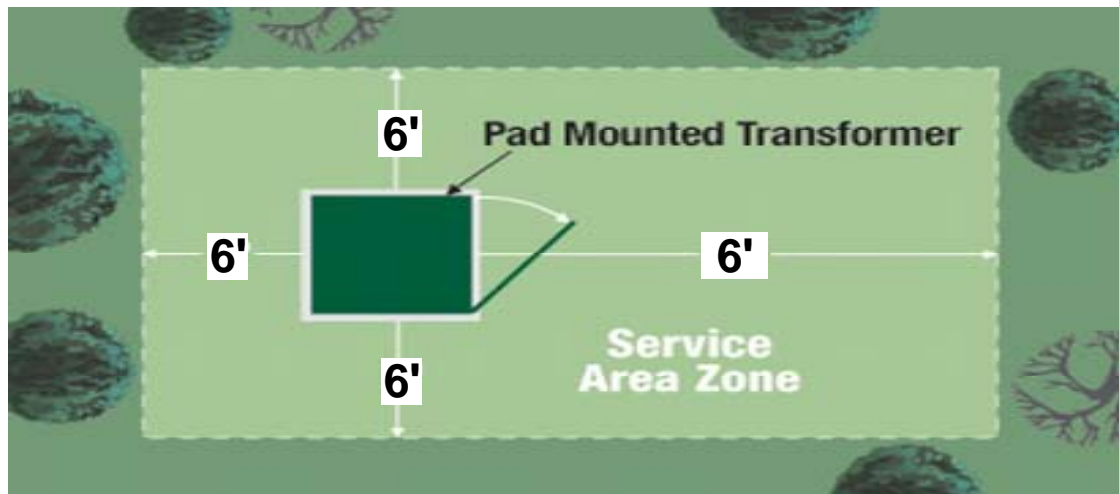


## Working space around padmounted transformers



Padmount transformers are the green, metal utility boxes that are mounted on small slabs of concrete near many homes and businesses. These transformers play an important role in the system BEC uses to provide electricity to its members.

Like most equipment, padmount transformers require periodic maintenance. They also may need attention when BEC crews are working to restore service during a power outage.

In order to work safely on these units, BEC crews need at least six feet of clearance in front of the transformer (the side that is padlocked) and six feet on the other three sides. Utility easements allow BEC the access it needs to maintain and repair its equipment.

Before working on padmounts that are energized, BEC crews use a "hot stick" to disconnect the power source. The length of this tool, which is used on the front side of the transformer, is the reason for the clearance requirement on that side. The clearances on the other sides (see diagram above) are necessary for crews to do other work on the transformer or to replace it should the need arise.

Fences, shrubs and trees that are located too close to transformers can slow restoration work during an outage or create a safety hazard when power is being switched off. For those reasons, BEC crews may have to remove these "obstacles" to gain access. That situation can be avoided by taking a little time to plan before planting a bush or installing a fence near a transformer.

Always call 811 (Texas Locates) before any digging. Call no sooner than 14 days but not less than two working days (48 hours excluding weekends and holidays) before beginning the excavating.