

## A Message from our GM, Chet McWhorter



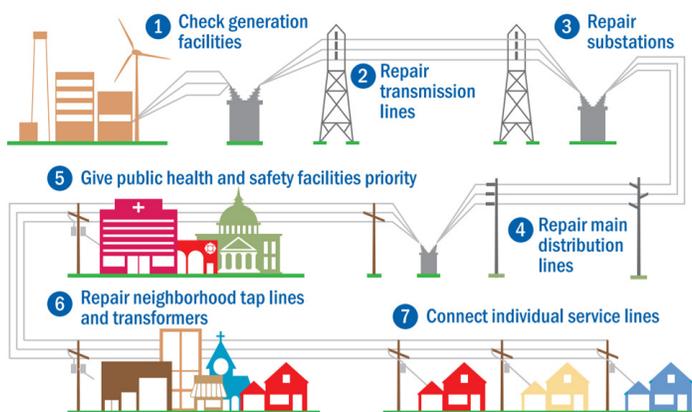
As I wrote last month, we had a nasty ice storm roll through our area on November 10th. This storm caused a fair amount of damage to our lines and a lot of outages. We know that this is a major headache and sometimes even more than a headache for our customers. Several of you have asked or commented on how and when we respond during these major events so a few of my teammates have asked me to write about how we prioritize during a large outage like we just went through.

When we first start getting calls, whether during a major storm or on a sunny Tuesday afternoon, we respond. If there is a single call, we generally head directly to the caller's address. Frequently, we get a few calls on the same outage and that leads us further back toward the substation or the source of electricity for the first caller. On a normal sunny Tuesday, the linemen will find the issue, make the necessary repairs, and turn the power back on to the few callers and everyone is happy. During a storm, not so much.

When we get the first call of a storm, the lineman heads out of the house with the same intent as any other outage. Often, he will notice ice on the lines as he is making his way into our headquarters to get his truck and tools. In the meanwhile, the afterhours call center will have sent him several more text messages about other outages. Operations and General Management also get these texts and emails informing of a multitude of unrelated outages and this is where the inside work or office work begins. Operations Management will begin to collate the outage calls into areas. They will also put our Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) to work. Using the AMI, we can call all our meters to see where the power is out. The process of operating the AMI is very important to our decision making. Dispatch will work in close concert with Operations to use the AMI to

determine whether an outage is on a specific phase or multiple phases and which breaker the outage is beyond. Additionally, Dispatch must run reports to determine which meters can be communicated with and then a decision must be made as to whether the meter is bad or whether the power is out. It is very time consuming, but it provides the linemen with excellent information and reduces the amount of time spent chasing down areas that require additional work.

When it is determined that a Transmission line is out, the linemen will head there first. The reason for this is that if the Transmission line is repaired and turned back on, this can get the most customers on in the least amount of time. Next, it will be ascertained if



a Substation is out or any main line feeders out of any Substation. Again, if there are Substations out, the linemen will deal with these outages for the same reason stated, it gets the most customers on when re-energized.

This order of events continues through the Substation feeders and the linemen will work their way out from the Substations through the feeders and multiphase lines eventually making it to the single accounts where there is still damage. Once we have got the main lines on, the impetus shifts to making sure that anyone with medical needs is helped first. We also consider livestock operations or other critical loads as a priority. There is no intent on our behalf to leave anyone out longer than necessary but sometimes I am sure it feels that way! We follow specific guidelines so that we can repeat the best practices outage after outage, regardless of who might be managing things in our office. Additionally, these guidelines remove any perception of favoritism or bad intent.

I know that we are not perfect, though we strive to do the best we can. These events are stressful for all of us and we appreciate that you all tend to be patient and understanding. I am hopeful that this glimpse into how outages are prioritized is helpful. Further, I know that this is not my normal article but a great question to ask is: Why be normal? I hope you and yours have a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year. If you have any questions regarding outages, contact Scott Haber at our office or you can always get ahold of me and I will get you answers. Thanks for reading and enjoy winter!



# Helping Decorate Around the Area

*The CCPPD linemen helped with Bancroft, Beemer and Dodge village decorations and the Dodge Christmas Tree. We take pride in helping the communities we serve. We are helping our friends and neighbors!*



## Cuming County 4-H'er Receives Electrical Award for his 4-H Project



Each year after the Cuming County Fair, Cuming County Public Power District gives out a special award to 4-H youth who enter electrical projects in the fair. The Grand Champion of this year's 4-H electrical award was Levi McKay.

The awards are normally presented to the winners at the annual 4-H Achievement Day Celebration in November, which is hosted by the Cuming County 4-H Council. Due to COVID-19, the 2020 4-H Achievement Day Celebration was cancelled so we had to improvise.

Congratulations Levi!

# CCPPD Outreach

## *Education and Community*

**Loan Program:** Cuming County Public Power District offers an interest free loan to qualified students. The purpose of the program is to offer interested students an opportunity to pursue a career in the utility industry. The loan amount is maximum \$1000 per academic year.

**Safety Demonstrations:** Our experienced safety team delivers life-saving lessons in an engaging and entertaining way. Electricity is vital to our demonstrations, however, it can also pose risks. Our demonstrations, available to any fire & rescue team, school, or camp ensures that everyone knows those risks.

**Youth Energy Leadership Camp:** Every summer, we are proud to offer young men and women the chance to attend Youth Energy Leadership Camp, hosted by the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA). This is an amazing, all-expenses paid opportunity open to all students who are currently in grades 9-11 and whose parents are Cuming County Public Power District customers. Students can apply anytime before May 1, 2021.

**Youth Tour:** A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to spend a week in Washington D.C. for local students that have attended the NREA Youth Energy Leadership Camp. Join nearly 2,000 students from all over the country to experience an all-expenses paid tour of the nation's capital.

**In-Class Presentations:** Are you a teacher planning your events for the new year? We would love to come talk to you about electricity safety, generation & more. If you would prefer virtual, we can plan that as well. Just give us a call.

**Community Outreach:** We support 4H, the Cuming County Fair, Beemer Community Club, Bancroft Community Club, Dodge Chamber, and West Point Chamber. We volunteer at many community events and love serving our area. Our Operation Round-Up Fund also supports many community events, fire & rescue departments, local schools and hospitals with funds. We do what we can to support our communities.

We love our communities and the customers we serve!



*School Safety Presentations*



*Youth Energy Leadership Camp*



*Youth Tour*



*Hanging Christmas Decorations*

# Linemen's Gear is Important

*It keeps them safe so they can go home each night!*

Most people are on autopilot with their job: Wake up, get ready, drive to work and take care of the tasks at hand. As far as getting the job done, it's the same for the Cuming County Public Power District's linemen, but it's not a job you can do on autopilot. You have to be alert, aware and focused at all times.

CCPPD's linemen operate 24/7/365 since they rotate being on-call for after hours, weekends and on holidays. When a storm hits and the lights go out, the linemen go out sometimes in inclement weather to restore power, as long as it is safe. Safety is our number one concern so if it isn't a safe situation, the linemen wait it out.



Safety covers many aspects, including the gear the linemen are required to wear. There are two different sets of gear a linemen can wear: bucket safety gear or climbing gear. When a lineman is in the bucket, he wears a safety harness (picture to left). He sometimes also wears his rubber gloves and sleeves to protect him if working on live

power lines.

The harness also keeps him safe if ever the bucket had a failure. Using the harness would be needed if he would need to repel from the bucket (picture to right) if there was a malfunction.

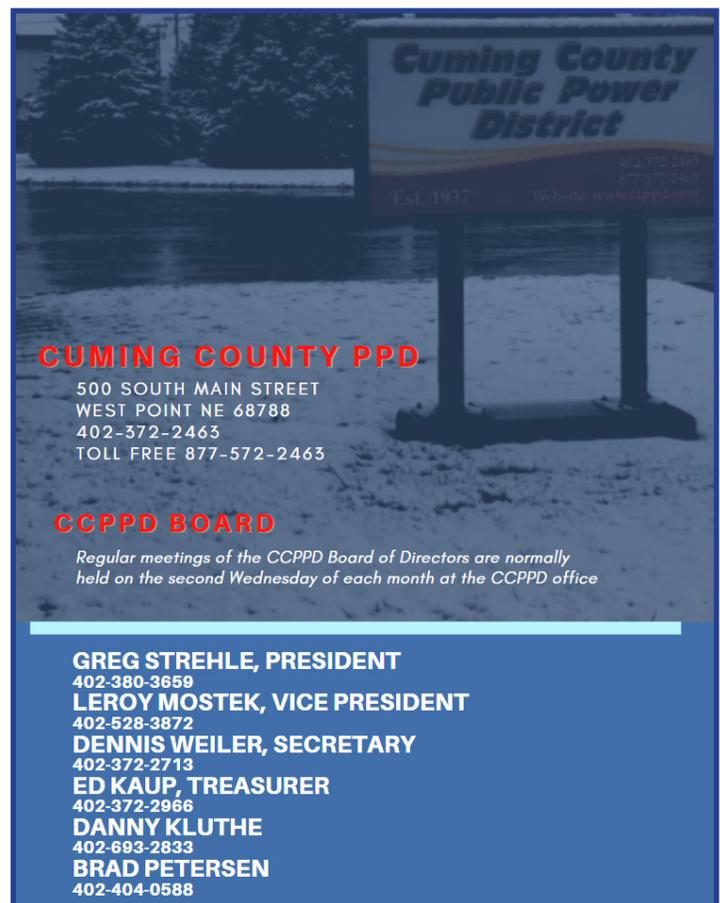
When a bucket truck is unable to get to a certain area, the linemen have to climb the power pole to make repairs. This is where the linemen's climbing



gear comes in (picture on right and below). They strap up their hooks, put on their 30-pound belt packed with their tools and they climb the pole. This is why they practice pole top rescues each year.



Now you can see why linemen's gear is so important and helps bring them each home safely every night. We are so proud of our linemen at CCPPD and the great work that they do. They will continue to always work safely while they keep the lights on!



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**CCPPD BOARD**  
Regular meetings of the CCPPD Board of Directors are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month at the CCPPD office

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