

# Lineworkers Go Above & Beyond

## Colorado Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 18

BY RUTH MARKS CEO | RUTH.M@MVEA.COOP

At Mountain View Electric Association, our dedicated team of lineworkers build and maintain more than 6,400 miles of energized line in a 5,000 square mile service territory. It's a big job — and one they do exceptionally well. I have worked in the electric co-op industry for more than 25 years, and can proudly share that MVEA is blessed to have an experienced team of true professionals keeping the lights on for those we serve.

Last year, the Colorado General Assembly passed a resolution to designate April 18 of every year as Colorado Lineworker Appreciation Day in recognition of “the men and women who protect public safety and maintain the electrical infrastructure so critical to our lives and economic well-being.” This month, I invite you to join me in thanking the dedicated lineworkers who work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

In the electric utility world there is a popular saying that “not all heroes wear capes ... some wear hard hats.” I couldn't agree more! It takes a certain type of person to become a lineworker. The long hours and ever-present danger are not for the faint of heart. You may find it surprising, but even with advancements in safety protocols and education, being a lineworker is still listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. and is often

compared to that of a first-responder.

And yet, they often receive little recognition by the general public of how important, demanding, and dangerous the job is ... even on a sunny day. It's a hard truth that, in our modern world, it is easy to forget that when the

electricity goes out during severe weather events, there is not a switch that we flip to get the lights back on — it is a dedicated lineworker braving the weather to safely work near high-voltage power lines to restore power. Shortcuts are not an option. There is no room for error with this type of work. Being

a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, and, equally important, a sense of service and commitment.

I consider myself lucky to work in this industry with the men and women who have answered the call to serve. While we join together to thank our lineworkers this April, I also want to recognize the team of highly skilled professionals behind the scenes who work to ensure we can provide safe, reliable, and affordable electric service to our members.

When you work in a trade as dangerous as ours, “be safe” takes on another level of meaning. I have shared this before, but it bears repeating: Keeping employees safe is THE top priority at MVEA every single day. While we built this priority into our strategic plan, it is the employees who give it life — they look out for one another and work together to create a culture of safety to prevent accidents and injury. I have a tremendous amount of pride in MVEA's safety culture.

Lineworkers deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day and every day. Please visit the webpage or scan the QR code in the image below to send a thank you note to help us honor MVEA's dedicated lineworkers.



RUTH MARKS

*“When I hear the term HERO, I always thinks of MVEA and the hard-working linemen that work in the blizzards and changing weather.”*

— Jon, MVEA Member

*“Thanks for all your hard work keeping the lights on in all kinds of bad weather; the bitter cold, windy, snowy, icy, hail, hot, and dusty conditions that you have to work in at all hours. We really appreciate you and all that you do for us!”*

— Glenn & Monica, MVEA Members



## *They Go Above & Beyond to Keep the Lights On!*

### Colorado Lineworker Appreciation Day

#### April 18, 2024 • #thankalineworker

Visit [www.mvea.coop/thank-an-mvea-lineworker](http://www.mvea.coop/thank-an-mvea-lineworker) or scan the QR code to join MVEA in thanking our dedicated team of lineworkers this April!

On March 14, during a spring snow storm, MVEA's dedicated crews worked through the night to restore power to members impacted by an outage in the co-op's southern service area that was caused by another energy provider's lines falling on MVEA's infrastructure. The power restoration effort required coordination between multiple organizations and crews. The challenging conditions included large amounts of snow, wind, twisted lines, and broken poles.



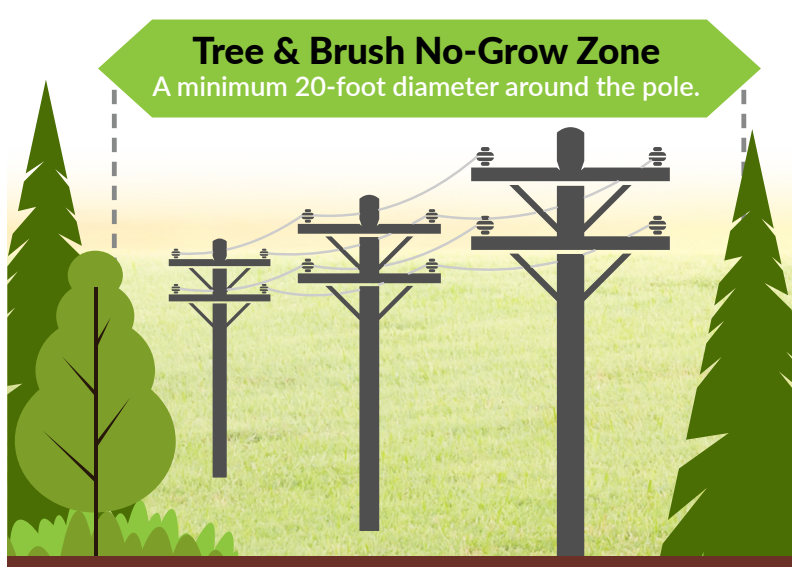
*Active Tree Trimming & Brush Removal In Progress Throughout MVEA's Service Territory*

# MVEA Trims Trees for **Safety & Reliability**

We know that tree trimming and brush removal within electric utility easements may not sound like something to get excited about. But, when you see crews in your community creating tree and brush “no-grow zones” around electric infrastructure, it is proof positive that Mountain View Electric Association is taking proactive measures to maintain a safe and reliable electric distribution system.

MVEA has contracted with Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC, to help with tree trimming and brush removal in the MVEA easement. Members served by underground lines may see contractors working in the area, while members served by overhead lines may receive a crew visit if trimming or removal is required. Any tree or brush in the MVEA easement that poses a safety or reliability threat to existing electric infrastructure and future fiber broadband infrastructure may be trimmed or removed. Trimming and removal efforts occur within the electric utility easement – typically along roadways that can also include front, back, and side lot lines of a property – where distribution poles are installed.

Keeping electric lines and infrastructure clear of trees and brush is essential for safe and reliable electric service. Learn more about the importance of “no-grow zones” at [www.mvea.coop/tree-trimming](http://www.mvea.coop/tree-trimming).



**Tree & Brush No-Grow Zone**  
A minimum 20-foot diameter around the pole.

Cleared electric utility easements help prevent power outages and blinks, while playing an important role in wildfire mitigation efforts – all reasons to appreciate a clear path for electric lines.

- The lights in your house may flicker when tree branches brush power lines during high winds.
- Stormy weather can cause nearby limbs to break off and land on power lines.
- Unobstructed power lines make it easier and safer for lineworkers to maintain equipment or restore power.



 **ELECTRIFY AND SAVE®**

**LED Bulbs + MVEA Rebates =  
Energy Efficiency in the Palm of Your Hands!**

**Everything you do—from flipping a switch to upgrading your appliances—can add up to big energy savings.**

Check out MVEA's Beneficial Electrification & Efficiency Rebate Product Guide to take advantage of wallet-friendly rebates.

[www.mvea.coop/rebates](http://www.mvea.coop/rebates)

**2024 REBATE PRODUCTS INCLUDE**

- |                   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| LED Bulbs         | Electric Heat Pumps & Water Heaters |
| Smart Thermostats | Electric Outdoor Power Equipment    |
| Select Appliances | Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment |
| Electric Bicycles | More!                               |

Effective through December 31, 2024. Rebate program and products subject to change without notice.



Free Event  
Open House

MVEA's Falcon Office  
11140 E. Woodmen Rd.  
Falcon, 80831

04 | 25  3-5 p.m.

Join MVEA for an immersive experience showcasing machinery, expert demonstrations, and interactive activities. We'll explore tree trimming and planting safety, fire mitigation, and conservation. Plus, check out a high voltage demo and see our tree trimming truck in action!

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- High Voltage Demonstration: Electrical Safety Around Power Lines
- Safe Digging with Colorado 8-1-1: Call Before You Dig
- Local Tree Experts: Harding Nursery & Heidrich's Tree Farm Nursery
- Black Forest and Falcon Fire Departments: Fire Mitigation & Safety
- Double E1 Conservation District: Conservation, Education, Resources

Learn more at [www.mvea.coop](http://www.mvea.coop).



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Visit our website: [www.mvea.coop](http://www.mvea.coop)

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide our members safe, reliable, affordable, and responsible electric service and access to broadband services.

*This Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

**Save the Date!**

Food Trucks & Family Fun • No RSVP Required • Free Event

**Thursday, June 6, 2024**  
El Paso County Fairgrounds • 366 10th Street • Calhan, CO 80808



**Door Prizes**

**\$10 Bill Credits**

5:00 p.m. | Registration & Dinner  
6:30 p.m. | Co-op Business Meeting & Door Prizes

[www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting](http://www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting)

# If You're Interested In Going Solar, We're Here To Help

MVEA regularly works with members and solar contractors to transition to solar power through our interconnection program. In fact, we currently have over 3,450 (and counting) accounts spread throughout our service territory! As the demand for solar power has increased, so has the number of calls we receive from co-op members regarding the costs and logistics associated with the transition to solar. If you have questions about going solar, please call 800-388-9881 or visit [www.mvea.coop/interconnection](http://www.mvea.coop/interconnection).



## MAKING THE SOLAR SWITCH? COMMON MVEA MEMBER SOLAR INSTALLATION CONSIDERATIONS

### Thoroughly investigate the company: Is it backed by the Better Business Bureau? Does it meet local and state licensing requirements?

If a representative from a solar company contacts you claiming to be “with MVEA” or that they are “part of MVEA’s solar efforts,” please know that MVEA does not have preferred solar installation contractors. While we work with MVEA members in making the solar switch, at this time we do not have preferred vendors or send sales teams out to canvas neighborhoods. MVEA’s interconnection program is driven by member demand and we work with the companies who our members choose to work with.

### Know all the costs, not just those for equipment and installation.

In addition to equipment and labor, there are also pricey “soft costs” that can cost more than the system itself, according to Energy.gov. Soft costs include permit acquisition, financing charges, “pass-along” marketing, advertising, and research costs. For helpful resources from the U.S. Department of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, visit [www.energy.gov/homeowners-guide-going-solar](http://www.energy.gov/homeowners-guide-going-solar).

### How will the installer work with MVEA to meet interconnection requirements? Does the installer have experience coordinating and integrating solar systems with the electric grid? How much energy will the system provide and is it enough? Too much?

The installation of a solar system is a substantial investment with specific system requirements that need to be met. As such, MVEA requires members or their solar contractor to contact us prior to purchasing a solar system to ensure that it can fully integrate and connect with MVEA’s system.

Renewable Energy Options • MVEA’s Energy Mix • Rebates • [www.mvea.coop/save-energy-money](http://www.mvea.coop/save-energy-money)

## Spring into High Speeds!

Now connecting members in the Falcon and Limon areas!

<p><b>Ultimate</b> 2 Gig* <b>\$99.95</b> per month</p>	<p><b>Premier</b> 1 Gig <b>\$79.95</b> per month</p>	<p><b>Basic</b> 100 Mbps <b>\$49.95</b> per month</p>
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\*Uploads may vary. See [ConexonConnect.com](http://ConexonConnect.com) for more details.

### DON'T MISS OUT!

Check your availability at [ConexonConnect.com](http://ConexonConnect.com), call 844-542-6663, or scan our QR Code.

