



Serving members in Baldwin, Emanuel, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Johnson, Laurens, Warren, Washington and Wilkinson counties

The Power behind your power

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11

You've likely noticed Washington EMC's 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, and often in challenging conditions. 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, and 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 and outdoors 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 that to become a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.



Wendy Sellers
President/CEO

Despite the many challenges, Washington EMC's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community.

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An electric membership corporation

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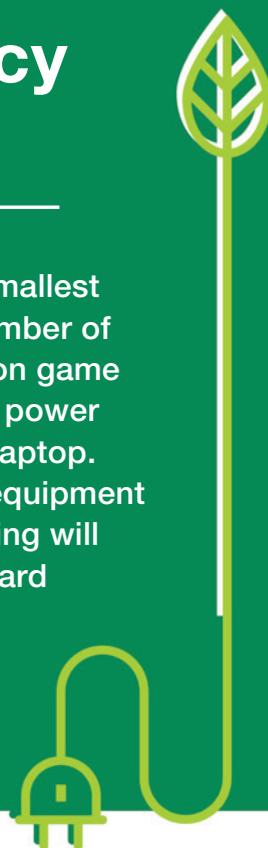
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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop. Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the Energy Star rating will use 25-30% less energy than standard equipment.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



The Power behind your power,

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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 a 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. Washington EMC has 20 lineworkers who are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain more than 3,000 miles of power lines across 10 counties and 4,000 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 also 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 absolutely 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.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 11, and follow #ThankALineworker on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.

Can your home pass the test?

One of the most preventable fires is an electrical one caused by defective wires or outlets. How would your home score on this quiz?

- **Question 1:** Do any cords on your appliances, lamps or tools look frayed or crimped?
- **Question 2:** Are any cords hidden under rugs, where they can overheat or get damaged when people walk on them?
- **Question 3:** Are you using extension cords as a permanent solution to a cord that's too far from a plug? Extension cords are designed for temporary use, not permanent use.
- **Question 4:** How many appliances are plugged into a power strip that is plugged into a single outlet? Do any of your home's outlets support two power strips? An overloaded outlet can lead to an overloaded circuit.



- **Question 5:** When is the last time you tested your ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets in the bathrooms, kitchen, laundry room and outdoors? To test them, push the test and reset buttons on the outlet.
- **Question 6:** How close are appliances to heating vents, the stove, the

- oven or other heat sources? An overheated appliance could catch on fire and will work inefficiently.
- **Question 7:** Are the batteries in your smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector fresh? Change them twice a year when you set the clocks forward or back as the seasons change.



Digging into an Outdoor Project?



Before you dig, dial 811 or visit www.call811.com to protect underground utilities. Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Contact 811 first and help keep our community safe.

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