

OPD5 WATTS UP

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OVERTON OFFICE
615 N. Moapa Valley Blvd.
P.O. Box 395
Overton, NV 89040
Telephone: (702) 397-2512
Fax: (702) 397-2583

MESQUITE OFFICE
731 Turtleback Road
Mesquite, NV 89027
Telephone: (702) 346-5710
Fax: (702) 346-5880

OFFICE HOURS
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Visit us online at
www.opd5.com

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

April 20, 2022
3:00 p.m.

Mesquite Office
Engineering Building
Board Room

May 18 2022
3:00 p.m.

Overton Office
Board Room

June 15, 2022
3:00 p.m.

Mesquite Office
Engineering Building
Board Room

Board meetings are subject to change. Please check our website, Facebook page or twitter feed a day prior to the meeting for a copy of the agenda.

The Power Behind Your Power

April is Lineworker Appreciation Month.
By Corey Dalley, Manager of Line Operations

You've likely noticed OPD5's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our communities. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. In April, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Month, I thought I'd 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 the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning.

Did you know that to become a journeyman lineworker it takes at least 7,800 hours of training and a minimum of four years? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line

of work.

Despite the many challenges, OPD5's lineworkers are committed to powering our local communities. 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 home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often hours later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Here in our service territory, OPD5 has 14 lineworkers that are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 775 miles of distribution power lines, and 101 miles of transmission power lines across two valleys on 1,932 square miles. In addition to the



LINE WORKER APPRECIATION MONTH
We thank lineworkers for their courage and commitment to powering our communities.

highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire.

Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away.

Watts New

Continued from Page 1

Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems. Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our communities. 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 in April, and follow “#ThankALineworker” on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.

Save Money by being smart this Spring

By Keith Buchhalter

Spring is the perfect season to spend time with family and friends, schedule activities outside the home, such as going to the park, and why not, impress everyone with your master chef skills while grilling those delicious burgers and hot dogs every weekend. It's also the perfect time to prepare your home for the hot Summer. Please keep in mind that to save on your Summer electric bills, you don't need to spend/invest a lot of money. Just maintain the equipment that helps cool your house when the outside temperature exceeds 90 degrees Fahrenheit and inspect for possible air leaks around windows and doors.

Last but not least, open the doors and windows to freshen up everything inside your house and let that nice breeze cool your home, without spending a penny. And guess what? This tip is the first of 7 energy-saving tips you will find in this article.

1. Open windows. Opening windows creates a cross-wise breeze, allowing you to cool your home without switching on air conditioners naturally.

2. Invite the Sun in. Yes, it feels like the Sun has abandoned us during the Winter, but that doesn't mean we

should ignore it during these shorter days. Open curtains and other window treatments on your west-and south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to heat your home naturally and save anywhere from 2-12 percent.

3. Service your air conditioner. Easy maintenance such as routinely replacing or cleaning air filters can lower your cooling system's energy consumption by up to 15 percent. Also, the first day of Spring could serve as a reminder to check your air conditioner's evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually to ensure the system is performing at optimal levels.

3. Use ceiling fans. Cooling your home with ceiling fans will allow you to raise your thermostat four degrees while lowering your electricity bills without sacrificing overall comfort.

4. Cook outside. On warmer spring days, keep the heat out of your home by using an outdoor grill instead of indoor ovens.

6. Caulk air leaks. Using low-cost caulk to seal cracks and openings in your home keeps warm air out -- and cash in your wallet.

7. Seal ducts. Air loss through ducts can lead to high electricity costs, accounting for nearly 30 percent of a cooling system's energy consumption. Sealing and insulating ducts can go a long way toward lowering your electricity bills.

Our offices will be closed on May 30th - Memorial Day. Regular office hours will resume the next business day after the Holiday is observed.

Home Safety Tips



Surge Protection 101

By Abby Berry

A power surge is an unexpected increase in voltage, and it can occur from a variety of sources. Regardless of the cause, power surges can majorly damage electronic devices and equipment in your home.

Let's take a look at common causes of power surges and how you can protect your sensitive electronics. One of the most common causes of a power surge is lightning. Most of us have experienced this during a severe thunderstorm. When lightning strikes an electrical system, the excess current must be channeled somewhere—unfortunately in many cases, it's sent through a home. Your best bet is to unplug all unused devices and electronics during severe thunderstorms.

Another common cause of power surges is electrical overload. This happens when devices or appliances are plugged into an outlet that can't handle the required amount of voltage, or if multiple devices are plugged into one outlet through an extension cord. If you're experiencing power surges due to electrical overload, it's time to call a qualified electrician to evaluate your home's circuits and electrical needs.

Faulty wiring in a home can also cause power surges. Damaged or exposed wires can cause spikes in voltage, creating a potentially dangerous situation. If you notice signs of faulty wiring, like visible burns on outlets, buzzing sounds from outlets or frequently tripped circuit breakers, your home may be due for electrical wiring repairs and updates.

Surges can also occur after a power outage. Sometimes, when electricity is being restored and reconnected, it's common to experience a quick surge in current. Similar to advice for a surge caused by lightning, it's best to unplug sensitive electronics during the outage—then wait to plug them back in after power is fully restored.

Aside from unplugging devices when you suspect a power surge, there are two ways you can take additional precautions to protect electronics in your home.

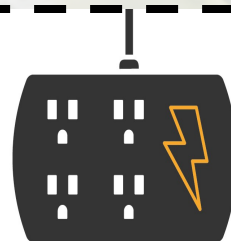
Point-of-use surge protection devices, like power strips, can protect electronics during most surges. But remember, not all power strips include surge protection, so read the packaging label carefully before you buy, and don't overload the power strip with too many devices. You can

also install specialized electrical outlets that offer additional surge protection. Talk to a trusted electrician to learn more.

Another option is a whole-home surge protector, which can help protect your home from larger, more powerful surges. In most cases, whole-home suppressors are connected to your home's service panel and include features like thermal fuses and notification capabilities that indicate when a device has been impacted by a surge. Whole-home surge protection prices vary based on the size of the home and suppressor. Whole-home suppressors should always be connected by a licensed electrician, so consider the cost of installation as well.

Occasional power surges are inevitable, but by unplugging devices when you think a surge may occur and using additional levels of protection like power strips or whole-home suppressors, you can better safeguard your sensitive electronics and devices.

Contact us if you have questions about ways to protect your home from power surges.



SURGE PROTECTION

Keep your electronic equipment safe.

A power surge is typically caused by lightning, changes in electrical loads, faulty wiring or damaged power lines.

Install power strips with surge protection to protect sensitive equipment.

- Easy to use (just plug them in)
- Protect electronics plugged into the device
- Must be replaced over time or after a major surge event



REMEMBER:

Not all power strips offer surge protection. Carefully read the packaging labels when purchasing.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.

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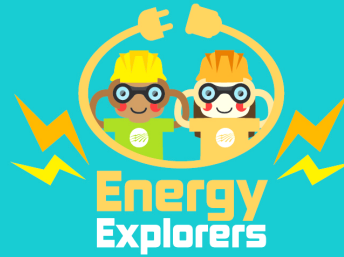
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LINEWORKERS?

Every April, we celebrate lineworkers and the hard work they do to make sure we have electricity to power our lives.

How much do you know about lineworkers?

Take the quiz below to find out!

(Use the answer key to check your work.)



LIKE US ON
FACEBOOK, FOLLOW US
ON TWITTER AND
INSTAGRAM @OPD5

Our Facebook page and twitter feed are valuable resources to provide our customers with news and updates whenever an unplanned power outage occurs.

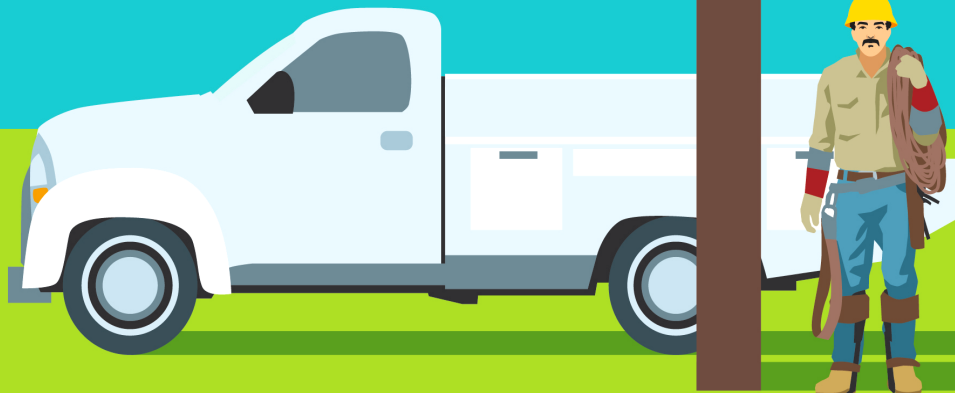
You can access both thru our website, they are setup in a way that does not require you to have a Facebook or twitter account to view the information.

We also post great tips on energy conservation, safety and emergency preparedness on Instagram.

Please remember, in the event of a power outage, do not report it via Facebook or twitter, we can't guarantee the delivery of messages received via social media to the right personnel in a timely manner.

In case of an unexpected power outage, please call us at (702) 397-2512 or (702) 346-5710. OPD5 has personnel on standby 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, including weekends and holidays to respond as quickly as possible in the event of an emergency.

1. Lineworkers have to wear a lot of gear to do their jobs. A lineworker's gear can weigh up to _____.
a. 15 pounds b. 50 pounds c. 80 pounds
2. Lineworkers maintain and repair electrical lines, but they do not install them.
a. True (no installation) b. False (They maintain, repair *and* install lines.)
3. There are approximately _____ lineworkers in the United States.
a. 50,000 b. 90,000 c. 120,000
4. Lineworkers must wear _____ clothing to protect them from a possible electric arc while working.
a. fire resistant b. extra thick c. leather or rubber
5. Lineworkers must wear special conductive boots when climbing a steel structure.
a. True b. False



Answer Key: 1) b. 50 pounds 2) b. False 3) c. 120,000 4) a. fire resistant 5) a. True

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