



THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11

You've likely noticed Miami-Cass REMC's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. 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. This month, as we celebrate National Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, 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 careers — 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 can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about 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, Miami-Cass REMC's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. 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 homes and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

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POWER OUTAGES

To report a power outage, call 844-473-6668. We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. 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 him for the work he does 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 on April 11, and follow “#ThankALineworker” on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.

ROB SCHWARTZ
CEO



Mike Fross is just one of the lineworkers at Miami-Cass REMC who puts his life on the line every day to help keep the lights on and the power flowing. Remember to thank a lineworker on National Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11.

BROADWAY BROADBAND BRINGS HIGH-SPEED INTERNET TO RURAL BUSINESS

Don's Amusements in Peru has been in business since 1972 and at its current rural location since 1983. The company purchases, repairs and restores a large variety of coin-operated arcade equipment and games of every kind — pinball, skee ball, valley pool tables, air hockey, and dartboards. The business was started by Don Wright and is currently operated by his son, Scott.

The equipment is marketed to individuals and businesses throughout the United States (locally you can find some of its games at Bonus Pints in Logansport), and the majority of its marketing is done online via Facebook, eBay, etc. Therefore,

having reliable, high-speed internet isn't just a luxury, it's a necessity.

Thankfully Broadway Broadband was able to make that a reality for Don's Amusements the beginning of March. Prior to receiving their fiber connection, the business' internet was unreliable at best and, at times, didn't work at all. This made running the business difficult.

The coming of high-speed internet to rural communities allows new businesses to locate in more areas. If you would be interested in



Customer Mike M. and Don's Amusements Owner Scott Wright appreciate the high-speed internet from Broadway Broadband.

discussing your organization's internet needs with Miami-Cass REMC, please call us at 888-620-3322 or email us at mcremc.coop.

Board meets in **FEBRUARY**

1. Counted seven board members attending. Attorney Jeremy Fetty attended via teleconference.
2. Jim Savage presented the WVPA report.
3. Todd Smith presented the IEC report.
4. Fetty presented the legal report.
5. Rob Schwartz presented the monthly CEO report.
6. Minutes from the previous board meeting were approved.
7. Financial report was given by Schwartz.
8. December monthly operating, member services and safety reports were reviewed and approved.
9. Set the next board meeting for Monday, March 28, at 6 p.m. at the REMC headquarters.

SAVE THE DATE

MIAMI-CASS REMC'S **ANNUAL MEETING**

JUNE 16
6-8 P.M.

PERU CIRCUS
BUILDING

BE PREPARED FOR SPRING'S FICKLE FOUL WEATHER

Are you prepared when docile rain showers turn into threatening storms?

BEFORE THE STORM:

Make sure your cell phone is charged. Consider purchasing an external battery charger for your phone to charge it without electricity.

Have a battery-operated radio available so you can stay updated on the latest weather watches and warnings.

Unplug appliances and other electrical items, such as computers. Damage can occur from power surges caused by nearby lightning strikes.

Have an emergency kit ready and create a family communication plan.

FOLLOWING THE STORM:

If you are driving and come upon fallen power lines, turn around. Never drive over or around fallen lines.

If a downed power line falls on your vehicle, stay in the vehicle. Call 911. Exit only if your life is in immediate danger from a fire or other reason. Then, jump clear of your vehicle being certain to never touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time; then shuffle away keeping your feet together at all times.

While checking for damage outside your home, be aware of hazards from exposed nails, broken glass, and broken tree branches dangling on other limbs.



IN THE EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Derek Haynes

Derek Haynes, lineman foreman for Miami-Cass REMC, started his career with the cooperative in September 2018 as a lineman. He worked in that position for his first year and transitioned to lead lineman for two years before starting his current position.

As lineman foreman, Haynes is responsible for informing the crew of jobs, allocating daily responsibilities, overseeing safety and recording lineman productivity. He enjoys working with the crew and being able to deliver reliable, cost-effective electricity to the members. Haynes considers each day successful if the job was completed safely.

He grew up in Gilead and is a 2002 graduate of North Miami High School. After graduating high school, Haynes worked in construction for five years. During that time, he had an accident which took him a year and a half to fully recover. As part of his recovery, Haynes had to do physical and speech therapy, and he couldn't walk for six months.

After leaving construction, he worked for five years as a jailer at the Miami County Jail. When Haynes left the jail, he went to Peru Utilities where he worked as a lineman. While at Peru Utilities, Haynes went back to school and graduated from Indiana Wesleyan University with a bachelor's degree in business.

He married his wife, Brittany, 10



Miami-Cass REMC Line Foreman Derek Haynes and his family.

years ago, and they live in Denver with their nine-year-old daughter and two sons, ages eight and three. Haynes enjoys spending time with his family, traveling, fishing, shooting and riding four wheelers. He said he is happiest when he spending time and sharing a meal with friends and family. Haynes also enjoys working with wood and making furniture.

A couple of interesting facts about him are that Haynes has a twin sister and his grandpa served as the president of Fulton County REMC in Rochester.

Something he has never tried before but would like to is skydiving. Also on his bucket list is traveling to Jerusalem, Paris and Rome.

Haynes appreciates the cooperative not only takes an interest in him as an individual, but in his family as well. His advice to someone who would be new to his position would be to pay attention and stay safe.

We at Miami-Cass REMC are proud to have Haynes as part of the co-op family. He is an asset to our team, and we are thankful for his years of service.