

Sun River Electric Cooperative

Ripples



Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Phone Numbers: 406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516

Website: www.sunriverelectric.coop

After Hours & Weekend Dispatch:
406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516

If calling from a local number or cell phone –
please use: 406-467-2526 or 406-467-2527

Be sure to check your breakers before reporting outages.

APRIL 2023

NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY



APRIL 18, 2023

At a utility cooperative, the linemen are our **super-heroes!** They not only build and maintain our lines to provide our members with reliable power, but they also go out during the night, on the weekends, and in all types of weather. Here in Montana that means there are many times they work in cold, snowy, windy conditions. We not only appreciate them on April 18th, but all year long. 281045

HIDDEN NUMBER

If you find your account number hidden in this issue, it is worth a \$50 credit on your next statement. There is one number hidden in every issue.

Give us a call if you are the lucky consumer.

**406-467-2526 or
1-800-452-7516**

ALWAYS
CALL

BEFORE YOU
DIG



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NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A LINEMAN?

Column by **DAVID KELLEHER**

Fairfield Lineman

First off, how do you become a lineman? There is no "by the book" way to become a lineman, perse. Everyone's story is different on how their career starts, which usually leads to some amazing stories and even better memories with those who you meet in the industry along the journey.

The most common way to get one's foot in the door is to attend a pre-apprenticeship secondary education school. Montana Tech Lineman Program in Butte, and the Mountain States Line Constructors Apprenticeship Montana Training Center are the two in-state schools available to those of us located in Montana. A couple programs in surrounding states include the Northwest Lineman College in Meridian, Idaho, and Bismarck State College Lineman Program in North Dakota. Most of these schools are only four months long, which leaves so many opportunities open to you.

What steps can I take to become a lineman?

There are a lot of opportunities in the communities that one can take. Ask your local power supplier about part-time positions that will give you



David Kelleher, a Sun River Superhero.

hands-on experience, such as a groundman lineman. Many local cooperatives struggle to hire groundmen to help the crews in busier times of the year. If you are 18 years or older, think about obtaining your CDL (commercial driver's license). It's an ability and skill that can only advance your endeavors, whether you find yourself in the electrical field or not.

What do linemen do?

Linemen play a crucial role in delivering safe, reliable and affordable electricity that empowers our everyday lives. I like to say that "linemen wear

so many different hats" because they have so many different skillsets and use them in such a large variety of applications.

So, what does it take to be a lineman?

It takes common sense and a strong work ethic. Going into the trade I didn't have a lot of knowledge of the power grid, but it seemed like a perfect job for me. I loved working with my hands and working outdoors. As a lineman, I got the best of both worlds. I went to pre-apprentice line school and was overwhelmed with the amount of information. I left with more questions than answers. Pre-apprentice school is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the electrical field, yet it was a great start. Since starting my career as a lineman, I've learned something every day. You never stop learning in this career. Everyday there are challenges that confront us. You learn to combine your insight and uproot these challenges. Looking from the outside it may seem miserable at times in nasty weather conditions, but in all honestly, it's such an adrenaline rush. I can't say enough about how rewarding this job is, because being called upon when the members need you the most, is what creates a passion in the lineman's heart. 



REMINDER:

Bills not paid by the 10th of the month will be charged a \$10 late fee.

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