

RAIN, SHINE, SLEET OR SNOW — OUR LINE CREW IS READY TO GO!

BY STEVE JOHNSON PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER



STEVE JOHNSON

April 18 is Lineman Appreciation Day, but I celebrate them every day. Without their willingness to go out in any weather, in any situation to maintain over 2,840 miles of lines, we would be unable to keep our promise of providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

What does a lineworker's job look like? First, they will spend almost four years working as an apprentice before they become a lineman. During this training, they will gain the specialized skills it takes to work with our high-voltage system. Not only are they required to climb poles anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall, linemen also need to haul equipment and tools that weigh up to 50 pounds. This is laborious work and our crews are dedicated to this difficult work because they know keeping the lights on is important to every single member.

And speaking of challenging conditions, I want to take a moment to reflect on a few recent times when our crews had to head out in unpredictable weather and restore power to our members. They were committed to getting the power back on in a challenging situation and we appreciate them.

CHRISTMAS 2021

Most recently, we had a winter storm hit just before Christmas which required all hands on deck and crews working to restore power on Christmas Eve. They were faced with high winds, blowing snow and snow totals that were quickly piling up. It seemed they were tasked with playing Whack-a-Mole. They would restore an outage, only to have another one, two, three pop up. We saw broken poles and downed lines in remote locations. It took them 14 days to replace a broken pole on Baker's Peak, and they were met with several challenges, including wind speeds reaching over 50 miles per hour that prevented them from safely replacing the

broken pole. The crews worked tirelessly throughout the storms all weekend to help restore power to all affected members, and their efforts were greatly appreciated. I appreciate their hard work and the sacrifices they made to spend Christmas restoring power to our communities.

SEPTEMBER 2020 WIND STORM

The storm that followed Labor Day weekend in September 2020 was a rude welcome back for many people after beautiful weather during the long break. There were unconfirmed reports of gusts reaching 100 miles per hour at the ski resort, and we saw many old, established trees uprooted from the strong winds. This, in turn, caused damage to our lines, poles and systems, and many members were out of power.

We were thankful to be assisted by public works employees who helped clear roadways, making it possible for us to deal with outages safely. We had approximately 3,400 members without power during this storm. Our crews were working with high winds, downed lines and falling trees. Most of our members had their power restored by the end of the day, thanks to our crews having the skill and willingness to show up in the time of need.

During the pandemic, utilities around the country were declared essential, and we couldn't agree more: Linemen are essential. We would be unable to provide you electricity if it were not for their hard work and dedication to their profession. Next time you are out and you see one of our linemen, please join me in thanking them for their hard work. No matter the time, day or weather, they will be out there making sure we continue to deliver you safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

Steve Johnson
President and General Manager



Broken pole on Baker's Peak.



Crews work to restore an outage on Lynx Pass.



Steamboat line crew: (Left to right) Perry Baker, Tom Kitsos, Jake Perkins, Dave Stevenson, Kolby Ginter, Jordan Kainz, Dave Srite and Jacob Grogg. (Not pictured: Justin Hogue and Rex Stafford).



Craig line crew: (Back row, left to right) Jake Hockett, Todd Greenwood, Levi Schnackenberg, Brent Juergens, Trent Parrott, Travis Cox, James Lougee; (Front row, left to right) Brayden Peterson, Chase Westberg. (Not pictured: Saul Hernandez).