

Graduates of the Power Line Worker course are generally hired by electric utilities or construction contractors to work as apprentice lineworkers. Apprenticeship lasts four years. It includes on-the-job training and usually some correspondence coursework.

Average first-year apprentice pay in Minnesota is \$16 per hour plus a benefit package, with graduated increases through apprenticeship. Journeymen usually make \$20-\$30 per hour. Most lineworker jobs are unionized.

Following completion as an apprentice, lineworkers attain journeyman status. After gaining experience, some go on to lead crews, be foreman, superintendents or move to other utility jobs.



### Minnesota Power Line Schools

Dakota County Technical College	
Rosemount, MN	1-877-937-3282
MState	
Wadena, MN	1-877-450-3322
Minnesota West Technical College	
Jackson, MN	1-507-847-7920

*Do you enjoy.....*

- working outdoors?*
- working with hand tools?*
- operating trucks and equipment?*
- being part of a team?*

*Consider a career as an  
electrical  
line  
worker.*



*Career information and  
educational scholarships  
courtesy of:*

**McLeod Cooperative Power Association**  
3515 11th Street East  
Glencoe MN 55336  
1-800-494-6272



**Minnesota has three Power Line Worker schools. Each program is 9-12 months in length and 30-40 semester credits. Average tuition and fees are \$3,200.**

**Information on these 3 schools is listed on the back of the brochure.**



## **Job Description for Power Line Worker**

They work outside most of the day, in storms as well as in sunshine. They operate large equipment such as trenchers, backhoes, digger trucks for setting poles and bucket trucks.

They build new overhead electric lines by putting poles in the ground, attaching hardware to the poles, and then stringing the electric wires. Line workers hook up lines to transformers. They perform maintenance and repairs to overhead and underground conductors. They do maintenance in substations, repair security lights and install meters.

Line workers perform underground line construction by trenching and then laying the conductors in the trench.

Sometimes they are bringing electric service to new homes and businesses. Sometimes the job is to rebuild a line along a highway under construction. When customers lose power, the line workers go out, day or night, to repair the problem.

Line workers receive safety and first aid training. Often they work on energized electric lines which require strict safety practices and concentration on the job being done. Lineworkers learn to climb poles but most work today is done out of an aerial bucket. In Power Line Worker school students test for their CDL, commercial driver's license, to be able to drive trucks over 26,000 lbs. GVW.

Being a line worker requires good mechanical skills and math skills. The ability to follow directions and work with others as a team are important. It's also helpful if you have no fear of heights. Experience operating farm or other large machinery can be helpful.

## **Scholarships Available**

McLeod Cooperative Power is offering several \$500 scholarships for school year 2004-05. Current seniors in high school or other high school graduates who enroll in the Power Line Worker program at one of the schools mentioned in this brochure are eligible. To be considered for a scholarship you must complete the MCPA scholarship application and be a graduate of a high school located in Carver, McLeod, Renville or Sibley County in Minnesota.

Recipients selected will have \$500 paid towards tuition.