside of the snake contains the characteristic yellow diamond shapes surrounding black and brown centers. The belly is

generally yellowish to white. The large and distinctive head is marked with a dark band extending obliquely from each eye to the lips. When encountered, the diamondback will often remain motionless until a threat is perceived or the snake is actually touched. A defensive posture is a coiled position with rattle erect, buzzing, and head near center of the coil. The act of striking can extend up to two-thirds the length of the snake. Favored habitats for the diamondback include dry pine flatwoods and longleaf pine-turkey oak hills. It is able to survive in altered habitats such as overgrown fields and abandoned farms. Although the eastern diamondback rattlesnake is usually associated with sandhill communities, it will venture into swampy and marshy habitats.

Eastern Coral Snake





A medium-sized (max. length approx. 43 in.), slender snake with a short, blunt head only slightly wider than neck. Body pattern consists of alternating, complete, transverse rings of red, yellow, and black (with red and yellow rings touching) that continue completely around venter. Red bands may contain black pigment that coalesces into dark spots dorsally and ventrally. Aberrant color patterns encountered regularly. Prefers a variety of habitats that are dry, open, or brushy areas with loose, friable soils ranging from hardwood forests to pine flatwoods. Apparently spends much time buried in soil, leaf litter, logs, or stumps. Like many other reptiles of the Coastal Plain, also may frequent gopher tortoise burrows when available.

Venomous Spiders of Alabama

Black or Brown Widow





Female widow spiders are typically dark brown or a shiny black in color when they are full grown, usually exhibiting a red or orange hourglass on the ventral surface (underside) of the abdomen; some may have a pair of red spots or have no marking at all. The bodies of black widow spiders range from 0.12–0.39 in. in size; some females can measure 0.51 in. in their body length (not including legs). Including legs, female adult black widows generally measure 1–1.5 in.

The Black Widow Spider can inflict a painful bite which can be fatal, especially to the young and elderly. An effective anti-venom was developed in 1956. Only a small amount of venom can cause serious illness, as the poison attacks the nervous system. Systemic envenomation usually results in headache, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, pyrexia and hypertension. The pain around the bite area can be excruciating or it may go unnoticed. First aid and medical attention should be sought as soon as possible, if bitten. If you have heart condition or other heart problems, you may need hospitalization.

They prefer wood piles, rubble piles, under stones, in hollow stumps, sheds and garages. Indoors it can be found in undisturbed, cluttered areas in basements and crawl spaces.

First Aid for Black or Brown Widow Bite

For a suspected black widow spider bite, stay calm, wash the area with soap and water, and apply a cold pack (10-20 mins) to reduce pain/swelling. Elevate the limb and seek immediate medical attention, especially for children or elderly. Do not try to remove the venom.

Brown Recluse Spider





The brown recluse spider belongs to a group of spiders commonly known as the “fiddle-back” or “violin spider” because of the violin-shaped marking on the dorsal surface of the cephalothorax (fused head and thorax) with the neck of the violin pointing toward the abdomen. The shape and intensity of the fiddle design may vary. A more definitive diagnostic feature is the eye pattern on the front of the cephalothorax—six eyes arranged in three pairs in a semicircle pattern with a space between each pair. Most spiders have eight eyes.

The brown recluse spiders are pale tan to brown, with uniformly colored no-spine legs. Female bodies range in size from about 1⁄4 to 1⁄2 inch and have a leg span over 1 inch. Males are generally half the size of females. They molt a shed skin stretching out on a flat surface.

In nature, the brown recluse spider lives outdoors in dry areas such as caves and rock and log piles. Around homes, they are most likely encountered under woodpiles, overhangs, tree bark, wall voids, leaf litter, brush, and crawl spaces.

First Aid for Brown Recluse Bite

For a suspected brown recluse bite, immediately wash the area with soap and water, apply a cold, wet cloth or ice pack (10 mins on/off) to reduce swelling, and elevate the limb. Keep the area clean and still, avoid scratching, and seek prompt medical attention, as necrotic tissue can develop.

Touch-Me-Nots: Poison Ivy, Poison Oak, and Poison Sumac

Poison Ivy





Leaflets in groups of three; the middle leaflet has notched margins and a rather pointed tip, and the other two leaflets have notched margins with one lobe a bit elongated near its base resembling a thumb sticking up from a hand. The vines typically climb trees, and they produce small brown rootlets that grasp the tree's bark. As the plant ages, the leaflets may become quite large and extend a considerable distance from the tree trunk, making the observer think they are the leaves of the tree. Although they drop their leaflets in winter, the leaflets may fall long after the tree leaves around them, so one may see an interesting, leafed tree that, upon closer inspection, is a tree with a heavy growth of poison ivy. Since they most often climb trees, poison ivy plants are found in forest understories or along trails.

Poison Oak





This species grows upright, eventually as a bush, may cover the ground, and has leaflets in groups of three, but with the “thumbs” referenced for poison ivy either absent or not as pronounced. Each leaflet is generally partially *crenate* (rounded toothed) and resembles certain oak leaves, hence the name. Young plants have very green, supple leaves; as they age, the leaflets stiffen and exhibit a yellowish color. Poison oak is more of a forest edge species. **Poison oak - older leaflet, are less supple, and a bit more yellowish.**

Poison Sumac





This species has a shrubby growth form not unlike a holly or yaupon. The new stems and leaf rachises are red, and the leaves are pinnately compound. Each leaflet has smooth edges and a nice drip tip, and leaflets are opposite one another along the rachis. As they age, the red softens a bit but retains those color qualities to a varying extent. They may easily be distinguished from real sumacs (genus *Rhus*) when reproductive by having green berries hanging down instead of the typical sumac berries that are red and stand upright. Poison sumac prefers moist areas, and it is more common near swamps, lakes, and along seeps.

They all cause the same reaction, **allergic contact dermatitis**, and all have the same active ingredient, **urushiol**, an oily sap that is present in all parts of the plant. Some people are so sensitive to urushiol that slight contact causes dermatitis, even from dry plant parts. Exposure may happen by merely brushing against the plant, pulling up the plant while weeding, touching tools that have contacted the plant, or even petting a dog that has been running through the bush.

Seventy-five per cent of the human population has reactions to urushiol, and the extent of severity varies widely. Symptoms range from minor rashes, appearance of little bumps

called papules, fluids oozing from irritated skin, or blistering. These may represent a progression of symptoms, or all may exist at the same time. Although all of these may be uncomfortable, they usually subside within days or weeks at most, with rare exceptions. The most dangerous form of exposure comes with breathing smoke that contains urushiol. This should be considered a medical emergency, since mucous membranes in sinuses, the throat, and lungs are exposed and this situation can be life threatening.

It is commonly thought that the effects spread by contact with oozing fluids or rashes. It is only spread if urushiol on the sufferer is transmitted to others by touch. Some parts of the body may take longer to show signs after exposure, so one may think it is being spread from papules and blisters when it is really the urushiol still present on neighboring anatomy.

We should first take preventative steps:

1. Learn to recognize our poisonous species and stay on the lookout.
2. When in the woods, keep arms and legs covered and tuck pant bottoms in socks. Handle clothing with care when you return and wash them.
3. Remove urushiol plants from your property and have it removed from parks where practical.
4. Keep pets and other family from running in the woods. A better idea is to encourage them to enjoy the out-of-doors and bathe them on their return.

What should you do if you come in contact with poisonous plants?

1. Wash exposed body parts with cool water and soap. Clean well, even under nails and your hair.
2. Clean any items that may have come in contact with the plants, such as tools, toys, etc.
3. Bathe exposed pets, kids, spouses, friends, etc.
4. VERY IMPORTANT: Go to a doctor if you have trouble breathing, you experience mucous membrane irritation, you breathe smoke, more than a quarter of the body shows symptoms, or there is infection.
5. If you have normal reactions (itching, papules, etc.), use calamine lotion or Tecnu (recommended by naturalist Irene Brady) liberally. Severe cases will require prescriptions.

Some people have reactions to plants that most of us consider innocuous. I have often heard of people getting itchy rashes after contact with trumpet creeper, *Campsis radicans*, but symptoms are said to be short-lived, and this common vine has no effect on me. Plants like the aforementioned Virginia creeper contain oxalate crystals, but it is rare that someone has a reaction.

Stinging Insects

Yellow Jackets





These are highly aggressive if their nests are disturbed. "Super nests"—massive colonies that can survive mild Alabama winters—have specifically been a concern in Baldwin County towns like Fairhope. They typically nest underground or in cavities (like wall voids), creating paper-like nests. They are highly territorial. If their nest is disturbed, they will attack in large numbers. Unlike bees, yellow jackets do not lose their stinger and can sting multiple times.

Bald-faced Hornets





They are mostly black with striking white or ivory markings on their face, thorax, and the tip of their abdomen. They build aerial "paper" nests by chewing wood fibers mixed with saliva. These nests can grow to be as large as a basketball and house **100 to 700 workers** at their peak in late summer. Unlike honeybees, they have **smooth stingers** and can sting repeatedly. They are highly defensive and will vigorously protect their colony if disturbed.

European Hornet





Workers measure about **0.75 to 1 inch** long; queens can reach up to **1.5 inches.** They have a reddish-brown head and thorax, a yellow face, and a yellow abdomen with distinctive black teardrop-shaped markings. Preferred nesting sites include hollow trees, attics, wall voids, barns, and sheds. Nests are built from chewed-up wood fibers (paper-mâché) and are typically brown or tan. Unlike bald-faced hornets, their nests are rarely hanging in the open and are usually hidden within cavities. A mature nest usually contains 200 to 400 workers, though some can grow to over 1,000. They have smooth stingers, meaning they can sting multiple times without losing them.

Velvet Ants (Cow Killers)





They are famously nicknamed "cow killers" due to the extreme pain of their sting, though the idea that they can actually kill a cow is a myth. They possess an incredibly thick exoskeleton. When threatened, they produce a distinct chirping or squeaking sound (stridulation) by rubbing abdominal segments together.

Biting & Disease-Carrying Insects

Mosquitoes





Often called "the world's deadliest animal," the mosquito is a small, two-winged fly belonging to the family Culicidae. While they may seem like a minor nuisance, they are major vectors for diseases that cause over one million deaths annually. Only female mosquitoes bite; they require the protein and iron in blood to develop their eggs. Males feed exclusively on flower nectar. They find hosts by detecting carbon dioxide, body heat, and odors like sweat. People with Type O blood, pregnant women, and those who have recently exercised are often more attractive to them.

Ticks





A tick is a small, blood-feeding parasite related to spiders and mites. They are well-known for their ability to transmit various diseases to humans and animals through their bites.

They are commonly found in shady, damp, and grassy areas, such as tall grass, leaf litter, and shrubs.

What to Do If Bitten

If you find a tick attached to your skin, you should remove it promptly using the CDC-recommended method:

1. Use Fine-Tipped Tweezers: Grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
2. Pull Straight Up: Use steady, even pressure to pull it out. Avoid twisting or jerking, as this can cause the mouthparts to break off and remain in the skin.
3. Clean the Area: Thoroughly wash the bite site and your hands with soap and water or rubbing alcohol.
4. Dispose Properly: Kill the tick by placing it in alcohol, a sealed bag, or flushing it down the toilet. Never crush it with your fingers.

Watch for symptoms like a rash (specifically a "bull's-eye" pattern), fever, or joint pain for up to 30 days after a bite, and contact a healthcare provider if they occur.

Biting Flies & Midges (no-see-ums or sand flies)





No-see-ums, also known as biting midges, sand flies, or punkies, are tiny blood-sucking flies in the family Ceratopogonidae. They are gray or dark-colored flies, often described as looking like miniature mosquitoes under a microscope. Their wings often have distinct dark and pale patterns. They are most aggressive during dawn and dusk when winds are calm, as they are weak fliers. Bites usually appear as clusters of small red dots or raised welts that can swell up to 1–2 inches in diameter. They cause an intense burning or itching sensation that can last for up to two weeks. Use over-the-counter hydrocortisone creams or antihistamines to manage itching.

Berry Bugs (Chiggers)





Chiggers (also known as red bugs or harvest mites) are the parasitic larval stage of mites from the *Trombiculidae* family. Nearly invisible to the naked eye, these tiny arachnids are notorious for causing intense, itchy rashes in humans. They thrive in tall grass, weeds, berry patches, and shaded woodland edges. Only the larvae bite; adults are harmless and feed on plant material or small insects.

Symptoms and Treatment

- **Symptoms:** Intense itching often starts 3–6 hours after exposure, appearing as red, pimple-like bumps or hives. Bites are frequently clustered around areas with tight clothing, such as ankles, waistlines, and armpits.
- **Immediate Action:** Take a hot, soapy shower and scrub vigorously with a washcloth to remove any remaining larvae.
- **Relief:** Use over-the-counter anti-itch creams like hydrocortisone, oral antihistamines (e.g., Benadryl), or cold compresses.

Other Harmful Arthropods

Stinging Caterpillars (Saddleback)





The saddleback caterpillar (*Acharia stimulea*) is a striking but dangerous larva known for its unique "saddle" marking and a highly potent sting. Mature larvae reach about 1 inch in length. The saddleback is considered one of the most painful stinging caterpillars in North America. Its spines are brittle and break off into the skin, releasing a complex proteinaceous venom. Symptoms include immediate burning pain, swelling, redness, and sometimes nausea or headaches. Severe reactions can include anaphylactic shock.

Scorpions





The Southern Devil Scorpion, native to the southeastern U.S. Appalachian region, is a small (1.5-inch), shy, nocturnal, and relatively docile arachnid that feeds on small insects. While its name implies a fearsome creature, its sting is generally not medically significant, causing pain similar to a common wasp sting, rather than severe danger.

Endangered Species

Alabama Beach Mouse





The **Alabama beach mouse** is a federally **endangered** subspecies of the Oldfield mouse found exclusively along the coastal dunes of Alabama. Often called the "Architect of the Sand Dunes," these tiny rodents play a vital role in stabilizing the coastline by dispersing seeds that grow into dune-anchoring plants.

- **Appearance:** Adults are typically brown or pale gray on top with a white underside and feet; they often feature a dark brown stripe down their back.
- **Size:** They are among the smallest mammals in North America, measuring 4–6 inches (including the tail) and weighing only about 0.35–0.60 ounces.
- **Behavior:** They are nocturnal and semi-fossorial, building complex burrows up to three feet deep that include a "secret" escape tunnel.
- **Monogamy:** Unusually for mammals, they are monogamous and mate for life, with both parents sharing responsibilities for raising their young.

Sea Turtles





Common Species in Baldwin County

- **Loggerhead (Threatened):** The most common nester, with brown/red-brown shells.
- **Kemp's Ridley (Endangered):** Smallest sea turtle, known to nest during the day.
- **Green Sea Turtle (Endangered):** Prefer seagrasses and algae.

Key Information for Visitors & Residents

- **Nesting Season:** May – August; **Hatching Season:** July – October.
- **Sea Turtle Hotline:** Call 866-SEA-TURTLE (866-732-8878) to report sightings, nests, or stranded turtles.
- **"Leave Only Footprints":** Beach equipment (chairs, tents, toys) must be removed daily, or it will be confiscated.
- **Lights Out:** Use red or amber flashlights at night, and turn off, shield, or redirect bright lights away from the beach to avoid disorienting turtles.
- **Keep Distance:** If you see a nesting turtle, stay at least 30 feet away, remain quiet, and do not use flash photography.
- **Nesting Activity:** In 2023, 143 nests were documented on Alabama beaches.

Be on the lookout

Gopher Tortoise





The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has found that listing the gopher tortoise as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act is not warranted throughout its entire range. The agency determined that the eastern and western portions of the gopher tortoise's range meet the criteria of Distinct Population Segments (DPS). The populations in the eastern segment, which includes Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and most of Alabama, do not require protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and will be withdrawn as a candidate for listing. The species in the western segment of its range in western Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana will retain its threatened status.

Key Characteristics

- **Appearance:** Adults typically have a tan, brown, or gray shell (carapace) measuring 9–11 inches long and can weigh up to 15 pounds. They are distinguished by their stumpy, "elephant-like" hind legs and shovel-like front limbs adapted for digging.
- **Diet:** They are primarily herbivorous, feeding on low-growing plants like grasses, legumes, and various fruits such as gopher apples and saw palmetto berries.
- **Longevity:** These tortoises are remarkably long-lived, often reaching 40–60 years in the wild and upwards of 90 years in captivity.

Osprey and Nests





Ospreys, a large, slender hawk that typically weighs 3 to 4 pounds and has a wingspan of more than 5 feet, are protected by the federal Migratory Bird Act. That law makes it illegal to capture the birds or move their nests without a federal permit.

Baldwin EMC is a responsible environmental steward. Our management and staff are dedicated to working with wildlife agencies toward reducing avian mortalities while continuing to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to our members.

If an injured, deceased bird, or nest is encountered while working, please notify your crew leader immediately so he or she can notify the appropriate Baldwin EMC personnel for further instructions.

BALDWIN EMC JOB BRIEFING

Date: _____ **911 Address: _____**
Time Conducted: _____ am pm **Unit # _____** **Weather: _____**
Work Order/Service Order: _____ **Conducted by: _____**
Hazards Associated with the Job:
Discuss Slips, Trips & Falling Hazards _____ Discuss cell phone usage _____
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Energy Source Controls:
Ground Trip Block_____ "A" Switch _____ Sub _____ Cir _____ Breaker_____
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Special Precautions:
Pre-Flight of Truck(s) _____ Trk# _____ Trk # _____ Trk # _____ Wheel Chocks _____
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Work Procedures Involved:
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Traffic Safety: (Use back of form for traffic sketch if needed)
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Personal Protective Equipment Requirements:
Rubber Gloves_____ Sleeves_____ Hard Hat _____ FR Clothing _____ EH Footwear_____
Body Harness/Lanyard _____ Fall Restraint Device _____ Eye Protection _____ Ear Protection _____
Safety Vest _____ Truck Grounds _____ Work Gloves _____
Others:
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Assignment of Personnel: _____ Designated Spotter: _____
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Additional Comments:
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Crew Members Present:
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