

# POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



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## Lineworkers are Wired for Service

In the quiet hours before dawn breaks, while many of us are still nestled in our beds, lineworkers begin their day, often clad in flame-resistant clothing, safety goggles, rubber gloves and thick, heavy boots.

They are the individuals who epitomize dedication to service in its purest form. As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14, this is an important moment to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

Amid towering utility poles and power lines, lineworkers exhibit a strength that goes far beyond the physical. Whether battling inclement weather, troubleshooting technical problems or navigating treacherous heights, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination



to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable, and our communities connected.

Corn Belt Energy crews travel across our eighteen-county service territory, building, maintaining and repairing parts of our local system. Their extraordinary skills ensure our homes remain connected to the grid, businesses stay operational, and emergency services remain accessible—a lifeline that connects us all.

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers emerge as beacons of hope. Their swift response

restores normalcy, offering reassurance in times of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment illuminates life when we need it most.

Corn Belt Energy lineworkers also answer the call beyond the boundaries of home. Our crews travel to fellow co-ops, near or far, when widespread outages occur and additional support is needed. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of our seven guiding principles, and no one embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers.

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# Lineworkers are Wired for Service

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It takes a special kind of person to be an electric lineworker.

Here are 10 of the many reasons we appreciate lineworkers:

- They are expertly trained to work on power lines and equipment.
- They are dedicated to safely and efficiently maintaining power.
- They have a heart for service, always looking out for their communities.
- They conquer heights without hesitation.
- They prioritize safety every second of every day.
- They answer the call — day or night — to restore power.
- They endure it all: rain, shine and extreme weather

conditions.

- They go when they are needed, supporting communities nationwide when severe weather strikes.
- They have each other's backs, and work together like family.
- They power our lives and energize our communities!

Lineworkers are protectors of safety and keepers of comfort for our communities and beyond. Every day, they bring a spirit of service, unwavering focus and specialized knowledge to a job that demands both skill and heart. Their commitment to safety isn't just a requirement — it's a way of life.

So, to all the lineworkers out there, thank you for running toward electrical challenges when others step back. Thank you for your continuous training, hard work and dedication to keep us all safe. Thank you, lineworkers, for all you do to keep the lights on.

This month, as we celebrate the remarkable men and women who ensure reliable power, let's recognize their unwavering dedication to the local communities they serve.

The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible—lineworkers, who are wired for service and dedicated to illuminating life.



# Stay safe this summer: Backyard electrical safety

As the weather warms, and you spend more time outdoors it's essential to prioritize electrical safety. Hidden hazards can pose serious risks.

Here are some critical safety tips to keep your loved ones safe in your backyard.

## Stay away from power lines

Overhead power lines can be closer than they appear. Teach children never to climb trees near power lines; and never to fly kites, drones, remote-controlled toys or balloons in areas where lines are present. If you see a downed power line, stay at least 50 feet away and report it to your local utility company immediately.

## Trampoline safety

If you're considering an above-ground trampoline, remember to look up for power lines. Children jumping high into the air could come dangerously close to overhead electric lines, which pose a serious risk of shock or electrocution.

Thinking about installing an in-ground trampoline instead? Before you dig, call 811 to have underground utility lines marked. Digging without knowing the location of buried electrical, gas or water lines can result in dangerous utility strikes. This simple step can prevent accidents, service interruptions and costly repairs.

## Water safety

Water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Keep these tips in mind to prevent electrical hazards and create a safe space for swimming, soaking and outdoor fun.

Ensure pool lights, filters and outdoor outlets have ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection and inspect them regularly. GFCIs are designed to quickly shut off electrical power if they detect even a small change in electrical current.

If you notice flickering lights or feel a tingling sensation in the water, exit immediately and contact a professional. Faulty wiring can cause electric shock drowning.

Avoid using plug-in devices, like radios, speakers or chargers, near water. Opt for battery-operated, waterproof devices to reduce the risk of shock.

Know what to do in case of an electrical emergency. If someone is shocked, do not enter the water. Turn off the power source, call 911 and use a non-conductive tool, like a fiberglass pool pole, to assist.

If it starts to rain, unplug electrical equipment, such as string lights, radios, speakers or power tools. Teach children not to touch electrical appliances with wet hands.

## Outdoor sports

Sports and play areas are a haven for children, but they can also contain hidden electrical hazards. Here's how to protect your loved ones:

Ensure swings and other tall play structures are far from overhead power lines.

If you have outdoor lighting for night games, ensure the fixtures are weatherproof and properly installed. Have a professional

check for frayed wires or loose connections.

If kids are playing with a ball and it goes inside a substation fence, teach them never to touch or climb the fence to attempt to retrieve it or any other item. Instead, call your electric utility to safely take care of it.

Install a weather app on your phone to inform you of weather alerts. Lightning can occur up to 10 miles away from the heart of the storm, so if you hear thunder, seek shelter inside.

## Supervise children around electrical equipment

Children are naturally curious, which is why they should be kept away from outdoor electrical equipment like utility boxes, transformers and air conditioning units. If you have an outdoor generator, make sure it is stored in a secure, ventilated area that children cannot access and never plug a generator directly into your home's electrical system.

Avoid DIY electrical work  
If you're planning a backyard upgrade, such as installing landscape lighting, sports lighting or poolside outlets, leave the electrical work to licensed electricians. DIY electrical projects can pose serious safety risks to you and your family if done incorrectly.

From poolside play to backyard sports, it's important to be aware of electrical hazards and how to avoid them. By following these guidelines, you can create a home oasis that is both fun and safe.

For more tips on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



## "What's Within You Is Stronger Than What's In Your Way"- No Barriers, USA

Corn Belt Energy has partnered with the nonprofit organization No Barriers USA to honor and support the millions of veterans in America's rural communities with service-related disabilities.

Veterans within our service territory are encouraged to apply for the No Barrier Warriors wilderness experience. This program is designed to help veterans with both visible and invisible disabilities transform their lives through a structured curriculum and create a lasting network of support. If selected for the CoBank No Barrier program, CoBank will cover all expenses for participating veterans, including travel costs.

"We couldn't be more thrilled to once again work with CoBank to support rural veterans and family caregivers. CoBank's support over the years has changed so many lives. CoBank's belief in the power of No Barriers programming means the World to our participants and our team. We are eternally

grateful," No Barriers Executive Director Kelly Liggett stated.

The No Barrier experience combines online learning with outdoor expeditions in Colorado or Wyoming. Experienced staff and expedition leaders guide participants through various physically and mentally challenging activities, including rafting, rock climbing, backpacking, and overcoming obstacles. These activities empower participants to navigate better the challenges they face in their daily lives.

The CoBank/No Barriers program specifically offers veterans with disabilities the chance to confront personal and emotional limits, and overcome barriers, ultimately serving as a catalyst for positive change. Throughout this journey, veterans are encouraged to reflect on their past, recognize their present situation, and explore future opportunities.

Corn Belt Energy's director and Vietnam veteran, Jerry Starkey (*pictured upper right*), traveled to Colorado this past summer to embark on a transformative expedition alongside fellow veterans. He encourages all eligible veterans to apply for the 2025 Base Camp expeditions as soon as possible. Those who mention a referral from a CoBank member will be given priority during the team selection process.

To access application forms and detailed information, visit [NoBarriersUSA.org](http://NoBarriersUSA.org)



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