

JAMUP

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Concern for community

At Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC), we realize and value the meaning of the word **community**, and we feel the responsibility to maintain a high standard of service to our members and the rural areas they represent. It is this feeling of community that drives our desire to give back in various ways within our service area. We continue to make this effort a forefront of our cooperative, ensuring we support our local schools, businesses and families. **Scott Combs**

I began my career with SIEC this January. It became evident from day one that utilizing cooperative resources to not only provide energy needs and give back to the surrounding communities, but also to educate and protect those in our service area is of highest priority to our staff, lineworkers and board of directors. Although it has been challenging at times to support our members with face-to-face events during the last year, we are excited at the outlook for 2021 and the opportunity to once again interact with you, host live events, and show our support to the ones who are vital to the continued success of SIEC.



Brent Goforth
Director of Member Services

year to provide blood drives in each of our service area counties. Your donations are lifesaving and needed now more than ever. To show our appreciation, SIEC will award a **\$10 bill credit** to members who donate at one of our drives (limit one \$10 bill credit per membership per blood drive). All we ask you to do is find me, or another

SIEC representative, and provide your membership information prior to leaving the event to claim your credit. Please continue to monitor our social media pages and website for additional information, which will be provided as dates approach for each location.



For many years, SIEC has worked alongside the University of Illinois Extension office in Vienna, Ill. to provide 4-H students with an electricity camp, during which we teach students about how electricity works, proper safety measures, as well as completing a DIY project each student gets to take home with them. We are excited to host this again in 2021 with more details to come regarding a date and time. If you or someone you know is involved in 4-H and would like to attend this camp, please be watching for the details on our Facebook page, website or in Illinois Country Living magazine!

Through programs such as these, along with our Live Line Demo, and

various scholarship opportunities for local high school students, we are continuously making efforts to invest in our community's growth, education, safety, and knowledge surrounding electricity and energy efficiency. This is a commitment we do not take lightly. I encourage you to attend, participate or follow the progress of our many community outreach programs! I am thankful for the opportunity to serve our membership and the communities in our service area. If you have a question regarding the services we provide, testimonial about a personal experience you have had with SIEC, or a recommendation of an area we could improve upon, please reach out to me. I would love to hear from you!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees, but most households usually only require them to be set at 120 degrees.

Consider lowering your water heater's temperature to save energy and slow mineral buildup in the heater and pipes.

Source: www.energy.gov



We are excited to continue our partnership with Red Cross again this

Taking charge of safety

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative recently hosted the Union County CEO Program on-site at our Dongola location. The students spent the morning touring our facilities, learning the multitude of career opportunities the cooperative has to offer, as well as learning about potential hazards and proper safety protocol during our Live Line Demo. This demonstration always seems to have a lasting effect on anyone who sees it and gives a closer perspective on how scrupulous our lineworkers need to be and the concentration and precaution it takes to stay safe as a lineworker. It also shows the aftermath of what can happen if you do not take power lines seriously. Our lineworkers do a fantastic job of explaining how power is transferred, sharing life-saving tips for anyone who finds

themselves face-to-face with a downed power line and what to do if you spot a potential hazard involving power lines, poles or transformers.

Massac Fire Department also took advantage of the demonstration last month, as part of their annual training on electric fires, and what to do when responding to a call where the power needs to be cut off. SIEC takes pride in working alongside our first responders to ensure their safety, as well as our linemen and the families they both serve! **Jack Class**

If you are part of an organization, first responder team, or school and would like to learn more about our Live Line Demo reach out to the cooperative at 618-827-3555, and we can discuss bringing the demonstration to you!



David Johnston, Executive VP & General Manager, thanks the students for their visit and explains the importance of putting our members first.



CEO students get a look at some of the heavy machinery our Operations & Maintenance Department uses for various jobs.



Director of Member Services Brent Goforth shown with Union County CEO students following the Live Line Demo.



During a portion of the Live Line Demo, Journeyman Lineman Jon Beisner demonstrates the power generated when voltage finds a grounding source.

Keeping the lights on

What does a lineworker do?

While it takes each employee across all departments to keep operations running smoothly at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, one of the more visible jobs is that of a lineworker. You may see one of ours working 35 feet (or more) overhead or maintaining lines at ground level. **Dianna Yates**

We entrust your safety to our lineworkers, so they hold a very important job. We also rely on their expertise to power our world.

On any given day or night, and in all kinds of weather conditions, these specialized workers install and maintain overhead and underground electrical systems. Components of these systems include power lines, transformers, fuses, insulators and other related equipment.

Safety comes first

Lineworkers must commit to safety above all else. They spend numerous hours in safety trainings each year and must understand and apply crucial safety regulations.

Electrical lineworkers are specially trained to:

- Climb poles to service power lines in areas inaccessible by trucks.
- Stand in an elevated bucket to assess and repair overhead lines.
- Install poles, overhead lines and other equipment.
- Work on both energized and deenergized lines.
- Install and service underground lines.

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Collectively, gear components can weigh up to 45 pounds.

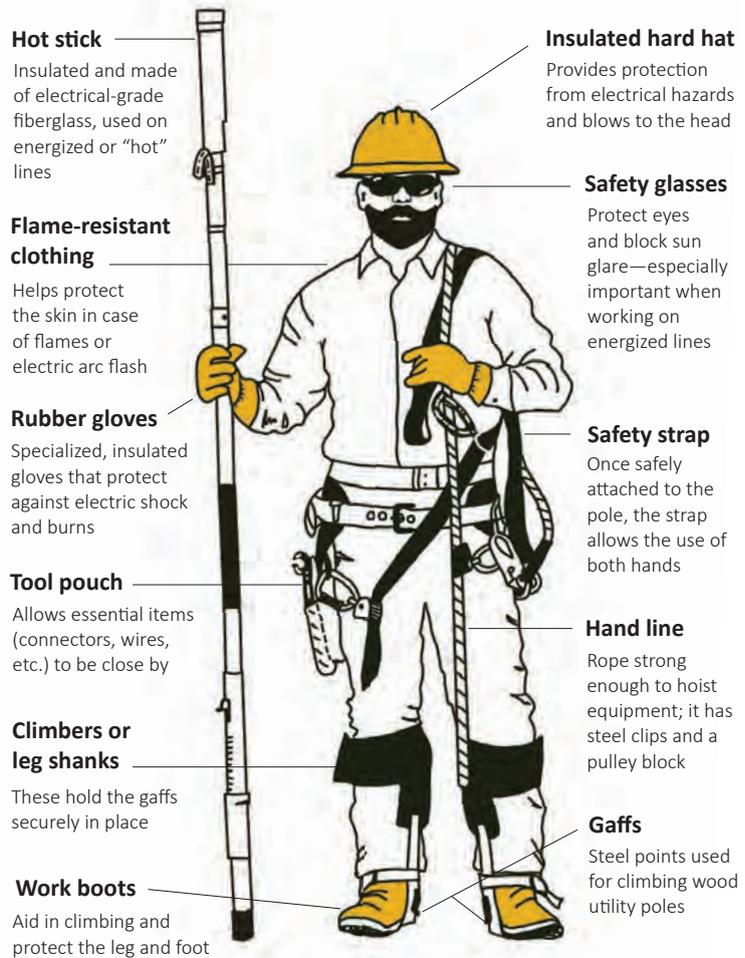
ELECTRICAL LINEWORKERS

Lineworkers install and maintain overhead and underground electrical systems. We rely on their expertise to power our world.

They must commit to safety above all else for the benefit of those they serve (you!), fellow crew members and themselves.

WHAT THEY WEAR

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Gear can vary depending on pole structure (wood or steel) and weighs up to 45 pounds.



Member prize

In this issue of the JAMUP, we printed the names of three SIEC members who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit toward their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section and it's not part of the story, call Bree with your account number at **800-762-1400** to claim your prize.

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For Outages Call:
800-762-1400 • 618-827-3555

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Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m.

www.siec.coop

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

2-3

3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



Source: call811.com