Clinton County Connection

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CCEC reaches a safety milestone

500,000 consecutive hours worked without a lost time accident

Safety has always been a top priority at Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC). This past February, the CCEC employees worked their 500,000th consecutive hour without a lost time accident. The last lost time accident was 13 years ago in April 2009.

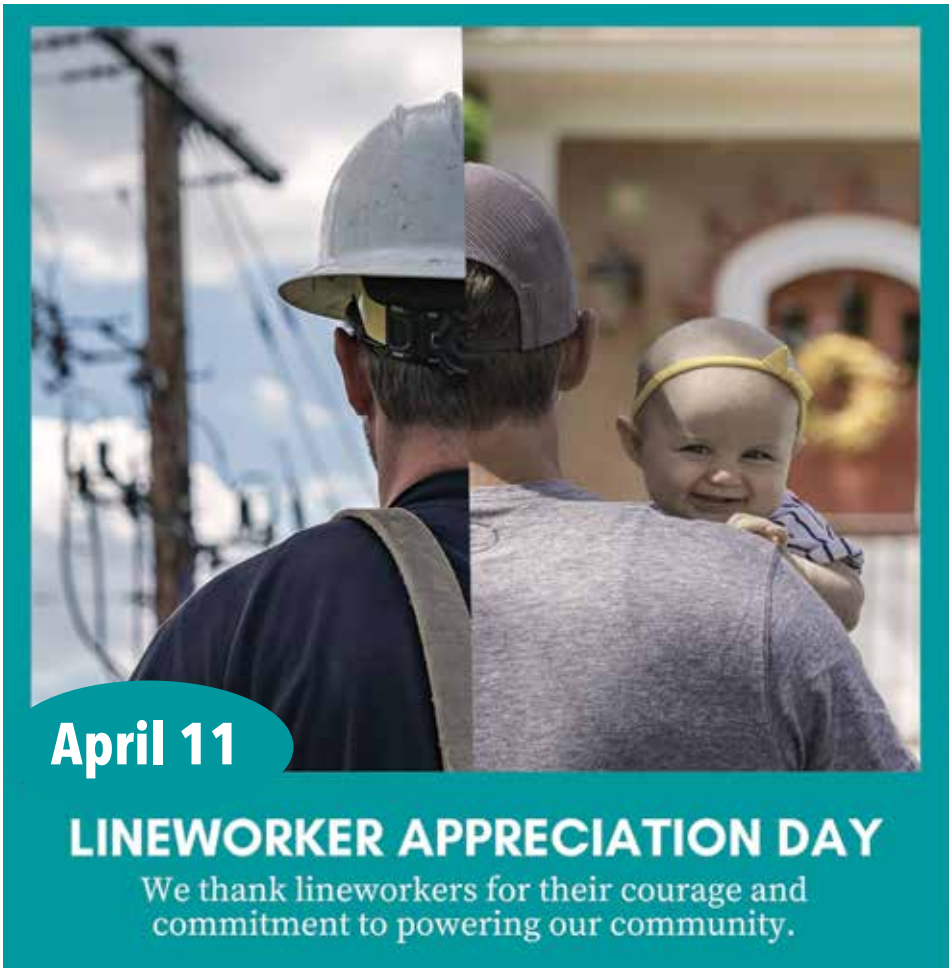
The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative's (AIEC) Vice President of Training, Safety & Loss Control Jim Miles said, "Clinton County Electric Cooperative exemplifies what it takes to work safe! Their safety record is among the best in the country and certainly in Illinois.

"They have created a safety culture that includes every employee and board member. They have been leaders in creating a workplace that encourages open communication and evaluation of procedures. Every employee is treated like family, and they look out for one another. Everyone plays a part in safety excellence, and they all realize the value of working together."

CCEC President Bob Kroeger attributes the success of the safety program to excellent communication and the cooperative's culture of safety. Kroeger said, "Through the AIEC's safety program, our employees receive training on a variety of safety topics such as first aid/CPR, teamwork, pole top and bucket rescue, near misses, and hearing conservation. Our board of directors and employees take safety very seriously. They have a commitment to making sure every employee returns home safe and sound to their loved ones."

All CCEC employees are committed to the job, committed to safety and committed to you, the member.

Congratulations to the entire CCEC family on achieving such an outstanding accomplishment!



Electric lineworkers keep the power moving

When people flip a light switch, they may not give much thought to why or how the light comes on.

Electric lineworkers provide an essential service: They work hard to install and maintain overhead and underground power lines that keep electricity flowing. These specialized workers are on call 24/7 in case severe storms or other circumstances cause the power to go out.

Lineworkers work with high-voltage electricity, often at great heights, in all kinds of weather conditions, such as snow, wind, rain, ice and extreme heat and cold. The work required to maintain the power grid is physically demanding. To become proficient, most lineworkers go through a technical training program and first learn on the job as apprentices under the careful eye of seasoned lineworkers who have earned journeyman status.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, electric power line installers and repairers typically:

- Install, maintain or repair the power lines that move electricity.
- Identify defective devices, voltage regulators, transformers and switches.
- Inspect and test power lines and auxiliary equipment.
- String (install) power lines between poles, towers and buildings.
- Climb poles and transmission towers and use truck-mounted buckets to get to equipment.
- Operate power equipment when installing and repairing poles, towers and lines.
- Drive work vehicles to job sites.
- Know and implement safety standards and procedures.

When a problem is reported, lineworkers must identify the cause and fix it. This usually involves diagnostic testing using specialized equipment and repair work. To work on poles, they usually use bucket trucks to raise themselves to the top of the structure, although all lineworkers must be adept at climbing poles and towers when necessary. Workers use specialized safety equipment to keep them from falling when climbing utility poles and towers.

Storms and other natural disasters can cause extensive damage to power lines. When power is lost, lineworkers must work quickly to restore service to the members.

Everyone at Clinton County Electric Cooperative works hard to provide reliable service. We not only salute our lineworkers, but also all our employees who work around the clock to keep the power on.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LINEWORKERS?

Energy Explorers

Every April, we celebrate lineworkers and the hard work they do to make sure we have electricity to power our lives.

How much do you know about lineworkers?

Take the quiz below to find out!

(Use the answer key to check your work.)

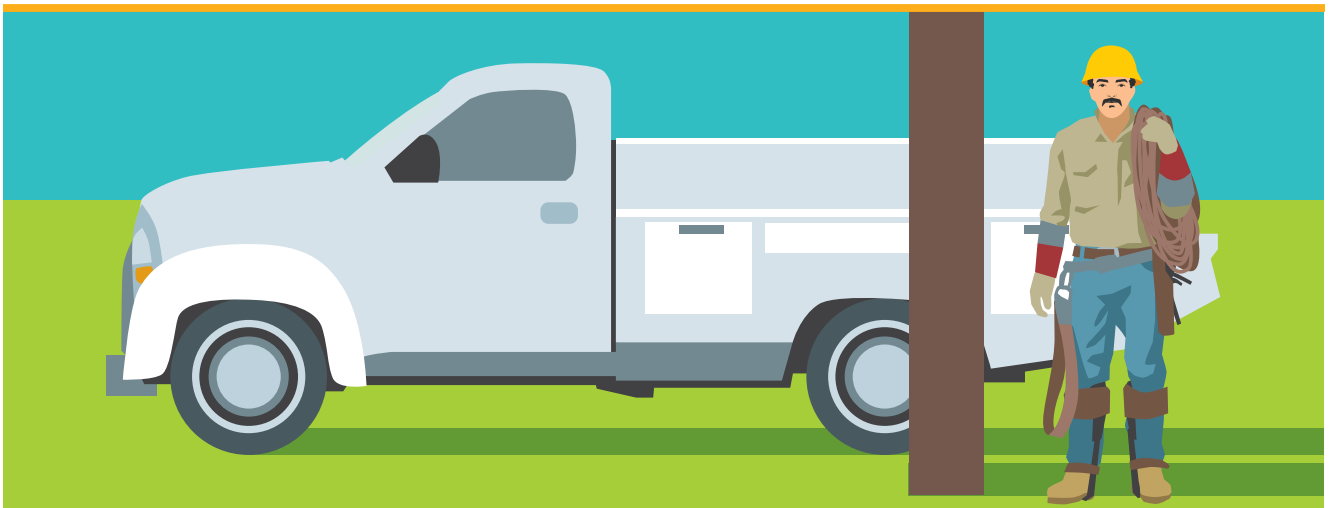
1. Lineworkers have to wear a lot of gear to do their jobs. A lineworker's gear can weigh up to _____.
   - **a.** 15 pounds
   - **b.** 50 pounds
   - **c.** 80 pounds

2. Lineworkers maintain and repair electrical lines, but they do not install them.
   - **a.** True (no installation)
   - **b.** False (They maintain, repair *and* install lines.)

3. There are approximately _____ lineworkers in the United States.
   - **a.** 50,000
   - **b.** 90,000
   - **c.** 120,000

4. Lineworkers must wear _____ clothing to protect them from a possible electric arc while working.
   - **a.** fire resistant
   - **b.** extra thick
   - **c.** leather or rubber

5. Lineworkers must wear special conductive boots when climbing a steel structure.
   - **a.** True
   - **b.** False



Answer Key: 1) b. 50 pounds 2) b. False 3) c. 120,000 4) a. fire resistant 5) a. True

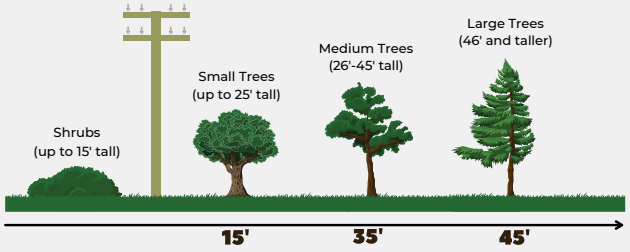
In observance of Memorial Day, the office will be CLOSED on Monday, May 30, 2022.

Did you know?

You do not need a Facebook account to view the information we share. Simply go to our website www.cceci.com and scroll down until you see our Facebook information. There you can scroll through our posts without having to log into an actual Facebook account.

Plant the **RIGHT TREE** in the **RIGHT PLACE**

The larger the tree, the farther it should be from a power line. Avoid planting beneath power lines, near poles or close to electrical equipment.



Remember, know what's below by calling 8-1-1 before you dig.

Learn more at: Safe Electricity.org

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

Considering Solar? Call us first!

As interest in "green" energy and ways to save money on utility bills continue to grow, some cooperative members may be considering the installation of a solar array.

Since these types of systems have the capability of returning electricity back to the electric grid, there are some major safety considerations to sort through before a system is installed.

Before deciding to buy a solar array, examine the economics to determine if such a system will lower your monthly electricity costs. If you do decide to install a solar array, contact our office as early as possible in the process.

A CCEC representative will provide information on our interconnection process and policies, as well as answer any questions you may have. That way, you and your installer will have the information needed as you progress with your system.

For more information on CCEC policies and requirements, please contact our office Monday through Friday, between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 800-526-7282.

Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative