

APPRENTICE LINEMAN

MISSION STATEMENT

Through dedication, cooperation, community involvement, and local control, we provide safe, dependable, affordable energy and innovations for the betterment of our members – to improve the quality of life and create a brighter future for all.

SUPERVISOR: LINE FOREMAN, JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN

OBJECTIVES

To train in the construction, operation, and maintenance of overhead and underground electrical distribution, transmission, and substation facilities. Within the parameters dictated by the Line Foreman and Journeyman Lineman, cooperative policy and applicable RUS, OSHA, DOT, and other regulatory requirements, this position has limited autonomy and latitude to identify and solve problems and make decisions necessary to manage the operation of the electric distribution system dependent on training, experience, and certification.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Performs the essential functions and elements of this position competently, following an initial orientation period. Work may be varied; problems are difficult, and methods and procedures are defined, and judgment is required to apply them to work. Personal characteristics to include: a team player, high integrity, good personal habits, regular work attendance, courteous and friendly, able to work well with diverse groups of people, and gain and maintain respect of others, both inside and outside the Cooperative.

POSITION SPECIFICATIONS

1. Education, Training and Experience
 - a. High school diploma and enrollment/completion of a pre-apprenticeship lineman program is required. Montana Class A CDL driver's license required; must have and maintain an insurable driving record.
 - b. Apprentice Lineman Training Program must be completed within 4 years of beginning date of apprenticeship.
2. Knowledge, Skills and Abilities
 - a. This position requires knowledge of RUS line specifications, National Electric Code, OSHA Rules and Regulations, State electrical codes, and cooperative policies and procedures.
 - b. This position also requires basic technical utility knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform transformer hookups, set poles, operate heavy equipment, tools, and machinery.
 - c. Ability to effectively read and follow operations and safety manuals.

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- d. Ability to follow directions and work with other linemen and office personnel, as assigned.
- e. Ability to communicate and work with other linemen and line foremen to solve problems is required.

PRINCIPLE ACCOUNTABILITIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The following are major responsibilities of this position. They are not intended to cover each aspect of the position as the scope and duties of a given position may change or be temporarily altered based on the business needs of the Cooperative. The basic requirement of every position is to perform all tasks as assigned by the supervisor.

1. Prepares vehicles for construction or maintenance projects to include fueling, loading poles, stocking materials and supplies, and inspecting machinery and equipment.
2. Performs preventive maintenance on equipment.
3. Drives and operates bucket truck, digger, trencher, forklift, and skid loader to frame and set poles, lay wire, tie wire, connect and disconnect services, and tree trimming.
4. Works with apprentices and journeyman to construct and maintain power lines within the scope of training and certification. Climbs poles of all types and performs jobs required of linemen off the poles, including changing out of arms, transformers, conductors, etc.
5. Inspects existing power lines looking for problems, troubleshoot problems, and retires old power lines as required.
6. Responds to power outages and customer problems and troubleshoot to restore power in a timely manner.
7. May assist in the training of less-experienced apprentice linemen.
8. Studies and learns required job knowledge and skills to advance in a timely manner through the complete apprenticeship program.
9. Maintains current knowledge of equipment, RUS specifications, OSHA regulations, mapping system, and other operational and regulatory systems related to the responsibilities of the position.
10. Promotes electric use by taking every opportunity to acquaint the consumers with the productive uses of electricity; obtaining increased member and public understanding of the Cooperative's objectives, plans and programs, and of rural electrification in general.
11. Safety:
 - a. Attends regularly scheduled safety meetings.

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- b. Follows Cooperative, NEC, REA, OSHA, state, and other regulatory agency safety procedures and rules in the performance of all work.
 - c. Maintains vigilance for safety hazards.
 - d. Wears appropriate work clothing; hard hat, leather gloves, safety glasses, FR clothing and other safety equipment as necessary.
12. Inspecting and Record Keeping:
- a. Keeps own time records.
 - b. Fills out documents for installed or retired equipment.
 - c. Documentation to be accurate, legible, and prompt.
13. Perform all other duties as assigned.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS/WORKING CONDITIONS

Work may be varied and a person in this position has sufficient time to complete most tasks without a feeling of pressure. There are frequent opportunities to relax and from any physical exertion or to change position in work activities.

1. **Physical Effort & Dexterity:** Frequent physical activity, to including walking, stooping, bending, frequent lifting up to 50 lbs., occasional lifting in excess of 50 lbs., climbing, kneeling, reaching, stooping, crawling, pushing, and working in awkward positions and enclosed spaces is normal.
2. **Machines, Tools, Equipment required to operate:** Required to use heavy machines and equipment, and power and hand tools in field operations, to include pole climbing gear, hydraulic tamps, power line conductors, secondary wires, and volt/ohm meters. Must possess a current Montana commercial driver's license and have an insurable driving record.
3. **Visual Acuity, Hearing, Speaking:** Must be able to communicate clearly and accurately for work and safety compliance in a hot line work environment. Visual color discrimination is required to differentiate wire and part colors.
4. **Environment/Working Conditions:** Work is mostly outside in close proximity to hot line construction and maintenance and energized conductors in varying weather conditions; and is exposed to the hazards of electrical shock and burns as well as to falls. Position requires travel throughout the service area. Work regularly scheduled Monday-Friday, although weekends and after hours may be required to meet deadlines or address distribution problems.

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WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

1. Operations: This department is responsible for the physical equipment and plant involved in safely and efficiently distributing electricity to each member consumer. This includes construction and maintenance of electric distribution, substation, and transmission equipment & facilities. Resolving emergency/ hazardous conditions, resolving consumer trouble calls, and developing system upgrades for system. There are also contacts with the power supplier, consulting engineers and other people involved in the utility business.
2. Reporting Relationships: The Apprentice Lineman reports to the Line Foreman and Journeyman Lineman.