

# COLUMBUS CURRENTS

## The Power Behind Your Power Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 18

By Anne Prince

You've likely noticed Columbus Electric Cooperative's (CEC) crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough- but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 18, I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know that to become a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

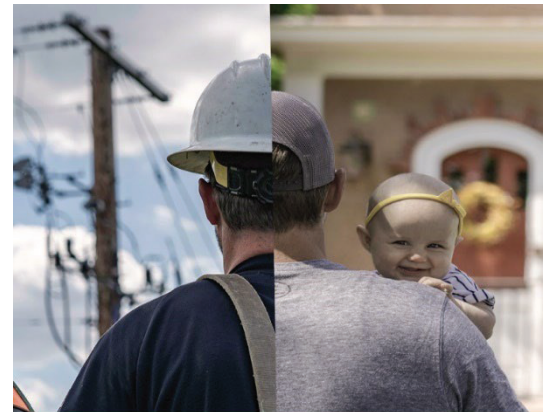
Despite the many challenges, CEC's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later.

That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 18, and follow "#ThankALineworker" on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.



### LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

We thank lineworkers for their courage and commitment to powering our community.

April 2022 [www.columbusco-op.org](http://www.columbusco-op.org) Vol. 34. No. 4

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## We ♥ Trees, Too.

We know everyone in our community enjoys the beauty and shade trees provide. But trees and power lines can be a dangerous mix without regular trimming during the growing season.

**If you see us out in the community trimming, remember the many benefits it brings:**

- Keeps power lines clear of tree limbs
- Helps us restore power outages more quickly
- Keeps crews and members of our community safe
- Reduces unexpected costs for repairs

**Trimming improves service reliability for you, the members we serve.**



**Our office will be closed  
Monday, May, 30  
in observance of  
Memorial Day.**



Members, if you need trees trimmed that are growing into your powerlines call CEC at 575-546-8838 or 1-800-950-2667. Tree trimming is always free for members. Never attempt to do it yourself as this can be very dangerous.

## Board Highlights



It was business as usual at the March meeting of the Columbus Electric Board of Trustees. The expenditures and the financial reports for the month of February were reviewed and approved. The construction and maintenance activity that took place since the February meeting and the monthly safety report were reviewed.



### Rebate Reminder

#### Outdoor Power Equipment



With Spring weather here, you will probably find yourself needing to purchase some new outdoor power equipment to spruce up your yard this year! As a member of CEC don't forget to get your rebates! Qualifying outdoor power equipment includes electric mowers, snow blowers, electric trimmers, chainsaws, power washers, pruners and blowers.

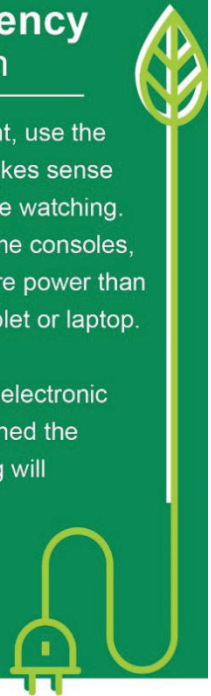
To learn more about Columbus Electric Cooperative, Inc. rebate programs call us at 1-800-950-2667 or visit us online at [columbusco-op.org/rebates](http://columbusco-op.org/rebates)

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25% to 30% less energy than standard equipment.

Source: Dept. of Energy



*Emergency Response Number*  
**1-800-228-0579**

*Toll - free Office Number*  
**1-800-950-COOP (2667)**

[www.columbusco-op.org](http://www.columbusco-op.org)