



A Day in the Life of a Lineworker

Austin's typical day as an electric cooperative lineworker actually started the night before. He was getting ready for bed when a member reported her power was out. It was Austin's weekly overnight to be on call, so the co-op truck was already in his driveway. He drove it to the woman's house, identified a problem in the base of the meter, installed a temporary fix until an electrician could get out the next day and returned home two hours later. He would report for work at the co-op office by 7:30 the next morning.

Austin and his fellow lineworkers like hunting down problems because they know the members depend on them. Austin is like a lot of electric utility lineworkers. The job takes specific skills, intestinal fortitude and a "get it done" personality.

Following Procedure

Austin starts his day in a room with the rest of the lineworkers, leafing through stacks of paper—checklists, maps, work orders—planning the day's work. They compare notes and find out who is familiar with the area they're headed to.

In addition to taking time to coordinate the plans and paperwork, the lineworkers need to keep track of a lot of equipment. Neatly organized tool boxes on the trucks hold saws, drills, climbing hooks, insulated work poles and binoculars. They always wear safety gear or have it close at hand—hard hats, safety glasses, fire-retardant uniforms, steel-toe shoes, regular work gloves and hot-line safety gloves.

While catastrophic contact with electric current is always the top concern, training is also provided monthly on a variety of safety topics. Austin doesn't see his job as dangerous. He knows it is hazardous and unforgiving, but it doesn't have to be dangerous if he follows the right procedures. Lineworkers have the tools, the rules and the knowledge to keep their work from being dangerous.

By midmorning, the convoy is ready. Three lineworkers drive three trucks: a service truck, a bucket truck pulling a trailer with a large spool of wire, and a digger truck with a huge auger on top. They head across the county for the day's job.

We Don't Say 'Hurry Up'

When the caravan arrives at the work site, the three lineworkers gather near the front of one of the trucks for what a lot of co-ops call a "tailgate meeting." They read through forms, noting the address, cross street, job and account number. All three men sign the form.

They break their huddle and de-energize the lines they're working on, complete the task at hand and re-energize the line. Back at the co-op, they check the paperwork for the next day's jobs and then stock the trucks with the equipment they will need for an early start.

To an outsider, taking time to follow all the procedures of a lineworker's workday may seem tedious or even unnecessary, but Austin and his fellow lineworkers disagree. They know how the work should be done and do it—never rushing through or skipping steps. They look out for each other and the co-op's members. It's the co-op way.

CEO's Message



Interim CEO, Keith Bonham

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Southwest Rural Electric

P.O. Box 310
700 North Broadway
Tipton, OK 73570-0310
1-800-256-7973

Rebecca Chambless, *Power Source* editor

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LINE CREWS KEEP THE LIGHTS ON

Electricity travels along an intricate network of wires and poles to power our homes and businesses. Most of the time, it's a seamless journey, but occasionally, the path of electricity is disrupted by obstacles like fallen tree branches, animals or car accidents. When that happens, Southwest Rural Electric's lineworkers are ready to restore the connection no matter the weather or time of day.

We couldn't carry out our mission without the daily dedication of our line crews. It's a demanding job on the front line of our co-op that often requires working around the clock in challenging conditions to serve our members and communities. Lineworkers are first responders who get us through some of our darkest hours. We count on them to power our lives, day in and day out.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association officially acknowledged the tireless efforts of this talented group with this 2014 resolution:

Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on;

Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure;

Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and

Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen;

Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the second Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America's electric cooperatives.

We proudly join with NRECA and cooperatives across the country to honor lineworkers and show our appreciation and respect for the service they provide for our members.

SWRE's lineworkers, as well as those from across the nation, truly deserve this special day of recognition. We invite our members to take a moment to thank a lineworker for the work they do. Leave a message for them on our Facebook page and use the hashtag #ThankALineworker to show your support for the men and women who light our lives.



*Keith Bonham
Interim CEO*



SWRE HONORS JIMMY HOLLAND & RAY WALKER

Pictured: SWRE's board and staff honored Ray Walker (L) and Jimmy Holland (R) at a banquet in March for their many years of service and dedication as directors of the SWRE Board of Trustees. Walker, with 25 years of service, and Holland, with 41 years of service, both retired from the co-op's board in 2019.

MEET THE 2020 OPERATION ROUND UP BOARD OF DIRECTORS



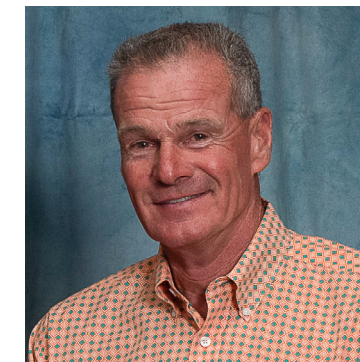
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#ThankALineworker

NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY IS APRIL 13TH

REMINDER: GRANT APPLICATIONS OPEN MAY 1ST. CHECK OUT SWRE.COM/ROUNDUP FOR MORE INFORMATION!



NATURAL EASTER EGG DYE

DIRECTIONS:

Blue

Cut 1 head of red cabbage into chunks
Add to 4c boiling water
Stir in 2T of white vinegar
Let cool & remove cabbage with a slotted spoon

Faint Red/Orange

Add 2T of paprika to 1c boiling water
Add 2t of white vinegar

Jade Green

Simmer skins of 6 red onions in 2c water for 15 minutes;
Strain
Add 2t white vinegar

Lavender

Mix 1c grape juice with 1T white vinegar

INGREDIENTS:

Large, Wide-Mouth Jar
Slotted Spoon
White Vinegar
Hard-Boiled Eggs
Head of Red Cabbage
Paprika
6 Red Onions (peeled, save the skin)
Grape Juice

With each color recipe, pour the remaining liquid into the mason jar; Add 2-6 eggs and let soak overnight in the refrigerator.

Source: Source: Celebrate Earth Day early by creating your own Easter egg dyes from natural ingredients! See more color recipes here: <https://www.bhg.com/holidays/easter/eggs/natural-easter-egg-dyes/>.

Trading Post

For Sale: Head-in wheat hay and Sudan hay. Last year's baling. 60 bales of each available at \$55/bale. Located in Mountain Park. Call 580-301-3952.

For Sale: Registered Angus bulls & females, A.I. Sire's. Located in Snyder. Call 580-480-5131.

For Sale: Wheat hay, \$50/bale, located in Roosevelt, OK. Call 580-585-1395.

For Sale: Wood-burning fireplace insert with fans. Excellent condition, heavy duty and efficient. Located in Frederick, OK. Call 580-305-2556.

FREE classified non-commercial ad submissions are available for SWRE members only. Ads are also posted on SWRE.com.

MAIL: P.O. Box 310, Tipton, OK 73570

E-MAIL: rchambless@swre.com

PHONE: (580) 667-5281



Southwest Rural Electric Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 310, Tipton, OK 73570-0310