

THE

PowerLines

REPORT



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APRIL 2021

DMEA Linemen: The People Behind Your Power

Every year on April 18, we celebrate National Lineman Appreciation Day, honoring the men and women across the country who build, maintain, and repair our nation's power lines. At DMEA, we depend on 26 journeyman and 4 apprentice linemen to keep the lights on.

This month, DMEA is spotlighting the work they do, and along the way, hopefully encouraging the next generation to consider linework as an important, fulfilling, and prosperous career. So, what does a lineman do?

When they aren't responding to emergency outages or repairing damaged poles due to a vehicle accident or trees, they can be found replacing old power poles, conducting maintenance in substations, constructing services in new subdivisions, installing conduit for new underground lines, upgrading equipment to support growth, and inspecting our lines and poles.

Of course, all this work is being done on and around equipment and power lines that carry high-voltage electricity. This requires close attention to detail and a daily intention to work safely. What does intentional safety look like? It means checking their rubber gloves and sleeves for holes each morning, wearing fire retardant and high-vis clothing, and keeping their gear like climbing belts, spikes, tools, and gloves in good condition. One of the most important safety practices our linemen follow at DMEA is conducting job briefings. Before beginning each job in the field, the linemen conduct an informal safety meeting (the job briefing) to discuss the job, potential hazards, and the processes and procedures they'll be following.

In addition, our crews must complete numerous required safety trainings and certifications to both attain and maintain their journeyman lineman status. Check out the next page of this newsletter to learn more about what it takes to become a journeyman lineman. Before you flip the page, please help us thank your DMEA linemen.

THANK YOU, DMEA LINEMEN!

Bailey Hoffmeister, *apprentice*, 3 years of service
Bill Hughes, *journeyman*, 41 years of service
Cameron Atwood, *journeyman*, 27 years of service
Chad Francis, *journeyman*, 15 years of service
Chad Stickler, *journeyman*, 29 years of service
Chance Stevens, *journeyman*, 10 years of service
Cody Carver, *journeyman*, 20 years of service
Cody Littlefield, *apprentice*, 4 months of service
Cody Manganello, *journeyman*, 20 years of service
Cole Zurich, *journeyman*, 9 years of service
Colton Spencer, *apprentice*, 3 years of service
Guy Guard, *journeyman*, 42 years of service
Heath Thaute, *journeyman*, 6 years of service
Ivor Ayers, *journeyman*, 29 years of service
Jesse Harrington, *journeyman*, 26 years of service
Josh Lenz, *journeyman*, 4 years of service
Larry Donathan, *journeyman*, 30 years of service
Marty Elliot, *journeyman*, 34 years of service
Mike Kuta, *journeyman*, 29 years of service
Nathan Puderbaugh, *journeyman*, 31 years of service
Nick Reich, *apprentice*, 5 years of service
Numa Dessauer, *journeyman*, 13 years of service
Roger Percival, *journeyman*, 28 years of service
Scott Breithaupt, *journeyman*, 4 years of service
Steve Holst, *journeyman*, 16 years of service
Terrel Wells, *journeyman*, 1 year of service
Tim Brandon, *journeyman*, 2 years of service
Troy Hall, *journeyman*, 34 years of service
Wade Rowley, *journeyman*, 5 years of service
Wade Wilson, *journeyman*, 16 years of service



What it takes to be a lineman

Becoming a lineman doesn't require a traditional college degree. Rather, it is a stepped process involving education and on-the-job training, including a 4-year apprenticeship program.

STEP 1

Attend an accredited hotline school such as Western Colorado Community College Electric Lineworker program or Northwest Lineman College. Hotline school programs can range from as short as six months to two years for an associate's degree.

STEP 2

After successfully completing hotline school, the job hunt begins. At DMEA, hotline school graduates are hired as apprentice linemen. But the options for jobs aren't limited to local electric cooperatives. Jobs are available across the country at other types of power companies, such as contractors and construction firms. If you're looking to join an electric co-op, here is a good place to start - careers.electric.coop.

STEP 3

While working as an apprentice lineman at DMEA, you are required to complete a 4-year apprenticeship program. This program includes approximately 3 years of bookwork learning that is completed in addition to your full-time job. It's typically done in stages as your on-the-job knowledge grows.

STEP 4

The apprenticeship program also requires on-the-job training. Apprentice linemen must complete hour requirements for specific types of work, including underground and overhead power line work, using a hot stick, and rubber gloving—working with high-voltage rubber gloves and sleeves on live power lines.

STEP 5

Safety certifications are also required during apprenticeship training, as well as throughout your lineman career. These include flagger, heavy equipment, pole top rescue, and CPR.

STEP 6

After bookwork and on-the-job training are complete, it is time to sit for the IBEW Lineman's Exam. IBEW is the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and it administers the journeyman lineman exam across the country. Passing the exam means you are officially a journeyman lineman.

Supporting Local Lineman Education

Benjamin Lloyd (R), pictured here with DMEA journeyman lineman, Wade Wilson, recently received a \$2,500 DMEA Ken Atchley Scholarship. Benjamin is attending Mesa Hotline School in Grand Junction, CO.

Created in memoriam of a past DMEA lineman, Ken Atchley, the scholarship is awarded to deserving students attending Mesa Hotline School. Each year, a few of DMEA's experienced journeyman linemen spend time instructing students at the hotline school. These same crew members review the Ken Atchley Scholarship applicants and consider the students' work ethic and skills during class. Benjamin was selected for both his conduct during hotline school, as well as his outstanding essay about Ken Atchley and his impact on DMEA.





CALLING ALL LOCAL BUSINESSES!

**\$30,000 is now available to businesses within DMEA's service territory.
Apply for your grant before May 10, 2021.**

Apply online at www.dmea.com. Proof of local business license and DMEA membership required. Recipients will be selected by DMEA's Board of Directors and will be announced at the DMEA Annual Meeting on June 17, 2021.

2021 Board of Directors Election

**Self-Nomination Packets are now available.
Visit www.dmea.com/selfnomination to get started.**

Districts 1, 2, & 5 are up for election
Self-nomination deadline is May 3, 2021
Questions? Call 970-240-1263 or email becky.mashburn@dmea.com



PLAY IT SAFE

KIDS ELECTRICAL SAFETY COMPETITION



February Winner

Congratulations to our February Play it Safe contest winner, Kip Lark, for correctly illustrating the answer to this safety scenario:

Juan's cat runs up a power pole. What should Juan do?

It can be dangerous for DMEA crews to try and remove animals from our poles and equipment. The safest option is to give the animal time to calm down and allow it to climb down on its own. On rare occasions, DMEA may be able to assist unless it is not safe to do so.

Clean Energy Bucket Truck Grant

Last month DMEA's, Rod Geiger, of our Energy Services Department secured a \$153,368 grant from the Colorado Clean Diesel Program and Clean Energy Economy for the Region. This grant will fund the purchase of two new clean energy bucket trucks. Given the choice between all-electric and hybrid bucket trucks, Rod and team chose the diesel hybrid bucket trucks for cost effectiveness.

As the name implies, a diesel hybrid uses two power systems in one bucket truck, a traditional diesel combustion engine and an electric motor to operate. The diesel engine keeps the wheels moving down the road, just like an average vehicle. The electric motor takes over for the other tasks, like operating the bucket. Combined, these power systems make for better fuel efficiency, less maintenance, less exhaust gasses, and quieter operations. While quieter operations may not seem like that big of a deal, it creates a safer work environment for our crews because they can communicate from the ground to the bucket with less noise interference.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Montrose Office

11925 6300 Road
Montrose, CO 81401
M, W, F; 8:00am-5:00pm
T & Th; 8:00am-6:00pm

Read Office

21191 H 75 Road
Delta, CO 81416
M & W; 9:00am-4:00pm

Contact Us:

1-877-687-3632 | www.dmea.com | [f](#) [y](#) [t](#) [i](#) [@](#)

Your Board of Directors:

Bill Patterson, District 1
Brad Harding, District 3
Chris Hauck, District 5
Enno Heuscher, District 7
Jock Fleming, South
Kyle Martinez, District 2
Ken Watson, District 4
Damon Lockhart, District 6
Stacia Cannon, North

DMEA Board Meetings are open to all members and are generally held on the 4th Tuesday monthly beginning at 3PM with the public comment period at 5PM. Call 970-240-1212 to confirm date, time, and location.

Recipes Info:

Submit recipes, including your name, address, and phone number to:

DMEA Newsletter
PO Box 910
Montrose, CO 81402

Or email your information to communications@dmea.com.

If your recipe is published, claim your prize by calling (269)598-9386 within 60 days.

HOME COOKING

Easy Cheesy Asparagus Quiche

Pam Crust, Cedaredge



Ingredients:

14 asparagus stalks
4 eggs
1 c + 1 tbsp shredded gruyere cheese
1 1/2 c whole cream
1/2 c milk
1/4 tsp salt
1 tbsp melted butter
1 pre-made pie crust, unbaked

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°. Boil or steam asparagus for approximately 10 minutes. Drain and set aside. In a 10 inch pie plate, place the pie pastry, brush with melted butter, and spread the steamed asparagus on top.

In a medium bowl, whisk together eggs, cream, milk and salt. Stir in shredded cheese. Pour mixture over the asparagus. Bake for 15 minutes then turn oven down to 325° and bake approximately 30 minutes more. Quiche will be cooked when a knife inserted comes out clean.



WIN A PARTY AT BANANAS FUN PARK!

Participate in DMEA's all-new safety program, **PLAY IT SAFE**. The contest is open to kids in K through 5th grade. Each month, DMEA will announce a new electrical safety problem that your student can research and resolve. The best submission wins, and the prizes are awesome!

APRIL SAFETY DILEMMA

Kevin's vehicle collides with a power pole. He is unhurt but the pole is broken and there are wires touching his car. What should Kevin do?

What to submit:

This month, your submissions must be in the form of a drawing. Drawings can be submitted at dmea.com/safety-competition.

When to submit:

Entry period is April 1, 2021 - April 30, 2021.

Who can participate:

Kids in grades K-5th

What you can win:

This month's prize is a \$150 voucher to Bananas Fun Park in Grand Junction!

