



GENERAL
MANAGER
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BIERSTEDT**

The Power Behind Your Power

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 10

YOU'VE LIKELY noticed Karnes Electric Cooperative's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that line work is tough—but it's essential, even when conditions are challenging. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 10, I want to share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's as heavy as 6 gallons of water. And speaking of utility poles, lineworkers can climb poles up to 120 feet tall.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present risks can truly take a toll. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics lists line work among the 10 most dangerous civilian jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work nontraditional hours outdoors in difficult conditions. The job requires years of training and hands-on learning. That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized technical skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts aren't an option, and there is precious little room for error in this line of work.

During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their homes and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why a lineworker's family must also be dedicated to service.

Nationwide, there are more than 120,000 electric lineworkers. Karnes EC has 35 lineworkers who are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 4,746 miles of power lines across 12 counties.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it's essential to the life and well-being of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them April 10, and follow #ThankALineworker on social media to see how others are recognizing these critical first responders. ■

