

WHITE RIVER ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2019



MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 958
Meeker, CO 81641-0958



STREET ADDRESS

233 6th Street
Meeker, CO 81641



ph 970-878-5041
tf 800-734-9809
fax 970-878-5766
email amich@wrea.org
web www.wrea.org



facebook.com/wrea.org

White River Electric Association, Inc., strives to provide its member-consumers with safe, reliable and responsible electric energy and other services at the most reasonable costs possible while remaining committed to customer and community service.

The Commitment of a Lineworker

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 18

BY ALAN J. MICHALEWICZ GENERAL MANAGER



ALAN MICHALEWICZ

National studies consistently rank power line installers and repairers among those doing the most dangerous jobs in the country 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. If you've ever seen them work in the midst of a storm, you know this is true. Outages seldom occur in the most ideal weather or at the most ideal times.

White River Electric Association's linemen 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 a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers. The job requires lineworkers to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community, and they do it with honor.

Family support system

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 and understands that the sacrifice is part of the job at hand.

This means in times of prolonged outages, families may have minimal

communication with one another — often for several days. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be all the more difficult.

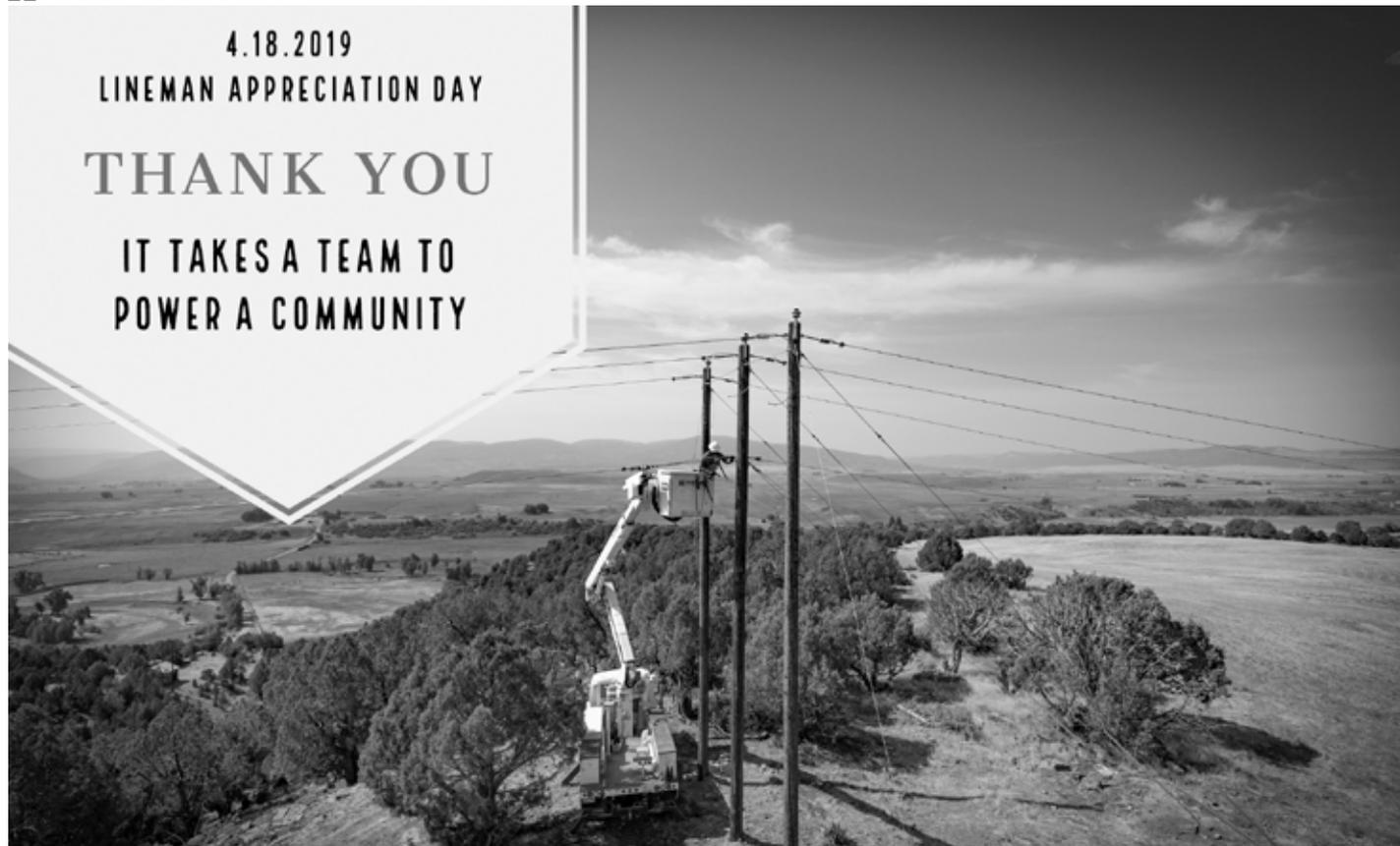
In our small rural community, WREA linemen often share the same family commitments — community programs, school sports and children's programs — that conflict with work obligations. Still, WREA linemen rally to ensure that the outages are short-lived so that everyone can return home to their families quickly and safely.

Community commitment

In Meeker 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. They can be found coaching youth sports or volunteering for local organizations and charities. WREA linemen remain engaged and involved in the community we serve.

Thank you

White River Electric will celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 18, along with a host of other electric utilities across the nation. Given the dedication of White River Electric's linemen, both on and off the job, I encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. And if you see their family members in the grocery store or out and about in town, please offer them a thank you as well.



4.18.2019

LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

THANK YOU

IT TAKES A TEAM TO
POWER A COMMUNITY

No Foolin': April Is Safe Digging Month

April 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 or easement.

Before you use that posthole digger or other digging tools, stop and call 811 to request 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.

You might think you don't have time to call and ask yourself, "What's the worst that could happen?" Simply put: You could die or become seriously injured, which makes that yard project less pressing, doesn't it?

Can You Dig It?

- An underground utility line is damaged once every 9 minutes because someone didn't call 811.
- 811 locators do not detect underground sprinkler systems, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage.
- Once all of your utilities have been located, then you can start your digging project!
- Call 811, the "Call Before You Dig Number," at least 2 business days prior to digging.
- Even if you have previously had underground utilities marked, utilities can shift, so it's best to call before starting a new project.

Learn more at SafeElectricity.org

Other consequences of blindly digging and taking a chance include:

- Causing a power outage.
- Hitting a gas line, which could burn your skin or cause an evacuation in your neighborhood.
- Getting a fine.
- If you hit a telephone line or fiber optic line, you might lose your telephone, cable television or internet service.

Worse yet, it could interfere with your neighborhood's emergency assistance technology.

Although it is your yard, utilities have the right of way to the live lines lurking under the ground in places where you might dig. In fact, an underground utility line is damaged once every 6 minutes across the nation because someone decided to dig without getting their yard properly marked, according to data collected by 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 6 minutes ago.

Take a deep breath, look over your landscaping or fence plans and call 811 before you dig. Each state has its own call center to help you get digging safely. By calling 811, utilities or the companies they contract with will come to your home and mark your yard before you dig.

Safe Electricity reminds you that call811.com lists the name and contact

information for each state's digging notification service. The site also lists the advance notice required for marking services, which is usually two days, not including the day you call.

Tiptoe through the tulips this spring and summer, and know what's underneath that flower bed and everywhere else in your yard.

As call811.com says, "Know what's below." Then dig safely. For more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Pump it Up

Spring weather in Colorado is unpredictable. Just when the ground thaws and the tulips sprout, a snowstorm emerges on the horizon. When large amounts of snow accumulate on your thawed soil, you run the risk of flooding in your home. If you don't already have one, think about installing a sump pump in your basement to avoid a potential flooding catastrophe.



April 2019
Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the Energy Star rating will use 25 to 30 percent less energy than standard equipment.

Source: energy.gov



BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our consumer-members.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- **Keep power lines clear of tree limbs**
- **Restore power outages more quickly**
- **Keep crews and members of our community safe**
- **Reduce unexpected costs for repairs**

Vegetation management improves service reliability for you - our members!



Cutting Cord Clutter

BY BRIAN SLOBODA

There's no doubt about it: Today we have more cords and cables on our tables, desks and countertops than ever before. It is an epidemic of clutter, chaos and confusion. But is there a better way?

USB phones, tablets, cameras, Bluetooth devices and other gadgets give you two options for charging. You can plug them into the USB port of your computer or use the USB wall plug adapter that you can plug into any outlet. Both options work fine, but if you have a family with multiple devices, sometimes two outlets just won't cut it.

An easy method is to use a power strip and plug everything into that, and some power strips even come with USB ports.

Another solution is to install wall outlets that have both traditional three-prong outlets and USB ports. This solution is simple, but it does require replacing the existing wall outlet and some people may be uncomfortable doing this. You should consult a licensed electrician if you have

any questions.

It's worth noting that both options — power strips and wall outlets with USB ports — have two potential downsides. The first is that cords will be visible, so clutter could still be an issue. The other downside is that power strips and outlets do not have the capability to prevent overcharging or to turn off power once the device is fully charged.

Several years ago, overcharging a device was a potential problem and it led to diminished battery life. However, today's modern electronics come with enough "smarts" built in to prevent overcharging. This helps prevent damage to the battery and eliminate the dreaded vampire load, which is power used by devices when they are simply plugged in and not actually performing a task. It's essentially wasted energy.

If you are looking to tidy up charging cables and use devices like a Bluetooth speaker, you may want to invest in a USB charging station. Charging stations allow

multiple devices to be charged in a sleek and elegant tabletop station that hides the cables. You can use short USB cables that are tucked away and the charging station plugs into an outlet, only using one cord. Some charging stations also support wireless charging for devices equipped with that capability.

Some charging stations claim to eliminate vampire load and some claim to offer different charging rates to different devices. Given the number of stations available both online and at big-box retailers, it's important to read the reviews and learn from the experiences of others.

The most important aspect is finding one that has enough space to accommodate your current devices and those that you may add over the coming years.

Brian Sloboda is a program manager specializing in energy efficiency for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Got power?
Thank a
lineworker.

#ThankALineworker

