



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections

RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2022

Manager's Message

The Power Behind Your Power

by Darick Eisenbraun



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Lineworker Appreciation Day, April 11th

Easter, April 17th

Watch for more information about our art contest for the 23rd Annual Meeting.



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You've likely noticed High Plains Power's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. 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 with you.

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 their career--because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly 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 8,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line or work.

Despite the many challenges, High Plains Power's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones 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, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Here in Wyoming, High Plains Power has 30 lineworkers that are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain more than 4,800 miles of power lines across more than 12,500 square miles. 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

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LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY, APRIL 11TH



LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

We thank lineworkers for their courage and commitment to powering our community.



Substation tech Bobby Lamar



BUDGET BILLING

Budget Billing season is almost upon us!

- You can register for budget billing 1 April through 31 May IF:
- You have 12 months of billed history at your current residence.
 - Your account is paid in full by the end of May.

If you are interested, you can get a written budget billing request form from our offices in Riverton and Dubois OR you can enroll in budget billing via SmartHub after 1 April.

If you are already on Budget Billing, it will automatically continue unless you request for it to be removed.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

NATE FINCHER



How long have you worked for High Plains Power?
I have been a Journeyman Lineman for 10 years

What is your favorite part about working for a Cooperative?
The best part is working with all the great people at the cooperative!

What do you like to do for fun?
Outside of work I enjoy waterfowl hunting, and training hunting dogs!

If you could travel anywhere in the world where would you go?
My wife and I would go to the Maldives!



REMINDER!!

If you set up autopay through the web portal on the old system, you will need to register with SmartHub to set your autopay up in the new system. Your autopay did NOT carry over to the new system. If you have any issues getting set up in SmartHub, please call us!

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LINEWORKERS?



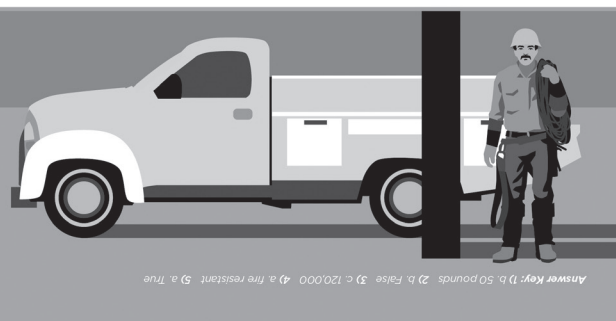
Every April, we celebrate lineworkers and the hard work they do to make sure we have electricity to power our lives.

How much do you know about lineworkers?

Take the quiz below to find out!

(Use the answer key to check your work.)

1. Lineworkers have to wear a lot of gear to do their jobs. A lineworker's gear can weigh up to _____.
 - a. 15 pounds
 - b. 50 pounds
 - c. 80 pounds
2. Lineworkers maintain and repair electrical lines, but they do not install them.
 - a. True (no installation)
 - b. False (They maintain, repair and install lines.)
3. There are approximately _____ lineworkers in the United States.
 - a. 50,000
 - b. 90,000
 - c. 120,000
4. Lineworkers must wear _____ clothing to protect them from a possible electric arc while working.
 - a. fire resistant
 - b. extra thick
 - c. leather or rubber
5. Lineworkers must wear special conductive boots when climbing a steel structure.
 - a. True
 - b. False



Answer Key: 1) b. 50 pounds 2) b. False 3) c. 120,000 4) a. fire resistant 5) a. True

Manager's Message

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pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

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 simply 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.

High Plains Power

NEWS

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