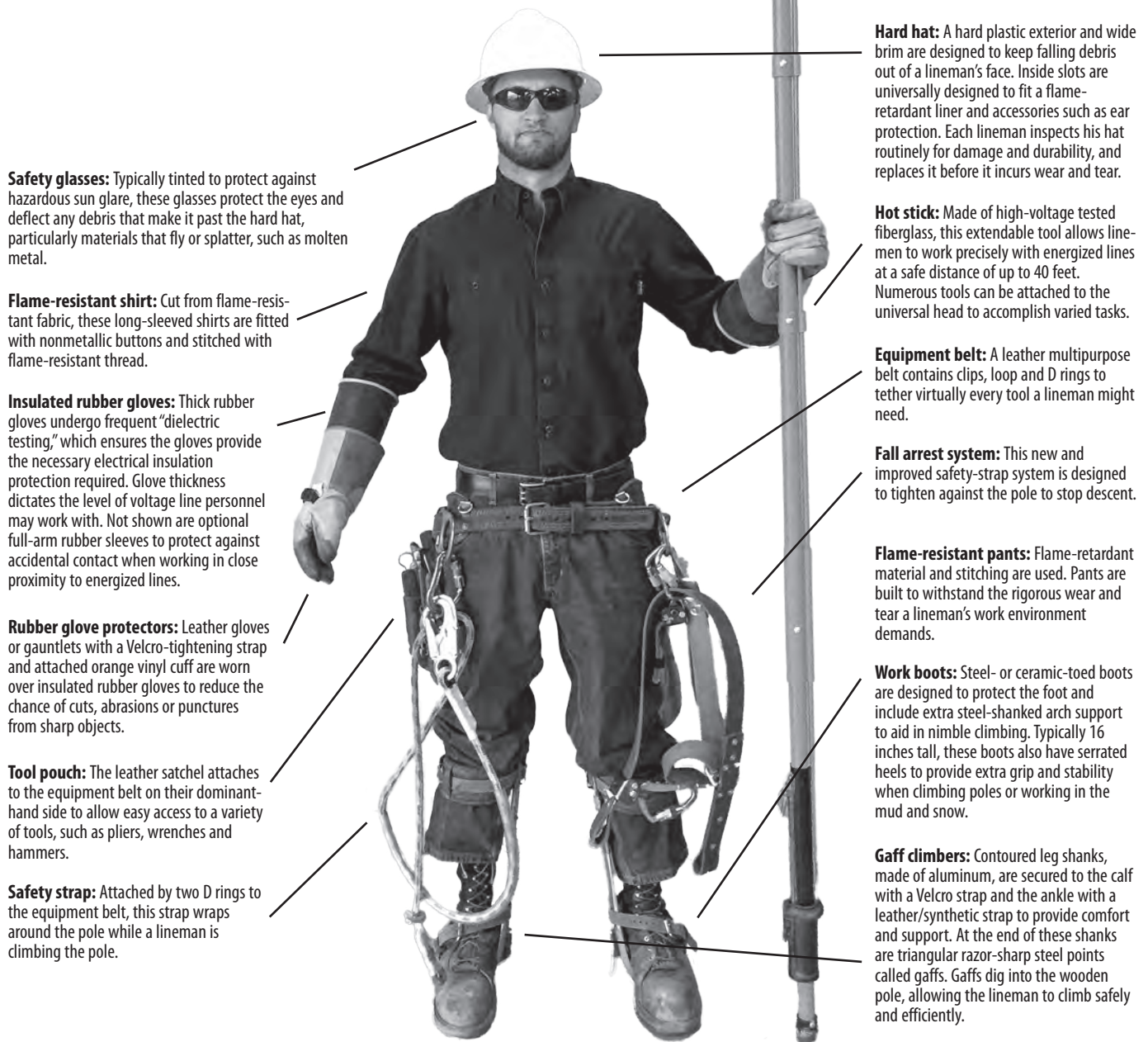


The Well-Dressed Lineman

Linemen risk their lives every day making sure power flows safely to your homes and businesses. They climb and dig when power outages occur in the worst weather conditions to get your power back on. To make sure they go home safely to their families every night, linemen wear about 50 pounds of safety gear.



Safety glasses: Typically tinted to protect against hazardous sun glare, these glasses protect the eyes and deflect any debris that make it past the hard hat, particularly materials that fly or splatter, such as molten metal.

Flame-resistant shirt: Cut from flame-resistant fabric, these long-sleeved shirts are fitted with nonmetallic buttons and stitched with flame-resistant thread.

Insulated rubber gloves: Thick rubber gloves undergo frequent "dielectric testing," which ensures the gloves provide the necessary electrical insulation protection required. Glove thickness dictates the level of voltage line personnel may work with. Not shown are optional full-arm rubber sleeves to protect against accidental contact when working in close proximity to energized lines.

Rubber glove protectors: Leather gloves or gauntlets with a Velcro-tightening strap and attached orange vinyl cuff are worn over insulated rubber gloves to reduce the chance of cuts, abrasions or punctures from sharp objects.

Tool pouch: The leather satchel attaches to the equipment belt on their dominant-hand side to allow easy access to a variety of tools, such as pliers, wrenches and hammers.

Safety strap: Attached by two D rings to the equipment belt, this strap wraps around the pole while a lineman is climbing the pole.

Hard hat: A hard plastic exterior and wide brim are designed to keep falling debris out of a lineman's face. Inside slots are universally designed to fit a flame-retardant liner and accessories such as ear protection. Each lineman inspects his hat routinely for damage and durability, and replaces it before it incurs wear and tear.

Hot stick: Made of high-voltage tested fiberglass, this extendable tool allows linemen to work precisely with energized lines at a safe distance of up to 40 feet. Numerous tools can be attached to the universal head to accomplish varied tasks.

Equipment belt: A leather multipurpose belt contains clips, loop and D rings to tether virtually every tool a lineman might need.

Fall arrest system: This new and improved safety-strap system is designed to tighten against the pole to stop descent.

Flame-resistant pants: Flame-retardant material and stitching are used. Pants are built to withstand the rigorous wear and tear a lineman's work environment demands.

Work boots: Steel- or ceramic-toed boots are designed to protect the foot and include extra steel-shanked arch support to aid in nimble climbing. Typically 16 inches tall, these boots also have serrated heels to provide extra grip and stability when climbing poles or working in the mud and snow.

Gaff climbers: Contoured leg shanks, made of aluminum, are secured to the calf with a Velcro strap and the ankle with a leather/synthetic strap to provide comfort and support. At the end of these shanks are triangular razor-sharp steel points called gaffs. Gaffs dig into the wooden pole, allowing the lineman to climb safely and efficiently.