



## The commitment of an electric lineworker

By Anne Prince, NRECA

National studies consistently rank power line installers and repairers among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason. Laboring high in the air wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric lineworkers are up to the task. These men and women are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job.

Egyptian Electric Cooperative's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be good at it. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers. The job requires them to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their membership and local community. **07-03-0020**

To perform their jobs successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience and each other to get the job done safely. Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system at home. A lineworker's family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be all the more difficult.



In southern Illinois and across the country, electric co-op lineworkers' mission-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op. Lineworkers are often familiar figures in the community. For example, here at Egyptian Electric Cooperative many of our lineworkers are little league coaches, small business owners, youth leaders in their church, and farmers in their local communities.

Monday, April 8 is NRECA's nationally recognized Lineworker Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of Egyptian Electric Cooperative's lineworkers, both on and off the job, we will be taking a day to acknowledge the many contributions they make to our organization and local communities. So, if you see one of them or one of their family members in the grocery store or out and about, please offer them a thank you as well!



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## Dig up safety tips

Spring showers bring May flowers but digging on your own this spring could spell big trouble. Even if you think you could get lucky or that digging one small hole (or two) won't matter, don't take for granted

what lines might lurk beneath the soil in your yard. Before you use that post hole digger or other unearthing tool, STOP and call 8-1-1 to request buried electric, gas, cable and other lines in or near your yard be marked. The service is free but digging in an unmarked yard may not be.

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. **49-04-0007**

There are many other consequences of blindly digging. 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 and your neighborhood's telephone, cable TV or internet service. Worse yet, it could interfere with your neighbor's emergency assistance technology.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

While it may be your yard, utilities have the right-of-way to the live lines found under the ground in places where you might dig. In fact, an underground utility line is damaged once every nine minutes

across the nation because someone decided to dig without getting their property properly marked, according to the Common Ground Alliance. 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.

Take a deep breath, look over your landscaping or fence plans and call 8-1-1 before you dig. Illinois' call center is JULIE, which stands for Joint Utility Location Information for Excavators. So always remember properly mark your dig location in white and to call JULIE at 8-1-1 at least 48 hours or two regular business days before any digging project to have underground utilities marked. Please note, utility workers will only mark their lines and utilities. Privately installed lines are not always the responsibility of the utility to locate. For more about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## Five Easy Ways to

# CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

*Every Day*

1. Conserve water by taking showers instead of baths.
2. Turn off all lights when you leave a room.
3. Bring your reusable bags to the market and other stores when shopping.
4. Go paperless. Pay as many bills as possible online.
5. Ditch the car and walk when possible.

**Earth Day • April 22, 2019**

## Retirements



Glen Degenhardt began his career with Egyptian Electric Cooperative out of the Steeleville office on April 9, 1991. He began as an apprentice lineman later advancing to become a journeyman lineman. We wish him well in his retirement after 28 years of service! **32-08-0003**

# Save the DATE

# 18 JULY

81st Annual Meeting of the Members; Thursday, July 18, 2019, EECA Headquarters, 1732 Finney Road, Murphysboro. Registration & Dinner will be 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. with the business meeting at 6:30 p.m. Scholarship drawings immediately following. Childcare provided during meeting for school aged children.

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## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Dishwasher Efficiency Tip: Air dry clean dishes to save energy. If your dishwasher does not have an automatic air-dry switch, turn off the dishwasher after the final rinse and prop the door open slightly so the dishes will dry faster.

**Source: U.S Department of Energy**



**OUR OFFICE  
WILL BE CLOSED  
APRIL 19 FOR  
GOOD FRIDAY.**

## MEMBER PRIZES

Every month we will have three map location numbers hidden throughout our Egyptian Electric News section. If you find your location number that corresponds to the one on your bill, call our office and identify yourself and the page that it is on and you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

## HOW TO PREVENT ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING



Each year, 3,800 people die from drowning. Electric shock drowning occurs when an electric current escapes boats, docks and lights near marinas, shocking nearby swimmers. There are no visible signs of current seeping into water, which makes this a hidden danger. The electric shock paralyzes swimmers, making them unable to swim to safety.



### ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR:

#### Swimmers

- **Never swim near a boat or launching ramp.** Residual current could flow into the water from the boat or the marina's wiring, potentially putting anyone in the water at risk of electric shock.
- If you feel any tingling sensations while in the water, **tell someone and swim back** in the direction from which you came. Immediately report it to the dock or marina owner.

#### Boat Owners

- **Ensure your boat is properly maintained and consider having it inspected annually.** GFCIs and ELCIs should be tested monthly. Conduct leakage testing to determine if electrical current is escaping the vessel.
- **Use portable GFCIs or shore power cords** (including "Y" adapters) that are "UL- Marine Listed" when using electricity near water.
- Regularly have your boat's electrical system inspected by a certified marine electrician. **Ensure it meets your local and state NEC, NFPA and ABYC safety codes.**

### IF YOU SEE ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING TAKING PLACE:



**TURN POWER OFF**



**THROW A LIFE RING**



**CALL 911**

**DO NOT enter the water. You could become a victim, too.**

*Sources: Electrical Safety Foundation International, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*