

The Life of a Lineman

The brotherhood works together in all kinds of weather to ensure you have safe, reliable electricity

They wake before the sun, pour steaming cups of coffee and kiss their families goodbye. After swinging by the office to get the day's orders, crews climb into their trucks and head out.

Klickitat PUD's lineworkers form a solid team with one job: to deliver safe, reliable electricity. But that job can change in a million ways when rough weather steps in.

We often take power—and the people who provide it—for granted. Let's take a moment and stand in their boots.

Linemen have to work safely, smartly and efficiently—all while 40 feet in the air, sometimes near live electrical lines or from behind a hot-stick.

On a typical day, lineworkers maintain electrical distribution and transmission lines, or build service to new homes and businesses.

They have a lot on their plates. But when Klickitat PUD's operations center calls with a problem, everything else takes a backseat.

Power restoration takes precedence over a lineworker's daily to-do list. These brave men are always on call. Crews stand by to serve you 24 hours a



Klickitat PUD linemen Justen Greenwood and TJ Lutz work on a new location for the Burdoin breaker. The line is energized and they are using live line tools to install the device without interrupting service.

day, in the middle of the night or wee hours of the morning, weekends and holidays.

Can you imagine getting a call at 3 a.m. telling you to work outside during the nastiest weather? Not many people are willing to face storms, but KPUD's lineworkers face the elements daily—sometimes the most inhospitable weather—all to serve you.

Lineworkers also focus on safety. The

lives of co-workers are on the line.

Job safety is important to everyone, no matter the occupation. But for lineworkers, there can be no slip-ups or careless actions.

Mistakes can cost a limb or a life. That is one of the reasons linemen form a brotherhood. When you put your life in the hands of co-workers every day, they become more than colleagues. They are family.



That sense of family extends to electric utilities across the nation. We help other utilities in their time of need, and they extend that service to us.

It is reassuring to know if a severe storm strikes, a national team of lineworkers stands ready to answer the call. To be ready to respond no matter the situation or weather conditions, linemen go through regular training to ensure they can work safely with various kinds of equipment.

The equipment is tested regularly, too.

These highly skilled men light our homes and businesses every day. They endure harsh weather and long hours, all to make our lives better.

In conjunction with National Lineman Appreciation Day, Klickitat PUD extends a thank you to all the linemen, the profession of linemen, and their brave contributions to provide safe reliable electricity to the customers of Klickitat County.

Today—and every day—please take a moment to thank them. KPUD’s lineworkers are the heart of the public utility nation, proud and strong. ■



Clockwise from top left, linemen Lake Howard and Martin Taylor replace a cross-arm as a rainbow crosses the horizon. Linemen Kip Graves and Bernie Predeek check their progress clearing lines of frost in eastern Klickitat County in winter 2014. John Starr, Nathan Ambriz, Craig Noviks and Todd Niva dig an anchor along the Klickitat River for a pole replacement project.