

Lineworker Appreciation Day

National Lineworker Appreciation Day, celebrated annually on April 18, recognizes the contributions and sacrifices of these critical responders. The holiday was designated by the U.S. Senate on April 18, 2013, in the aftermath of the devastating Hurricane Sandy in 2012. Around 67,000 lineworkers—out of an estimated 115,000 nationwide—promptly responded to assist in the restoration of the country's power infrastructure.

Senate Resolution 95, the bill to create Lineworker Appreciation Day, garnered unanimous approval in the U.S. Senate, emphasizing the crucial role of lineworkers in safeguarding our communities' electricity supply. At Klickitat PUD, we deeply value our lineworkers as indispensable members of our utility family. They bravely tackle hazardous and often adverse conditions to build, maintain and promptly restore unplanned outages on our system, ensuring uninterrupted power supply to our customers 24/7.

Lineworkers have been an integral part of society since the early days of electrification. As electricity became more widespread, the demand for skilled individuals capable of installing, repairing and maintaining electrical infrastructure grew. In the early 20th century, as rural areas began receiving electricity through New Deal programs, including the Rural Electrification Act, lineworkers played a crucial role in extending power lines to these underserved regions. Throughout history, lineworkers have braved challenging working conditions—from extreme weather to hazardous environments—to ensure that electricity reaches homes, businesses and industries.

Linework is inherently dangerous. Lineworkers face risks such as electrocution, falls and accidents while working at heights

or in remote locations. Despite these risks, lineworkers often work long hours—including during emergencies and natural disasters—to restore power and ensure public safety. National Lineworker Appreciation Day serves as an opportunity to acknowledge the dedication, bravery and professionalism of lineworkers who put their lives on the line to maintain essential services.

Lineworker Appreciation Day also promotes safety awareness among the public, emphasizing the importance of following safety protocols around electrical infrastructure. By recognizing lineworkers' contributions, communities can foster a culture of appreciation for these unsung heroes and inspire future generations to pursue careers in linework or related fields.

The relentless dedication and high-quality work performed by KPUD lineworkers are instrumental in helping us achieve our reliability goal of 99.971%. As we reflect on their invaluable contributions, we invite you to join us in expressing gratitude to our local lineworkers. When you see them diligently at work, take a moment to show your appreciation by using the hashtag #thankalineworker. ■

Klickitat PUD Stats

- ▶ Two line crews.
- ▶ Nine journeyman lineworkers.
- ▶ Five apprentice lineworkers.
- ▶ 18 communities.
- ▶ 2,004 miles of distribution line.
- ▶ 206 miles of transmission line.
- ▶ 14,303 customers.



The Klickitat PUD line crew works 24/7, 365 days a year to keep the power flowing. National Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 18. From left: Jess Beierle, Greg Dechand, Robert Dorais, Cort Ladiges, Christian Clark, Alonso Hernandez, Dominic Raether, Lake Howard and Ed Lexa. Not pictured: Sean Bryan, TJ Lutz, Nate Weller, Wade Griffith and Todd Niva.



KPUD lineworkers, including Cort Ladiges and Greg Dechand, often climb tall poles to work on electric equipment.



Lineworker Rodeo Success

Each year, electrical workers from across the west gather in Gresham, Oregon, to participate in the Pacific Northwest Lineman Rodeo. At the rodeo, teams of lineworkers and apprentices compete in events that test their speed, safety and trade skills, with all proceeds going to the Legacy Oregon Burn Center.

This year, Klickitat PUD Pre-Apprentice Lineworker Dominic Raether participated and placed first overall in the pre-apprentice events.