



Crews work together to ensure you have safe, reliable electricity. PHOTO BY BRANDON JOHNSON

# The Life of a Lineman

They wake before the sun, pour steaming cups of coffee and kiss their families goodbye. After swinging by the office to get the day's orders, crews climb into their trucks and head out.

Klickitat PUD's linemen form a solid team with one job: to deliver safe, reliable electricity. But that job can change in a million ways when rough weather steps in.

We often take power—and the people who provide it—for granted. Let's take a moment and stand in their boots.

Linemen have to work safely, smartly and efficiently—all while 40 feet in the air, sometimes near live electrical lines or behind a hot-stick.

On a typical day, linemen maintain electrical distribution and transmission lines, or build service to new homes and businesses.

They have a lot on their plates. But when Klickitat PUD's operations center calls with a problem, everything else takes a backseat.

Power restoration takes precedence over

a lineman's daily to-do list. These brave men are always on call. Crews stand by to serve you 24 hours a day, in the middle of the night or wee hours of the morning, weekends and holidays.

Can you imagine getting a call at 3 a.m. telling you to work outside during the nastiest weather?

Not many people are willing to face storms, but KPUD's linemen face the elements daily—sometimes the most inhospitable weather—all to serve you.

Linemen also focus on safety. The lives of co-workers are on the line. Job safety is important to everyone, no matter the occupation. But for linemen, there can be no slip-ups or careless actions. Mistakes can cost a limb or a life.

That is one of the reasons linemen form a brotherhood. When you put your life in the hands of co-workers every day, they become more than colleagues. They are family.

That sense of family extends to electric utilities across the nation. We help other

utilities in their time of need, and they extend that service to us. It is reassuring to know if a severe storm strikes, a national team of linemen stands ready to answer the call.

To be ready to respond no matter the situation or weather conditions, linemen go through regular training to ensure they can work safely with various kinds of equipment. The equipment is tested regularly, too. These highly skilled men light our homes and businesses every day. They endure harsh weather and long hours, all to make our lives better.

In conjunction with National Lineman Appreciation Day, celebrated on April 18, Klickitat PUD extends a thank you to all linemen and their brave contributions to provide safe, reliable electricity to the customers of Klickitat County.

Today—and every day—please take a moment to thank them. KPUD's linemen are the heart of the public utility nation, proud and strong. ■