



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
 P.O. Box B
 1564 S. 1000 Rd, Council Grove, KS 66846
 620-767-5144
 www.flinthillsrec.com

**FLINT HILLS RURAL
 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

FROM THE MANAGER

The Commitment of an Electric Lineworker

National studies consistently rank power line installers and repairers among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason. Laboring high in the air wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm for 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.

Flint Hills RECA's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national 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 safely and successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training,

experience and each other.

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.



Chuck Goeckel

Thank You

MONDAY, APRIL 8, IS LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY. Given the dedication of Flint Hills RECA's lineworkers, both on and off the job, I encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions our lineworkers make to your local community. And if you see their family members in the grocery store or around town, please offer them a thank you as well.



THANK YOU TO OUR FLINT HILLS RECA LINEMEN

Top row (from left): James Blue, Kerry Zimmerman, Lloyd Anderson, Brock Nieman, Travis Hirt, Brent Unruh and Scott Kelsey.

Bottom row (from left): John Stohs, Tracy Ryff, Rex Johnson, Corey Annan, Sheldon Miles, Tim Jirak and Evan McCreath.

LINEWORKER SAFETY GEAR

A look at the evolution of line equipment

1875-1900

Electrification begins

In the early years, linemen learn basic principles and hazards in realtime. Safety standards are non-existent, and most line equipment is handmade.



Early headgear
It's not uncommon for linemen to wear hats made of felt or leather for protection.

Digging spoon
Workers dig holes by hand with digging bars, spoons, and shovels.

Homemade belts
Linemen fashion belts to wrap around waist and pole—or they climb freestyle.

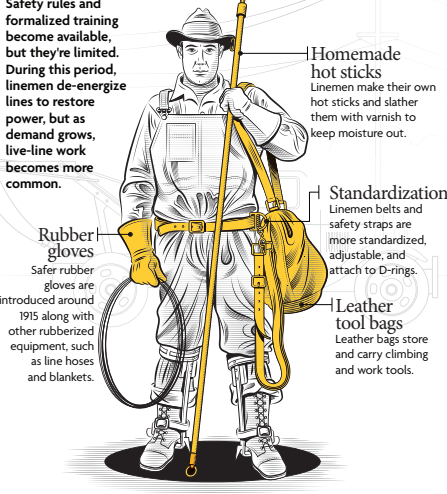
Bare hands
Linemen rarely wear gloves for protection, opting instead to work bare-handed.

Climbing spikes
Homemade climbers lack pads and have only upper and lower straps.

1901-1925

Safety beginnings

Safety rules and formalized training become available, but they're limited. During this period, linemen de-energize lines to restore power, but as demand grows, live-line work becomes more common.



Homemade hot sticks
Linemen make their own hot sticks and slather them with varnish to keep moisture out.

Rubber gloves
Safer rubber gloves are introduced around 1915 along with other rubberized equipment, such as line hoses and blankets.

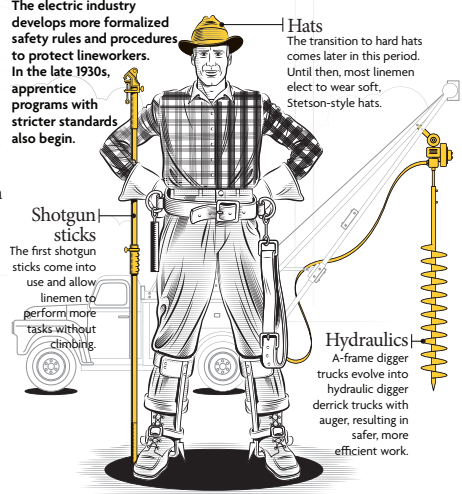
Standardization
Linemen belts and safety straps are more standardized, adjustable, and attach to D-rings.

Leather tool bags
Leather bags store and carry climbing and work tools.

1926-1950

Safety training improves

The electric industry develops more formalized safety rules and procedures to protect lineworkers. In the late 1930s, apprentice programs with stricter standards also begin.

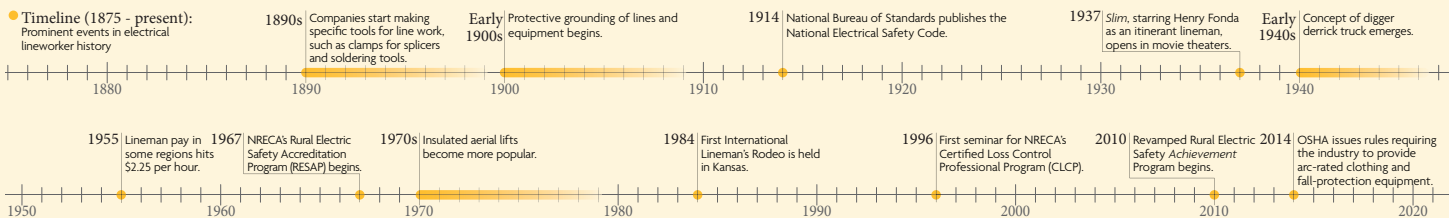


Hats
The transition to hard hats comes later in this period. Until then, most linemen elect to wear soft, Stetson-style hats.

Shotgun sticks
The first shotgun sticks come into use and allow linemen to perform more tasks without climbing.

Hydraulics
A-frame digger trucks evolve into hydraulic digger derrick trucks with auger, resulting in safer, more efficient work.

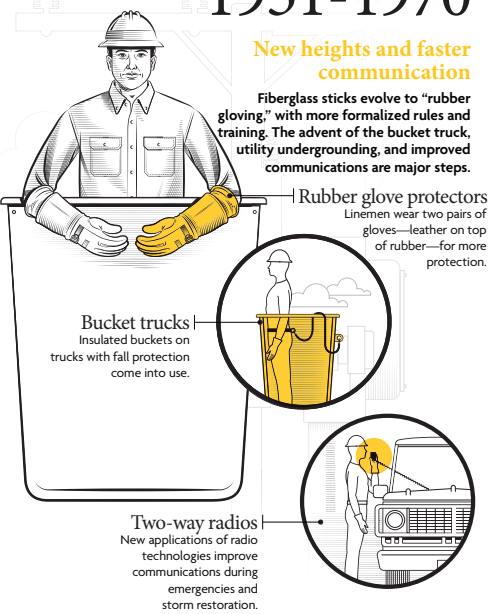
● Timeline (1875 - present): Prominent events in electrical lineworker history



1951-1970

New heights and faster communication

Fiberglass sticks evolve to "rubber gloving," with more formalized rules and training. The advent of the bucket truck, utility undergrounding, and improved communications are major steps.



Rubber glove protectors
Linemen wear two pairs of gloves—leather on top of rubber—for more protection.

Bucket trucks
Insulated buckets on trucks with fall protection come into use.

Two-way radios
New applications of radio technologies improve communications during emergencies and storm restoration.

1971-1990

New law of the land

President Nixon signs the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) law. Underground line installation gains widespread use. Material-handling bucket trucks and hydraulic and mechanical compression tools also improve work conditions.



Hard hats
Head protection made from thermoplastics gains widespread use.

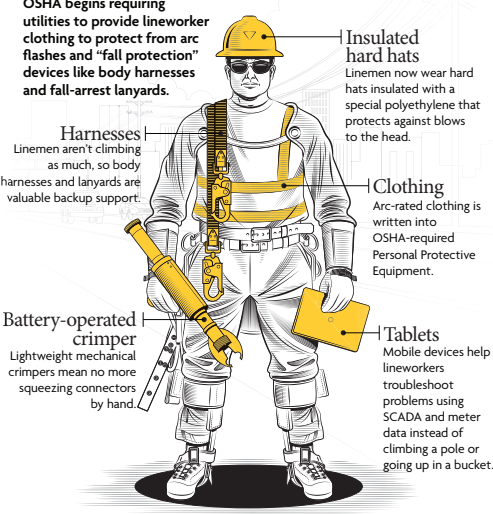
Rubber sleeve improvements
New sleeves extend to the shoulders for extra protection.

Telescoping or extendo stick
Made of fiberglass, the extendo stick lets workers perform tasks like opening and closing switches or removing tree limbs while staying on or near the ground.

1991-present

Watching out for workers

OSHA begins requiring utilities to provide lineworker clothing to protect from arc flashes and "fall protection" devices like body harnesses and fall-arrest lanyards.



Insulated hard hats
Linemen now wear hard hats insulated with a special polyethylene that protects against blows to the head.

Harnesses
Linemen aren't climbing as much, so body harnesses and lanyards are valuable backup support.

Clothing
Arc-rated clothing is written into OSHA-required Personal Protective Equipment.

Battery-operated crimper
Lightweight mechanical crimpers mean no more squeezing connectors by hand.

Tablets
Mobile devices help lineworkers troubleshoot problems using SCADA and meter data instead of climbing a pole or going up in a bucket.

Help Us Locate Former Flint Hills RECA Members

Flint Hills RECA has former members listed below who have unclaimed capital credit refunds that were retired more than three years ago. If you know any of these former members, please have them call us at 620-767-5144. In accordance with the cooperative's bylaws, failure to claim the refunds within 60 days of notice will cause the total amount of the refund to be irrevocably gifted back to the Cooperative. This list is also on our website (www.flinthillsrec.com), which includes the city and state of the last known address listed on the cooperative's records.

A & W Country Kitchen	Ramos R Archuleta	Rickey L Barnes	Barbara J Binns	Henry Bradfield	Tami M Burch	John W Charping
James A Abbott	Russell Ardery	Jimmie L Barnett	H B Bird	Ted Bradford	David K Burchstead	Raymond R Charrette
Jean Abbott	Jesse A Arenas II	Carroll Barrett	Celia Bishop	James Bradley	Clarence W Burdett	Jack R Chase
Forrest D Abel	Eldon N Armour	Douglas R Barrett	Dale R Bishop	Alfred R Bradshaw	Faye A Burger	Ace W Cheek
George R Adam Sr	Raymond Arnold	Harry W Barrett	Elza L Bishop	Roy Bradshaw	Wayne L Burgess	Rodney G Chelius
Charlene L Adams	Vera A Arsenault	David Barron	Gordon J Bishop	Harold L Bragg Jr	N A Burkett	Carmon Cherney
Cheryl A Adams	Roman Asebedo	David M Barry	Lester Bishop	Eric V Brant	A J Burnett	Deborah S Chesnet
Dwight Adams	A A Ashworth	Lynn S Barta	Rose Bishop	Jon P Braun	Alfred Burnett	Yolonda D Chestnut
Floyd L Adams	F L Aspelin	Kelly A Bartlett	Albert Bjorklund	Mari Braun	Michael D Burris	William Childs
Tom Adams	John E Atkins	Rex H Bartlow	Charles F Black	Carl Braunle	Carl F Burrows	Olva N Chippis
Willard Adams	Don Attebury	Ben J Base	W R Blackburn	Jerry Brecheisen	James Burrows	Olive M Chisholm
Ae Cha Staples	Nelson Atwood	Dan J Base	Wayne L Blair	James Brence	Melvin Burrows	Sylvia M Chisholm
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Harvey Albrecht	Auction House/Bob Wilson	John K Bateman	Gilbert Blanken	Alan D Brewer	Larry Burton	John W Chorpung
Jeffrey L Albright	Anthony Austin	James R Battey	Dora A Blasche	Robert W Brewer	William L Buttery III	Donald Chowning
Jay Alder	J Todd Axtell	James L Bauer	Clyde Blaylock	Adolph M Brinkman	Harry E Button	John Christensen
John J Alder	Larry J Ayers	Derek K Baxter	Anthony S Bledsoe	Jay W Brittain	James E Byars	David W Christopher
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Bryan G Alexander	B R B Contractor	Lester B Beames	Bodo Blitch	C L Brockmeier	Vernon L Cain	Beverly Clark
David Alexander	Roberta Babb	Ralph D Bean	Jeff Blodecki	William D Brosnan	Michael T Cairns	Michael L Clark
Howard Alexander	Tina Babbie	Donald L Beasley Sr	Alvin Blough	G F Brough	William Calkins	Nicole L Clark
Joyce Alfonso	Frank J Bachura	Lee Beaston	Betty J Boelling	Alfred Brown	Candace Calvert	Ruth Clark
Jayl A Allen	John H Backhus Jr	Lee Beaston	Elmer Boese	Howard D Brown	Cal-Waco Oil Co Inc	Clark Creek
E Dean Allen	M Ralph Baehr	Charles Becker	Larry Boese	Jerry D Brown Jr	Bruce Cameron li	Enterprises
James L Allen	Efrain Baez	Edward Becker	Steve Bokelman	K R Brown	Dan Cammarn	William J Clary
Kenneth Allen	Tory R Bagoisan	Jeff Becker	Russell Boland	Lloyd V Brown	John E Campbell	Jimmie K Clawson
Mark D Allen	Anthony Bailey	Jim Becker	Richard E Bolen Sr	Rex D Brown	Robert M Campbell	Sandra L Clayton
Robert S Allen	James E Bailey	Melvin D Becker	E P Bolton	Tina M Brown	Melvin Campmire	Tim Cleary
William Allen	Steven D Bailey	Wayne Becker	James E Boone	Tom L Brown	James W Cannon	Paul Clewis
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O F Altemus	Edward Baker	C R Beebe Jr	Herman Booth	William F Brown	Patrick H Carathers	Lonnie W Cline Sr
Scott W Altwegg	Francis Roy Baker	Charles A Beeler	Kevin Booth	Larry Bruce	Richard W Carlson	Scott D Cline
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Arthur R Anderson	Charles W Baldock Jr	Orin D Bell	Sang K Bosse	Marvin E Bruning	L T Carr Jr	Steve Coe
Eldo J Anderson	Jimmie D Baldwin	Rolland Bell	Roy Bost	Gaylord Brunner	Brian Carroll	John W Coffey
Ernest Anderson	David L Ball	Thomas W Belton	Perle Bottger	Irvin Brunner	James E Carselowey	James Cogar
Kling L Anderson	William Ballard	Wilma Benjamin	Paul F Bouchard	Natahlia C Brunner	Bill Carter	Brian Cole
Lloyd D Anderson	I Sun Balz	Gordon J Bennett	Phyllis Bowen	Nellie Brunner	Joseph H Carter Jr	Larry Cole
Michael Anderson	Robert L Banks	Helen A Bennett	Robert W Bowen	William N Bryan	Robert N Carter	Donald L Coleman
Bryan J Andres	A J Banman	James W Bennett	Roy Bower	Randall Bryant	Castle Cafe	Erne Coleman
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John C Andrews	Robert L Barber	Edward W Berge	John C Bowling	Alan M Buechele	Lyle Cation	Julie I Colgate
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Stewart E Andrews	Anthony Barker	George Berry	Sam Bowman	A R Bullock	David Chappell	C E Collier
Arthur L Angersbach	Barkman Honey	Jack Best	Efren Z Boyd	Kathy J Bumgarner	Richard E Charbono	Edwin Collier
Gregory L Anheier	Co Inc	Bethel College	Mike Boyer	Bonnie Bunch	Gloria Charest E	J H Collier
James L Archer	Elizabeth M Barnes	Elizabeth Bezdek	Reba H Boyer	Phyllis Bungenstock	Charolais Ranch	Calvin C Collins
Jose G Archuleta	Helen M Barnes	Tom Biehler	Ralph H Boykin Jr	James R Bunker		
		Ernest Bina Estate	Braden-Deem Inc	James R Bunker		

Continued on page 16D ►

Help Us Locate Former Flint Hills RECA Members *Continued from page 16C*

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Kevin Conn	Terry A Curtis	Harry Dies	Elk Union S D No 17	David E Finney	Frederi M Funk	John Glessner
David Conner	Gerald Custer Jr	Charles F Dillow Jr	Clifford Ellis	Patrick Finnigan	Nelson Funk	Roy Glessner
Paul Conran	Glenda Cutsinger	Ronald R Dinger	Donald R Ellis	Richard D Fischer	Paul Funk	Kenneth Glick
Continental	Paul A Cyr	Michael P Dittamo	Ira Ellis	George Fisher	Roger L Funk Ee	Charles C Godbold
Telephone	Roscoe Czarnosky	Rohn W Dixon	Karen Emanuelson	James E Fisher	L R Fuqua	Erma E Godding
Linda Converse	Pamela K Dailey	Jerry A Doane	Robert Emerick	Loren F Fisher	Mickey D Furlong	Tom M Godinez
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Joann L Coones	Eric Daniels	Jack W Donahue	Joseph L Ennis	Marvin E Fleisher	Frank A Gailey	Allen Goff
Ira J Coons	Allan R Daquette	Alan C Done	James H Enns	Charles H Fleming	J M Gaines	Pat Goff
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Melvie E Cooper	Randy Davidson	Rebecca Doran	Richard Enright	Peter P Flemings	Donald Gallion II	David A Goldsberry
William Cope	William Davies	Rosa Dornbush	Arnold Entz	Rodney Flemings	Hector Gamez	Larry D Goldsberry
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Jerry Cummings	David C Diaz	John D Edwards	Tracy K Fiest	Betty French	Richard Gillmore	John W Guthrie
Glenn H Cunningham	Dennis G Diaz	Ken Edwards	Brenda Filinger	Emerson Frese Estate	Rose E Gilmore	Robert Guthrie
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