

Taylor Report



April 2020

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Remember to #ThankALineworker on April 13

Lineworkers serve on the frontlines of our nation's energy needs, and on April 13, 2020, Taylor Electric Cooperative, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, will honor the brave men and women who work hard to keep the lights on.

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are at the heart of our co-op.

When a storm hits, they set aside their personal priorities because Mother Nature doesn't work around holidays, vacations and birthdays. A service-oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineworker.

Taylor Electric Cooperative invites all co-op members to take a moment and thank a lineworker for the important work they do. On April 13, you can use #ThankALineworker on social media to show your support for the brave men and women who power our lives.



Taylor Electric linemen include:

Back row (l to r): Justin Fuchs, Ron Mayer and Geoff Mueller
Front row (l to r): Tim Habermeyer and Mike Eloranta

HELP KEEP ELECTRIC LINE WORKERS SAFE

- Be patient** when the power goes out. Workers need to work efficiently and **safely** to restore power.
- ZONE IN ON SAFETY**
Respect **roadside** work crews.
Don't drive distracted. Reduce your speed. Change lanes.
- 1 work zone crash occurs every **5.4 minutes**
- 70 work zone crashes result in **injuries each day**
- 12 work zone crashes result in at least **1 fatality each week**
- DON'T** post signs on **utility poles**. Foreign objects can **tear** utility workers' **protective clothing**, which is the first line of protection from an electric shock.
- Never plug a generator into a **wall outlet** in your home or garage. The power that back feeds into the electric line could **electrocute** a utility worker or neighbor.
- Electric line workers **RANK 15** on the list of **25 MOST DANGEROUS JOBS** in America. Help keep them safe!

Learn more at SafeElectricity.org



Photo by dylan nolte on Unsplash

Planning a Yard Project?

Don't Just Dig In

April is National Safe Digging Month. It reminds us all that as we begin beautifying our yards, we shouldn't just dig in. According to 811, the "Call Before You Dig" national hotline, an underground utility is damaged every nine minutes because someone didn't call before digging.

Whether it is a do-it-yourself project or you are hiring a professional, call 811 three days prior to starting any digging project to request that all underground utilities be marked. (Call-to-completion time varies from state to state.) The service is free.

You may think it won't hurt anything to dig in an unmarked yard when landscaping, installing a fence, deck or mailbox, or even "just" planting a small flower bed or bush, but damaging an underground cable can have serious consequences.

Hitting a line could result in serious injuries and disrupted service for you and your neighbors. It could also make a dent in your wallet for repair fees or other fines.

The 811 hotline points out that there is more than one football field's length of buried utilities for every man, woman, and child in the U.S.

Before digging:

- Call 811 and request a locate 3 days before work begins.
- Wait the required amount of time for affected utility operators to respond to your request.
- Confirm that all affected utility operators have responded to your request and marked underground utilities.
- Dig carefully around the marks with care.

Remember that privately owned underground lines will NOT be marked by location flaggers. Examples of private lines/equipment include well and septic, underground sprinkler systems, invisible fencing, gas or electric lines that serve a detached building, as well as any lines (electric, water, sewer) from the meter to your home.

COVID 19 and Taylor Electric

This message is as current possible, however with the delays in printing, it is March 25. As of the 18th of March, we did close our lobby to walk in traffic for the safety of our staff and potential prevention of the spread of the virus. It was a tough decision, because we are in the world of providing service to our members and the personal interactions are an important part of that. The office staff is still available by phone if needed.

Our crews will continue to work through these challenging times, performing regular maintenance and construction to keep our system reliable. Our response time to outages will remain a priority. Fortunately, our linemen work outdoors in situations that allow for natural social distancing and with some changes in work practices, we can accommodate the best practices that are recommended to deal with the COVID 19 issues.

One of greatest challenges for our guys is that they want to do whatever it takes to make sure our members have power. Sometimes that means coming inside the house to check on member's breakers if no other cause can be found for an outage. That is the one practice that we might normally do, but with all the warnings and rules, we just can't do it. One of the easiest practices from the member's perspective is to verify that your main breakers are not tripped before calling in an outage. If it is your main breaker and you can reset it, you get your power back on sooner. You also save costs, since we charge for trips that are not caused by our equipment; and you limit everyone's possible exposure.

To check the breaker, be sure to turn it all the way to off and back to on. If either operation is not a crisp click or if the breaker continues to trip, you may have a problem in your wiring that would require an electrician to repair. If your breaker panel is in a location that can be challenging to get to, make plans before you have the need. Keep a flashlight with good batteries in a readily accessible location. If you are not physically able to get to the panel, please have a contact that can help in that situation. Checking with nearby neighbors can also help to indicate if your outage is affecting more than just your house, but remember our lines don't always deliver power to two neighbors from the same source, much like leaves on the trees don't all grow on the same branch.



Taylor Electric will be closed on Friday, April 10th for Easter. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday!