

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 back seat.

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 day, in the middle of the night or wee hours of



KPUD line crews work on a transmission outage in one of the most remote stretches of line in the county: the Glenwood transmission line.

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.



Clockwise from top, the Goldendale crew works to remove and replace broken poles on Alderdale Road during a severe windstorm. KPUD Journeyman Lineman Justen Greenwood works “out of his hooks” surrounded by cover that allows him to get close to the live power lines for a new wire installation project. TJ Lutz makes his way to an outage on Flat Top Mountain in Trout Lake via a Snow Cat.

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 on April 18, 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. ■

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL

- 1**—United Way Maryhill Loops 5-Mile Run/Challenge, Goldendale, register in advance
- 1**—National Wild Turkey Foundation Banquet, American Legion, Goldendale, <http://events.nwtf.org/470270-2017/tickets>
- 2, 9**—Digital Photography and Landscape workshops. Meet at Maryhill Museum, Goldendale, Register at (509) 773-3733 ext. 25
- 7-9**—Bend Spring Festival
- 7-9**—Annual Portland Swap Meet, Expo Center
- 8**—“Viva Las Vegas” Night with The Arc of Tri-Cities, 5:30-10:30 p.m., Red Lion, Pasco
- 10**—Jordan World Circus, 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the SunDome, Yakima
- 11**—Klickitat PUD Board of Commissioners’ meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale
- 15-16**—Hortlandia Plant & Art Sale, Expo Center, Portland
- 19**—Bandanas to Badges; Songs & Stories of NW Worker from Trillium, 7-8 p.m., Library, Goldendale
- 21**—I Love The ‘90s Tour, 7:30 p.m., Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Portland
- 22**—Trout Lake Fun Run 5k, 10k and half-marathon, Trout Lake
- 22-23**—Collectors West Gun & Knife Show, Expo Center, Portland
- 23**—Oregon Trail Rally Race, Maryhill Loops, Goldendale, www.oregontrailrally.com
- 25**—Klickitat PUD Board of Commissioners’ meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale
- 28**—Energy-Efficiency Campaign: free ductless heat pump workshop, 6:30 p.m., Maryhill Museum of Art, Goldendale. Registration at www.nwseed.org or call (509) 596-1181.
- 28-30**—Home, Garden and Sportsman Show, Klickitat County Fairgrounds, Goldendale
- 28-30**—Columbia River Gorge Artists open studios tour, from Cascade Locks to The Dalles
- 29**—Tango lesson and dance, 6-9 p.m., Maryhill Museum, Goldendale, call to register