



Mike Smith
President and CEO

The power behind your power

National Lineman Appreciation Day is April 18.

You've likely noticed McDonough 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 National Lineman Appreciation Day on April 18, 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. **532RM66-900C**

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 7,000 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, McDonough 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. In our service territory, McDonough Power has seven lineworkers that are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 1,416 miles of power lines across portions of seven counties.

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 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 essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hard-working men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

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 18 and follow "#ThankALineworker" on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.



NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

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

*Office closed for
Good Friday on
April 15.*





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Thank you notes from our Operation Round Up recipients

Dear McDonough Power Co-op,

On behalf of the staff and students at Lincoln Elementary School, we would like to thank you for your recent donation toward our Sensory Playground for All! Your contribution will help us provide opportunities for our kindergarten through third grade students, as well as the surrounding community.

Our purpose and initiative is to provide activities for vestibular and tactile stimulation, which are vital developmental needs of our children. Thanks to you, our learners will have access to a playground that will allow them to explore and play in an environment designed to meet their sensory needs. The equipment will also provide students with disabilities or handicaps more opportunities for access and play. We could not make this possible without your generosity and support!

We cannot wait until this project is completed and look forward to watching our students learn and grow on our Sensory Playground for All!

*Sincerely,
Sensory Playground Committee
Lincoln Elementary School – Macomb*

Thank you for your generous gift for our new playground equipment from the kids in the afternoon after-school program. We have 20-27 kids attending. Thank you so much for your support.

-Blandinsville Christian Church

McDonough Power,

Thank you for the grant that is going toward replacing our target bales at Crooked Creek Outdoors. You are helping the S3DA Club to stay right on target! 101E18C4-408C

*-S3DA Club & Crooked Creek
Outdoors*

**We love the creativity of Crooked
Creek's thank you note!*



Electric lineworkers keep the power moving

When people flip a light switch, they may not give much thought to why or how the light comes on. **6120D1-164C** Electric lineworkers provide an essential service: They work hard to install and maintain overhead and underground power lines that keep electricity flowing. These specialized workers are on call 24/7 in case severe storms or other circumstances cause the power to go out.

Lineworkers work with high-voltage electricity, often at great heights, in all kinds of weather conditions, such as snow, wind, rain, ice and extreme heat and cold. The work required to maintain the power grid is physically demanding. To become proficient, most lineworkers go through a technical training program and first learn on the job as apprentices under the careful eye of seasoned lineworkers who have earned journeyman status.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, electric power line installers and repairers typically:

- Install, maintain or repair the power lines that move electricity.
- Identify defective devices, voltage regulators, transformers and switches.
- Inspect and test power lines and auxiliary equipment.
- String (install) power lines between poles, towers and buildings.
- Climb poles and transmission towers and use truck-mounted buckets to get to equipment.
- Operate power equipment when installing and repairing poles, towers and lines.
- Drive work vehicles to job sites.
- Know and implement safety standards and procedures.

When a problem is reported, lineworkers must identify the cause and fix it. This usually involves diagnostic testing using specialized equipment and repair work. To work on poles, they usually use bucket trucks to raise themselves to the top of the structure,

although all lineworkers must be adept at climbing poles and towers when necessary. Workers use specialized safety equipment to keep them from falling when climbing utility poles and towers.

Storms and other natural disasters can cause extensive damage to power lines. When power is lost, line repairers

must work quickly to restore service to customers.

Everyone at McDonough Power Cooperative works hard to provide reliable service, we not only salute our lineworkers, but also all our employees who work around the clock to keep the power on.



Considering a career as a lineworker?

\$2,000

LaVern and Nola McEntire
Memorial Lineworker's
Scholarship

Apply Today!

AIEC
Association of Illinois
Electric Cooperatives

The \$2,000 LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the AIEC in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, IL. Apply online by April 30, 2022.

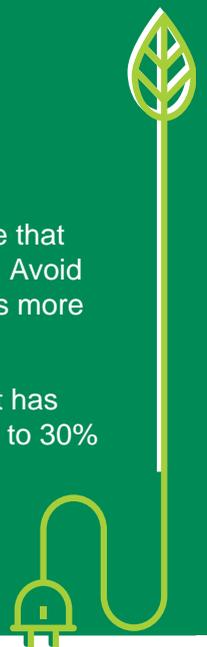
<https://aiec.coop/lavern-and-nola-lineworkers-scholarship>

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25% to 30% less energy than standard equipment.

Source: Dept. of Energy



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

It's Easy! It's Free!

Planning a digging project in your yard or on your property? If you dig without knowing what is located below, you could damage an underground line.

Not only could you become seriously injured, but you will be responsible for the cost of repairs. To avoid hassles and fines, call 811, the Call Before You Dig number, at

least two business days prior to breaking ground. (811 locators do not mark privately owned underground lines or pipes, such as service to outbuildings, sprinkler systems or invisible fences.)

An uneventful digging project is the best kind to have.

 Safe
Electricity.org®

Plan to call before you dig

Digging without locating underground utilities could leave neighborhoods in the dark, cause thousands of dollars in damages, or cause severe electrical shock. This is true regardless of how much area your project will cover or whether you consider the job to be large or small. To help stay safe, make use of the national underground utility locating service for free by calling 811.

The 811 "Call Before You Dig" number will route you to your local utility locating service. Make sure to tell the operator where and when you plan to dig and what type of work you will be doing. From there, it takes a few business days for a professional to come mark your public utilities with flags or spray paint. **91E19HC2-464B**

There are different colors of paint and flags that mark the underground utilities, and each color is universal to what utility is buried.

-  **Red** – Electric
-  **Orange** – Communications, telephone/CATV
-  **Blue** – Potable water

-  **Green** – Sewer/drainage
-  **Yellow** – Gas/petroleum pipeline
-  **Purple** – Reclaimed water
-  **White** – Premark site of intended excavation

Even if you previously had utilities located by calling 811, it is best to call before every digging project. Underground utilities can shift, and it is important to be certain of where they are before ever putting a shovel in the ground.

Please understand that 811 locators do not locate privately installed facilities. If you have any private utilities, you will need to hire a private utility locator. Examples of private utilities include underground sprinkler system, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage.

Once all your underground utilities have been located, it is time to start digging, but be sure to wear all the proper protective gear before putting the shovel into the earth.

For more information about 811 and digging safety, visit Call811.com and SafeElectricity.org.



Member Prizes

Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.