



NOVEC Celebrates National Lineman Appreciation Day

NOVEC and all of America's consumer-owned electric utilities will honor the nation's line technicians on April 11, National Lineman Appreciation Day, for the difficult and dangerous work they do to keep the lights on.

"In our high-tech world today, electricity seems almost as necessary as air and water," says Mason "Skip" Hollcroft, NOVEC manager of construction. "Linemen, our first responders, go out in all kinds of storms and conditions to restore power to customers. They work with high-voltage wires and equipment on 40-foot poles. It takes years of training, as well as physical stamina and great focus to do what they do."

During Jonas, the blizzard that hit the East Coast in January, NOVEC's line and tree crews restored power while snow was falling two-three inches an hour and accumulating three feet in some parts of NOVEC's territory. Stiff wind gusts didn't stop them.

NOVEC proudly recognizes all electric line technicians for the services they perform around the clock in dangerous conditions to keep the power flowing and the public safe.

"Working around energized lines is inherently dangerous, requiring the ability to concentrate on the immediate task, even when confronted with Mother Nature's wrath," says NOVEC President and CEO Stan Feuerberg. "Despite

these challenges, our line techs have an outstanding safety record. Line technicians often do not receive the recognition they deserve for the job they do, so it is important that we take the time to simply say thank you."

NOVEC invites members to take a moment on April 11, or on any day, to thank the Co-op's line techs for the work they do.



To show your support, use #ThankALineman on social media.



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If You See Something, Say Something™

America's electric utilities ask every citizen to help protect infrastructures vital to our economy and way of life by taking part in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) "If you See Something, Say Something" national campaign.

"We're asking all Co-op members to report to us anything suspicious near our substations, power poles, ground transformer boxes, or any other utility facility," says Eric Depukat from NOVEC's risk management department. "They should call us on a special security phone number: 703-335-0500. If it's an emergency, people should call the police at 911."

Seven Signs of Terrorism:

1. **Surveillance** — Recording or monitoring activities, drawing diagrams, studying maps or blueprints
2. **Information gathering** — Trying to collect information about NOVEC, its facilities, or its employees
3. **Testing security** — Watching to see how long it takes emergency responders to arrive at a scene and timing their reaction
4. **Planning/acquiring supplies** — Purchasing or stealing explosives, weapons, or ammunition; storing harmful chemicals or equipment
5. **Suspicious people who look like they don't belong** — The appearance of people who don't seem to belong in a workplace, business establishment or neighborhood; anyone with odd behavior
6. **Rehearsal or dry run** — Rehearsing or practicing a plan of action or scheme; monitoring police radios; recording emergency response times; mapping routes and traffic flow
7. **Deploying assets, getting into position** — People and supplies getting into position to begin an operation.
Call NOVEC before terrorists act!

Depukat notes that suspicious behavior may occur months or even years before a terrorist group strikes. Therefore, he urges Co-op members to report anything suspicious — no matter how insignificant.

To learn more about what to observe and report if you see suspicious activity, read the March/April edition of *Cooperative Living* magazine.



Did you notice the PCA Credit on your electric bill?

Beginning Jan. 1, 2016, NOVEC customers have received a power-cost-adjustment credit of just over 1.2 ¢ for every kilowatt-hour used. Ultimately this credit, approved by the Virginia State Corporation Commission, results in a reduction of roughly \$15 per month on the average residential energy bill, which is about 1,200 kWh.



Keep an eye out for additional information in a special edition of *What's Current* with your bill next month.

Tip of the Month: Energy Efficient Landscaping

A well-designed landscape provides both energy efficiency and curb appeal for your home. The type of plants you choose is as important as where you plant them. Shade trees can block hot sun rays from streaming through windows, bearing down on your roof, and drive up air-conditioner use. In the winter, deciduous shade trees lose their leaves and let in warmth.

Source: www.energy.gov/energysaver/articles/tips-landscaping



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