



Co-op Advantage



We have about 40 linemen covering over 8,000 miles of line. They work dozens of feet in the air while providing a valuable service to the community. April 13 is Lineworker Appreciation Day and we asked Matt Oeffling, a line technician who works out of our Milaca location, to answer a few questions about life on the line.

What's the most challenging part of your job?

Weather can be especially difficult. Performing such precise work becomes even more complicated with sleet stinging your skin. It doesn't matter if it's -30° with a 20 mph wind, or 95° with 90% humidity, the job has to get done. It is also dangerous, and you must be committed to not only your safety, but the safety of your brothers as well.

How do you stay safe?

Going home at the end of the day is the most important thing we can do for ourselves and our families. We rely on industry-specific personal protective equipment (PPE). A pair of gloves can literally save our

lives, which is why they're tested every month. More than anything, we watch out for each other. No matter what's going on, everything fades to the background when we're working as a team. It's a matter of forming good habits.

What's the most rewarding part of your job?

Every lineman probably has a different answer, but for me, the most rewarding part of my job is restoring power after an outage. Everyday maintenance of our system is important, but there's something extra satisfying about outage projects. It gives me a feeling of accomplishment and pride.

How does your family deal with your unpredictable schedule?

I've missed birthdays, holidays, and family events. It just comes with the territory. My wife, Alissa, knows what my job requires and supports me in every way. I'm out on the lines to provide for my family. She does her part and I do mine. It takes a strong and supportive partner to take on this lifestyle.



Help us find former members

View the unclaimed capital credits list of former members at eastcentralenergy.com. Your friends and family may have a capital credits payout from the co-op.



Interested in line work? Labor stats indicate the demand for line technicians is expected to grow due to retirements. Learn more at getintoenergy.com.



HELP KEEP ELECTRIC LINEWORKERS SAFE

Be patient when the power goes out. Employees need to work efficiently and **safely** to restore power.

ZONE IN ON SAFETY

- 1 work zone crash occurs every 5.4 minutes
- 70 work zone crashes result in injuries each day
- 12 work zone crashes result in at least 1 fatality each week

Respect roadside work crews. Don't drive distracted. Reduce your speed. Change lanes.

DON'T post signs on utility poles. Foreign objects can tear utility workers' protective clothing, which is the first line of protection from an electric shock.

Never plug a generator into a wall outlet in your home or garage. The power that back feeds into the electric line could electrocute a utility worker or neighbor.

Electric lineworkers **RANK 15** on the list of **25 MOST DANGEROUS JOBS** in America. Help keep them safe!

Learn more at SafeElectricity.org

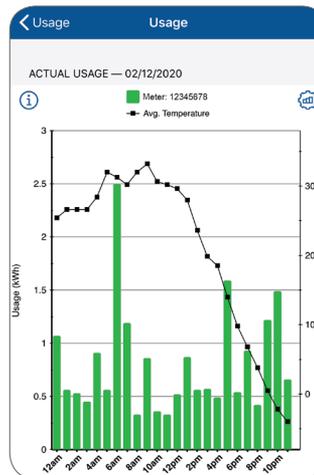
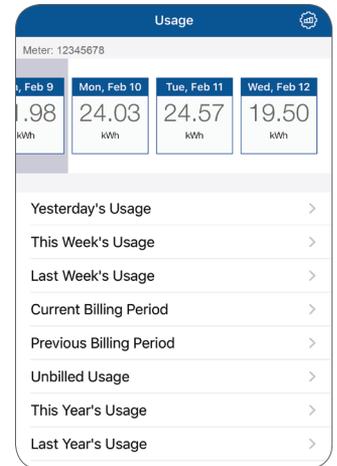


Monitor your energy use with SmartHub

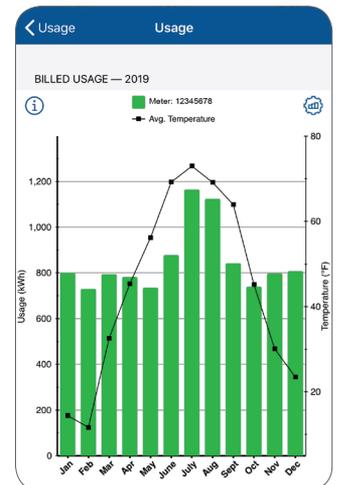
Are you curious how many kilowatt hours you use on the weekends compared to the weekdays?

When you download the free SmartHub app, the answer to your questions are at your fingertips, 24/7.

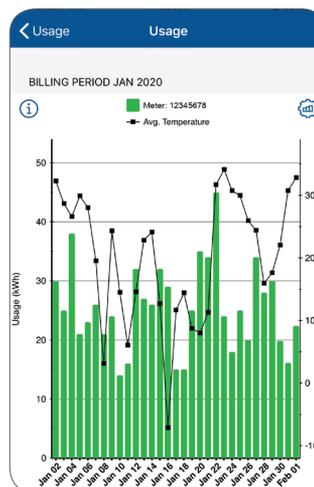
Have you used more electricity this winter than last? Multiple options allow you to see your energy use by the day, week, and month.



View your trends throughout the day.



How does your monthly use compare to last year?



How does the temperature affect your electric use? Easily compare with the SmartHub app.

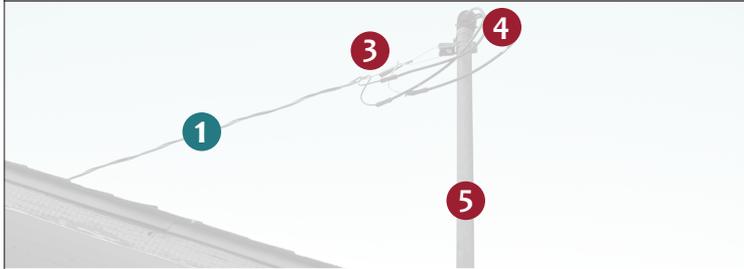


You gotta be in it to WIN it

Visit SmartHub to sign up for **Auto Pay** today!

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ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT What's yours? What's ours?



In the unfortunate event your home's overhead electrical service gets damaged, it is important to know what equipment you own and are responsible for so power can be restored as quickly as possible.

ECE is responsible for:

- 1 The service line that carries electricity to your home.
- 2 The electric meter.

You are responsible for:

- 3 The attachment point for the service line.
- 4 The entry point.
- 5 The conduit and lines that connect the attachment point to your home and meter box.
- 6 The meter box/enclosure.

A qualified electrician must make any needed repairs to the above before power can be restored.

SafeElectricity.org

Join us for Project GreenTouch

Saturday, May 2
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

FATHER HENNEPIN STATE PARK - Isle, MN

Bring your family and friends as we prepare Father Hennepin State Park in Isle, MN, for the upcoming summer season. We provide everything—even morning coffee and lunch.

Held rain or shine, this is a great opportunity for volunteer groups and families. All ages welcome. No need to register. For details, visit our website or call Lynzie Kelly, 1-800-254-7944, ext. 2022.



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East Central Energy
P.O. Box 39
Braham, MN 55006

Service Center locations:
Braham, Milaca, and Finlayson
Monday-Friday
Hours vary by service center.

1.800.254.7944

General business calls are answered from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Emergency and outage calls are answered 24 hours a day.

Email: info@ecemn.com

The ECE Board of Directors meets monthly. Please call Executive Administrator Julie Johnson at 763-689-8046 to confirm meeting information. Monthly board meeting highlights and board operating policies can be found on SmartHub.

The Co-op Advantage newsletter is published by East Central Energy, your not-for-profit, member-owned, local electric cooperative.

ECE is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Website:
eastcentralenergy.com



LINEWORKER GEAR WORD SEARCH

Did you know lineworkers wear special protective gear to keep them safe while working on power lines and other electrical equipment?

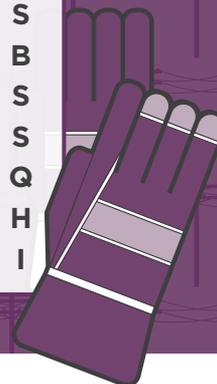


Read the descriptions to learn about a lineworker's gear and find the **bolded words** in the puzzle below.

- **Safety goggles** keep debris away from lineworkers' eyes while on the job.
- **Hard hats** protect lineworkers from head injuries and falling debris.
- **Work boots** provide extra protection while lineworkers work with heavy materials that could fall near their feet.
- **Flame-resistant** clothing keeps lineworkers safe from electrical hazards.
- **Insulated gloves** protect lineworkers from electrical shock while working on power lines.
- **Equipment belts** hold several tools that lineworkers need to get the job done.



S E B G H M D T V H E Z N P S
G E A A U H J N P G I E V T H
B P V T K T Q A J J Q X L Z A
S G D O G F A T L Z H E D I R
R I Z F L G G S W H B H G O D
F V X Y Z G W I X T R W M Q H
V L P A B W D S N D W L K O A
D Y A O X T O E P C Y Y H R T
O H X Y Q R M R T G M G J X S
X M T V B P H E K A J U X Z B
P Y N L I U S M K B L N N T S
U T K U E H M A O A O U G O S
K O Q N L Q W L S T K O S U Q
C E E H T I F F K D C G T N H
S A F E T Y G O G G L E S S I





ANNUAL MEETING

ONLINE ONLY

APRIL 23, 2020 – 11 A.M.

Visit eastcentralenergy.com for important details.

ECE is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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