

The Well-Dressed Lineman

In honor of National Lineman Appreciation Day on April 18, Klickitat PUD highlights the lineworkers who risk their lives every day to make sure power flows safely to your homes and businesses. They climb and dig when power outages occur in the worst weather conditions to get your power back on. To make sure they go home safely to their families every night, linemen wear about 50 pounds of safety gear.

Hot stick: Made of high-voltage tested fiberglass, this extendable tool allows lineworkers to work precisely with energized lines at a safe distance of up to 40 feet. Numerous tools can be attached to the universal head to accomplish varied tasks.

Hard hat: The tough plastic shell and wide brim keep falling debris away from a lineworker's face. Each lineworker inspects their hat routinely for wear and tear.

Flame-resistant shirt: Cut from flame-resistant fabric, these long-sleeved shirts are fitted with nonmetallic buttons and stitched with flame-resistant thread.

Safety glasses: These glasses protect the eyes from glare and debris that makes it past the hard hat.

Rubber glove protectors: Leather gloves are worn over insulated rubber gloves to protect them from cuts and punctures.

Equipment belt: Virtually every tool a lineman might need can be clipped or fastened to this belt.

Insulated rubber gloves: Thick rubber gloves rated at 30,000 volts allow linemen to repair lines without disconnecting your power.

Flame-resistant pants: Flame-retardant material and stitching are used. Pants are built to withstand the rigorous wear and tear a lineman's work demands.

Gaff climbers: Shanks are secured to the lineworker's lower leg by straps. Razor-sharp steel points—called gaffs—dig into the wooden pole, allowing lineworkers to climb safely and efficiently.

Tool pouch: A leather satchel is attached to the equipment belt for easy access to tools, such as pliers, wrenches and hammers.

Work boots: This steel toe boot—typically 16 inches tall—shields linemen from gouges. Serrated heels provide a better grip when climbing poles.

Safety strap: Attached by two D rings to the equipment belt, this strap wraps around the pole while a lineman is climbing.

Fall arrest system: This safety-strap system is designed to tighten against the pole to stop a fall.

