

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2024



MAILING ADDRESS

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Y-W Electric Association, Inc.

is dedicated to providing high-quality, reliable electric service and related products to our members at competitive prices. Our members deserve and shall receive quality service unexcelled in our industry. We are committed to maintaining an environment where the Board of Directors and employees can perform at maximum potential to benefit our Y-W community.

OFFICE HOURS

7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Monday – Thursday

The Power Behind Your Power

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK GENERAL MANAGER

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 18



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

You've likely noticed Y-W Electric Association, Inc. 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 Lineworker 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 6 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.

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 nontraditional hours, outdoors, and 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 becoming a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours (about four years) of training? 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 of work.

Despite the many challenges, Y-W Electric'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. Here in Washington and Yuma counties, Y-W Electric has 26 lineworkers who are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 3,951 miles of power lines across two counties and 4,800 square miles. 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 hardworking 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. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. Please join us as we recognize them on April 18 and follow #ThankALineworker on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.

Irrigation Billing

This is the time of year when our irrigation consumers are getting ready for the growing season. Below, we review how the irrigation rate is billed.

Irrigation usage is based upon the calendar year, with a declining rate. The peak kilowatt — demand — is the basis for calculating the kilowatt-hour costs. Each month, a kW reading is recorded and stored for comparison throughout the year. Please remember that this kW — demand — will reflect usage of all equipment turned on at one time. Multiple pieces of equipment running at the same time could increase your annual costs. An example would be grain bins connected to the same meter as the irrigation well.

Please post any warnings of chemical applications for the safety of our personnel.

If you have any questions about how your irrigation account is billed, please call our office at 1-800-660-2291 or 345-2291 if in the Akron area.

Have a safe summer.
(Garry & Sherry Graff, 2405xxxx)



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

A well-designed landscape can add beauty to your home and reduce home heating and cooling costs. Plant deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns to the south of your home to block sunlight in the summer and reduce the need for air conditioning. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Plant evergreen trees and shrubs with low crowns to block winter winds. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs planted to the north and northwest are the most common type of windbreak and can help lower energy used for home heating.

(Aaron D. Twiss, 11313xxxxx)

Source: energy.gov



Win a Bill Credit

Each month, Y-W Electric Association offers its members a chance to earn a \$20 credit on their next electric bill.

If you find your name and account number in this magazine, call 1-800-660-2291 and ask for your credit. It couldn't be easier.

Get acquainted with your account number, read your *Colorado Country Life* magazine, and pick up the phone. You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine. (Check the date on the front cover.)

Congratulations to the members who claimed a \$20 bill credit from the February issue:

- Michael Hooper
- Kirk Norman
- Carlos Camacho and Nathan Witte
- Kirsty McNulty

Work Zone Awareness Week Sheds Light on Safety

National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 15-19, is a good time to learn more about work zone safety; however, work zone safety should be observed 365 days a year to save lives. (Maria Martinez, 13507xxxxx)

Cars or trucks that speed through a work zone do not just endanger workers on the ground. Driving too fast or too close to a work truck can also put an elevated worker in danger by causing their raised bucket to move or sway.

Streets and highways are lined with power poles and electrical equipment, and narrow roadways often require crews like ours to place their equipment in or near traffic lanes. Be alert to utility and other work zone crews for their safety and yours. Besides our crews, you might encounter road workers, other utility crews, tree trimmers, or first responders working in or on the side of the road.

Colorado's move over law requires drivers to change lanes away from stopped vehicles, including emergency responders, utility trucks, highway maintenance vehicles, and construction vehicles. By doing your part to keep both yourself and workers protected on the road, the Colorado Department of Transportation can continue to serve you and keep highways and crews safe.

Data from the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse shows that 874 fatal crashes and 956 deaths occurred in work zone crashes in 2021. Many other work zone crashes result in injuries. In 2021, more than 105,000 work zone crashes occurred across the United States.

TO HELP KEEP ROADSIDE CREWS SAFE:

- Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and traffic barriers, trucks, construction equipment, and workers.
- Be patient. Traffic delays are sometimes unavoidable, so allow time for unexpected setbacks.
- Obey all signs and road crew flag instructions.
- Merge early and be courteous to other drivers.
- Use your headlights at dusk and during inclement weather.
- Minimize distractions. Avoid activities such as texting, operating a radio, applying makeup, or eating while behind the wheel.

Remember: Work Zones are temporary. Actions behind the wheel can last forever. Slow down when approaching a work zone and move over for first responders and work crews. Do your part to help everyone return home safely at the end of the day.



You can't AVOID what you CAN'T SEE

Starting a job — big or small — without first getting utilities marked could result in serious injury, service disruptions for you and your neighbors, and a hefty fine.

Call 811 before you dig.

Learn more at:



BE AWARE OF ELECTRICAL DANGERS DURING FLOODING

According to the Federal Emergency Disaster Agency, floods are one of the most common hazards in the United States. The prospect of an electrical accident is the first thing you should think of before you step into a flooded area. If there is any danger the water could be energized because of contact with electrical equipment, do not enter the area. You could be in serious danger of electrocution.

Here are some additional suggestions from Safe Electricity to help keep you and your family safe during a flood:

- Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you cannot reach your breaker box safely, call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter.
- Never use electric appliances or touch electric wires, switches, or fuses when you are wet or when you are standing in water. (Lisa Reinick, 12418xxxxx)
- Keep electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces. Do not use electric yard tools if it is raining or the ground is wet.
- Never drive into flood waters because it is very difficult to tell by sight how deep floodwaters are. It only takes 6 inches of water for your car to lose control and stall. Your car could be swept out of control and into electrical dangers.
- Do not enter flood waters on foot or in boat. Flood waters hold unknown dangers. The water could be energized or could sweep you into electrical equipment. Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. (Gary R. & Judith A. Anderson, 2209xxxxx)
- If you see downed power lines or damaged equipment, stay away, warn others to stay away, and notify the authorities.

If you are in a flood prone area, one action you can take to be better prepared is to have a sump pump with a backup battery in case the power goes out and an alarm to alert you of flooding.

Additionally, you can elevate the water heater, electric panel, and furnace to keep them clear of potential flood waters.

Safe Electricity also recommends installing ground fault circuit interrupters on outdoor outlets and indoor outlets in areas of the house that are prone to flooding, such as the basement. GFCIs should also be installed in rooms with heavy water use such as the laundry room, bathroom, and kitchen.

For more information on avoiding electrical hazards, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org).

STORM SAFETY KIT



Bottles of water



Nonperishable food



Portable phone charger



Flashlights



Batteries



Can opener



First-aid supplies



Hand sanitizer



Prescriptions



Pain reliever



Warm clothing



Blankets



Battery-operated radio



Toys, books and games



Important documents



Money



Baby supplies



Pet supplies

Learn more: 