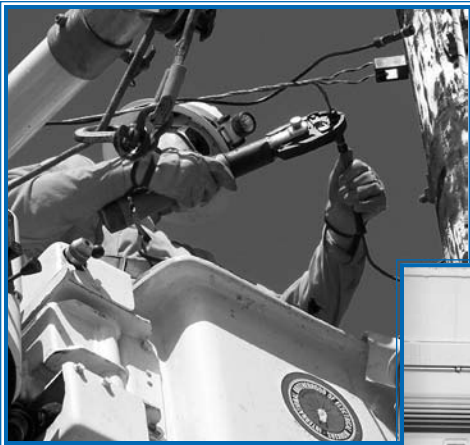


Coastlines

News and Information for Customers of the Central Lincoln People's Utility District

115,000 Volts, Deer On Board, Climbing Poles in 80 MPH Winds: Keeping the Power On is Never Routine for Linemen



digging holes for utility poles and planting those poles, anchoring guy wires to secure the poles where needed, and of course, hanging, repairing, and energizing power lines--up to 115,000 volts.

"We work as a team; we never work alone,

crew members came to the field differently: Bill started in the construction industry. Bob Jolley learned his skills in the U.S. Air Force. Leo Newman went to lineman school.



"If you've lost your transmission (electricity supply), you've lost everything. It's all about reliability for our customers."

--Lineman Brad Trommlitz

"In bad weather at times, linemen work 20-24 consecutive hours. Their ethic is to work until everyone's lights are back on. Our customers see them as unsung heroes of the community."

--Bruce Lovelin, Central Lincoln Systems Engineering Supervisor

They are foster parents, volunteer coaches, former construction workers, and veterans. They are skilled craftsmen trained to deal with the risks of handling equipment weighing tons, heights, high winds, and high voltages. Linemen must constantly think of potential hazards.

"Safety, safety, safety!" says Lineman Brad Trommlitz.

"Safety's number one. If it's not safe, it's not worth it." And the work is varied--from laying concrete, to lifting 70-pound wooden crossarms into place some 30 feet above the ground,



(above, front to back) Linemen Leo Newman, James Barber, and Bob Jolley muscle the base of this three and a half ton steel transmission pole into place. It must be set exactly at the correct vertical.

and that's where we form a bond of trust... always communicating, always watching out for each other. We train constantly, and the camaraderie we develop is a lot of fun," says Line Foreman Bill Vezina. Bill's

Brad Trommlitz was headed to college one fall but needed a summer job. A temporary warehouse position at Central Lincoln



Lineman Brad Trommlitz and Line Foreman Bill Vezina put together 80 feet of anchoring in 50 pound sections to hold a steel transmission pole in place in any type of weather.

Linemen: “We do whatever it takes to keep the ‘juice’ flowing” (continued)

led to tree trimming, then groundman, then equipment operator, then finally, he moved through the ranks to lineman. “It’s the perfect blend—you use your brains every day AND it’s physical work,” he says. He’s never looked back.



In Toledo, crews lift a 3.5 ton steel transmission pole into place. This maneuver requires two trucks—one with a crane—and multiple crewmen.

Central Lincoln has some 65 people working outdoors who are involved very directly with keeping on the power. **What do they wish you knew? “Please understand we have to trim the trees—they frequently cause outages,”** said one lineman. “90% of outages in storms are tree-related.” Also: **“We try to get the power back on as quickly as possible. We work as fast as we can, but doing it right and doing it safe takes time.”**

From high winds, to trees, to birds landing on “live” wires, to woodpeckers hollowing out wooden utility poles, and to wasps and bees building nests in or on poles, Central Lincoln’s linemen do their best to keep the power flowing while respecting and appreciating Mother Nature.

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And, what about the deer on board? One crew responded to an outage, left open the door of their truck, and when they returned, a pet deer had jumped in, ready to go for a ride!



Nests and Power Lines Don’t Mix: Respect for Nature and Highly Reliable Power are Compatible

You may have seen human-made platforms on poles high in the air, with large birds’ nests on them. If it’s within our District, odds are Central Lincoln engineering personnel and lineman were involved.

Last year, Central Lincoln’s Systems Engineering Technician Michelle Ness developed an extensive Avian Protection Plan for the District. A federal permit allows Central Lincoln to relocate nests



ing is nearly always done for ospreys, which return to the same nest year after year. Once a nest is moved, it’s a permanent fix. (We haven’t had any eagles’ nests on our facilities.)

“We try to catch these situations before there’s a fully-built nest, but with Central Lincoln’s 22,566 utility poles, that’s not easy,” Michelle said. “Just a few good-sized twigs or branches can fall from a bird’s talons, hit an energized wire and cause an outage. So, we’ll move a nest, but before there are eggs or chicks in them. The nest platform we provide is higher in elevation, and is close to the original nesting site. But it’s safely away from our utility poles and offers a T-shaped perch for the parents to watch over their young. With good planning and ingenuity, we’ve had some excellent outcomes.”

Proud—and safe—osprey parents might certainly agree.



Wire clusters are installed on old nest sites to discourage raptor landings.

“when the threat of fire hazard and power outages is present.” We don’t have to move nests often—about five times a year—but when we must, there’s plenty to do, from construction to documentation of the move. Central Lincoln’s nest-shift-

Help us help you! If your power goes out, please call us:

1-866-484-3783