



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

THE COMMITMENT OF AN ELECTRIC LINeworker

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 8.

National studies consistently rank power line personnel among the most dangerous jobs in the country, for good reason. Laboring high in the air wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric lineworkers are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to safety as well as the challenges of the job.

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative line crews are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings, or other important family milestones. Beyond the years



of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook

to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers. The job requires lineworkers to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community.

Family support system

To perform their jobs successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience, and each other to get the job done safely. Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system at home. A lineworker's family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages. This means in times of prolonged outages, the family and their lineworker may have minimal communication and not see each other for several days. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be all the more difficult.

Community commitment

In our community and across the country, electric co-op lineworkers' mission-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op. Lineworkers are often familiar figures in the community. They can be found coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for local charities, and serving on local advisory boards.

Monday, April 8, is Lineworker Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of HWEC's line personnel both on and off the job, I encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. And if you see their family members in the grocery store or next community event, please offer them a thank you as well.



Glenn W. Miller
PRESIDENT/CEO



Three easy DIY projects to save energy

Winter weather can have a big impact on your energy bills, hitting your pockets a little harder than you would like. Now that spring is just around the corner, it's the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home. The good news: You don't have to be an energy expert to do this!

There are several easy ways to save energy, but if you're willing to take a hands-on approach, here are three projects you can do now to start saving.

Make the most of your water heater

Let's start with one of the easiest projects: insulating your water heater. Insulating a water heater can save 7 to 16 percent annually on your water heating bills. It should also be noted that if your water heater is new, it is likely already insulated. But if your water heater is warm to the touch, it needs additional insulation.

You can purchase a pre-cut jacket or blanket for about \$20. You'll also need two people for this project. Before you start, turn off the water heater. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and tape it to temporarily keep it in place. If necessary, use a marker to note the areas

where the controls are so you can cut them out. Once the blanket is positioned correctly, tape it permanently in place, then turn the water heater back on. If you have an electric water heater, do not set the thermostat above 130 degrees, which can cause overheating.

Seal air leaks with caulk

The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring, and plumbing can save energy and money. There are many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is waterproof, flexible, and won't shrink or crack.

Before applying new caulk, clean and remove any old caulk or paint with a putty knife, screwdriver, brush, or solvent. The area should be dry before you apply the new caulk.

Apply the caulk in one continuous stream and make sure it sticks to both sides of the crack or seam. Afterward, use a putty knife to smooth out the caulk, then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.

Weatherstrip exterior doors

One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weatherstrip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Weatherstripping materials vary, but you can ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need.

When choosing weatherstripping material, make sure it can withstand temperature changes, friction, and the general wear and tear for the location of the door. Keep in mind that you will need separate materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides.

Before applying the new weatherstripping, clean the molding with water and soap, then let the area dry completely. Measure each side of the door, then cut the weatherstripping to fit each section. Make sure the weatherstripping fits snugly against both surfaces, so it compresses when the door is closed.

By completing these simple efficiency projects, you can save energy (and money!) while increasing the comfort level of your home. And you can impress your family and friends with your savvy energy-saving skills.



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Spring storms can bring power outages

What does Holmes-Wayne do to manage a major storm?

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative continually monitors national and local weather reports so we are prepared for impending storms. This allows HWEC to work on staffing for restoration efforts even before the storm hits.

Why can't a customer service representative tell me when my power will be restored?

It is impossible to accurately predict restorations of specific circuits serving particular residences because of the many challenges that restoration workers face.

What is my best resource of information on the restoration effort?

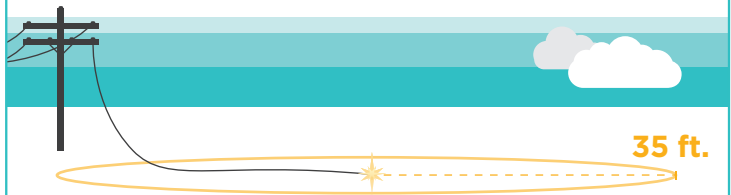
Holmes-Wayne works hard to update our members and community on the overall progress of restoration efforts. Members can view our

Continued on page 22

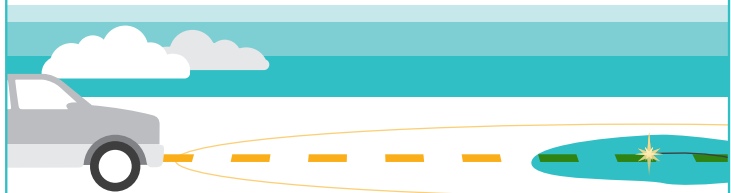


Downed and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything that is in contact with it.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 feet** away — so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is de-energized or if you're using a nonconductive item — this will not prevent injury or death!

Source: ESFI.org



HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES

Continued from page 21

outage map online. This map updates every 10 minutes. Also, we issue informational releases on our Facebook page and on our website regarding restoration progress several times a day during major power outages. These are the best ways for you to remain informed of major storm restoration progress.

How does Holmes-Wayne decide which customers to restore first?

Holmes-Wayne works to restore power using the most efficient and safe manner possible. Our goal is to restore power to as many people as possible as quickly as possible, while isolating individual outages for later restoration. Once substations are restored, large three-phase lines are next, then large single-phase lines and individual lines after that.

How does Holmes-Wayne handle tree damage?

Holmes-Wayne contractor tree crews conduct tree trimming throughout the year to keep power lines free of limbs and debris. Following a storm, Holmes-Wayne tree crews do not remove fallen limbs or branches from your property. For tree removal, you will need to call a landscape or tree contractor. Do not attempt to remove tree limbs or debris within 10 feet of a power line. Stay away from downed power lines or sparking equipment. If you notice downed lines or sparking equipment, please call us toll-free at 866-674-1055 as soon as possible.

Why would Holmes-Wayne trucks pass by my house without repairing anything?

This can happen because work needs to be done at a nearby location before service can be restored to your residence or business. It also is essential that line crews patrol all lines before restoring power to prevent additional damage by not repairing all issues.

Why can my home be the only house on the road without power?

There could be several reasons, including fuses or circuit breakers in your home that may have tripped and halted power. There could be tree limbs on the line serving your home or possibly damage to the transformer that serves your home.

Why do I sometimes experience brief outages that call for resetting of appliances?

Usually, these outages occur when a protective device, called a recloser, detects interference on the line. If interference is detected, the line will de-energize briefly to determine if the problem is prolonged or only temporary. If the problem is temporary, the line will re-energize quickly. If the problem is prolonged, the line will de-energize. This protective equipment prevents permanent damage from occurring if the interference is prolonged, such as a tree limb remaining on the line, and also prevents your power being out if the interference is temporary, like a limb touching the line as it falls to the ground.



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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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