

## **ROW cutting and Emerald Ash Borer update**

Contract tree crews will be working in WEC utility right-of-ways (ROW) in many areas of the system throughout the summer. We have identified circuits that were affected by recent storms and over the last 3 years.

We expect to improve reliability and ROW safety in some areas that are “further out” on the system. Some of the areas we are currently targeting include Crossett Hill on the Moretown to Fayston feeder, Camp Munn Road on the Mt. Knox to Corinth feeder, and Danville Hill on the Walden to Cabot feeder.

Additionally, WEC crews are replacing old and condemned poles in many locations as well; most recently in Tunbridge.

We do our best to inform members of work beforehand, however, there are times when this may not occur. Please be patient and understand these crews are there so WEC can improve service reliability in these areas.

There are green markings on the ash trees that WEC may preemptively cut to address the nearly 100% ash mortality expected from the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation.

At the beginning of the year, WEC developed an EAB mitigation plan to respond to the certain damage that EAB will cause. In the years to come, WEC will be cutting ash that could endanger utility lines, poles, and people in the ROW. Some ash will be targeted, and some ash will be cut during the normal course of ROW management. We will be cutting ash trees inside and outside (danger ash) of the utility ROW that lean toward and have the potential to damage WEC assets.

Municipalities and utilities, from the Midwest to now Vermont, grapple with how best to manage or mitigate the damage to assets that occurs due to EAB infestation of ash trees. As a result, you will see more green tree marks in the future as we try to reduce “danger” ash and mitigate our system exposure.