

CONNECTIONS

CORNHUSKER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT • APRIL 2024



NATIONAL
LINEWORKER
APPRECIATION DAY
APRIL 18, 2024



the Power Behind Your Power.

 **#ThankALineworker**

Line technicians Corey Boryca (left) and Griffin Babb (right) string line near Spalding.

Whatever it takes to keep the lights on

Line technicians are ranked as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the county. The line technicians at Cornhusker Public Power District work every day in all weather conditions to make sure our community has the power to live their lives. It's a hard job, but it's very rewarding. Cornhusker Public Power District is celebrating National Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 18, 2024.

Our line technicians work near high-voltage electricity on a daily basis. If they move just the wrong way or lose focus for a split second, the repercussions could be deadly. They must be aware of their surroundings and the safety of the person working alongside them. Line technicians often work on energized power lines. They work with an element of danger requiring concentration at all times, there is no margin for error.

When our customers need power the most is usually when the weather is the worst. Oftentimes, our line technicians work in storms with rain, wind, extreme cold and heat, in the dark, or on the side of the road next to fast-moving traffic.

Line technicians go through years of training before they can be classified as a line technician. Once they complete school and an internship, they become apprentice

line technicians, which typically spans four years. After an apprenticeship, with more than 7,000 hours of training under their belts, they become journeyman line technicians and are officially trained in their field.

But the education is ongoing. Line technicians continuously receive training to stay mindful of safety requirements and up to date on the latest equipment and procedures.

The daily expectations of a line technician are physically demanding, but you will not hear any of them complain about it. They load heavy material, climb poles, and climb in and out of buckets. Sometimes, their trucks cannot get to an area. They walk to the affected area, loaded down with 40 pounds of personal protective equipment and tools to get the job done.

The life of a line technician is not for the faint of heart. They are one of the first responders during emergencies and see the devastation from storms, accidents, and fires.

They receive calls at all hours and in the middle of the night. They leave their families and miss birthday parties,

Continued on page 12-B: lineworkers

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

A well-designed landscape can add beauty to your home and reduce home heating and cooling costs. Plan deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns to the south of your home to block sunlight in the summer and reduce the need for air conditioning. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Plant evergreen trees and shrubs with low crowns to block winter winds. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs planted to the north and northwest are the most common type of windbreak and can help lower energy used for home heating.

Source: energy.gov

Lineworkers, From Page 12-A

holiday dinners, soccer games, and other family functions to ensure power is restored as safely and quickly as possible to our customers. Their dedication to the job is unmatched.

The camaraderie of line technicians is like none other. It's a culture of trust, teamwork, and service. They depend on each other and keep each other safe while turning on the lights for everyone else.

Cornhusker Public Power District and its employees are members of the communities we serve. We live in the same neighborhoods. We shop in the same stores. Our kids go to the same schools. If your lights are off, chances are one of our employees' lights are off too. You can trust we are doing our best to get the lights back on as safely and quickly as possible – so you can get back to normal life.

THANK YOU to our line technicians at the Albion Service Center: **Marty McKay, Scott Miller, Charles Fox, and Marc Pelster.** At the Fullerton Service Center: **Troy Norman, Corey Boryca, Griffin Babb, and Mason Prosocki.** In Columbus: **Jim Baumert, Todd Bachman, Jay Wemhoff, Michael Jacobi, Bryce Theilen, Jon Ramaekers, Parker Hughes, Austin Urkoski, Riley Reeder, Cameron Menke, and Keaton Zarek.**

FARM SAFETY

Make sure **EVERYONE** is trained on safe practices around electricity. Utilize these safety tips for you, your employees, seasonal workers, family members, and anyone else accessing your farm.

- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from overhead power lines at all times, in all directions.
- Know all power line locations on your farm, fields and routes between fields.
- Always use a spotter when moving equipment near power lines.
- Don't completely rely on autosteer or GPS to detect and clear power lines or poles.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, contact Cornhusker Public Power District at 402 564 2821.

If your equipment does hit a power line, pole, or guy wire, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away, and wait for Cornhusker Public Power District's crew to cut the power.

POWER LINE AWARENESS



Safe
Electricity.org

CAN YOU DIG IT?

Planning a yard project? Don't just dig in



April is National Safe Digging Month. As people begin beautifying their yards, they shouldn't just dig in. According to 811, the "Call Before You Dig" national hotline, an underground utility is damaged every nine minutes because someone didn't call before digging.

Whether it is a do-it-yourself project or you are hiring a professional, call 811 two to three days prior to starting any digging project to request any buried electric, gas, cable and other live lines in or near your yard be marked. The service is free but digging in an unmarked yard may not be.

The 811 hotline points out there is more than one football field's length of buried utilities for every man, woman, and child in the U.S. Before digging:

1. **Notify** Nebraska's one-call center by calling 811 or making an online request 2-3 days before work begins.
2. **Wait** the required amount of time for affected utility operators to respond to your request.
3. **Confirm** all affected utility operators have responded to your request and marked underground utilities.
4. **Dig** Carefully around the marks with care.

Remember privately owned underground lines will **NOT** be marked by location flaggers. Examples of private lines/equipment include well and septic, underground sprinkler systems, invisible fencing, gas or electric lines serving a detached building, as well as any lines (electric, water, sewer) from the meter to your home.

You may think it won't hurt anything to dig in an unmarked yard when landscaping, installing a fence, deck or mailbox, or even "just" planting a small flower bed or bush, but damaging an underground cable can have serious consequences. You might think you don't have time for that and ask yourself, what's the worst that could happen? **YOU COULD DIE OR BECOME SERIOUSLY INJURED.**

Other consequences of blindly digging and taking a chance? You could cause a power outage. You could hit a gas line and get burned or cause an evacuation in your neighborhood. You could be fined. If you hit a telephone line or fiber optic line, you might lose your telephone, cable TV or internet service. Worse yet, it could interfere with your neighborhood's emergency assistance technology.

Although it all seems like "your" yard, utilities have the right of way to the live lines lurking under the ground in places where you might dig. You may think one or two "small holes" won't matter, but that's what the person thought who hit a line nine minutes ago.

So tiptoe through the tulips this spring and summer, both literally and figuratively. Know what's underneath that flower bed and everywhere else in your yard.

"Know what's below." Then dig safely. For more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

YELLOW: Natural gas, oil, steam, petroleum or other gaseous materials

GREEN: Sewer and drain lines

BLUE: Portable water

ORANGE: Communication, alarm/signal lines, cables/conduit

RED: Electric power lines, cables, conduit, lighting cables

TYPES OF UNDERGROUND UTILITIES:

Facilities are color-coded for easy identification, matching the flags that mark their location.

FREE & EASY

ways to save energy

[Spoiler Alert: Your clothes and dishes won't know the difference]

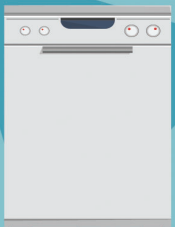
Major home appliances account for approximately 16% of an average home's energy consumption.

16%



1. Run full loads of laundry instead of several smaller ones.
2. Use cold water to wash your clothes.

3. Keep your refrigerator at 35° to 38°F and your freezer at 0°F.
4. Regularly defrost manual-defrost freezers and refrigerators.



5. Skip the heat-dry setting on your dishwasher.
6. Fully load your dishwasher before washing.

7. When buying new appliances, consider Energy Star versions.
8. Unplug appliances you're not using.



Time to replace that old appliance? Replace older versions with energy-efficient models to save energy.

Sources: National Resources Defense Council,
U.S. Energy Information Administration

Safe
Electricity.org®

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