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Spotlight

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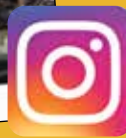
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Starting with this issue we have a new recurring section dedicated to those who have been injured or lost while on the job and also shining a light on the verified 501(c)(3) charities and support organizations that step-up for injured linemen, the fallen, and their families. The point of it is to help you stay aware and keep your mind on what you're doing and, if the worst happens, you know where to find help.

While playing around with A.I. (Grok), I asked it to colorize one the old Dale Hammond cartoons, and it really made a big difference. You can find it on page 20. Dale was always a friend to the magazine allowing us to use his work and I believe he would be happy to see this. If anyone reading this knows any of Dale's descendants, I would be very happy to hear from them. My contact is on page 5.

I hope you enjoy your magazine!

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Powerlineman Spotlight

In this issue of *Powerlineman Magazine* we have Jared Greenlee. To see more stories go to powerlinemanmag.com.

Tell us about yourself. Walk us through your story—how you got started and how you got to where you are today.

I was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, which is a rough place. My dad worked for Entergy. When he took a buyout in 1995, we moved north to the Ozark Mountains immediately, and that's where I've lived ever since and always will. I grew up on a farm in the country, with hunting and fishing as a major part of my life. My dad came back to Entergy in Northern Arkansas in 1999 as a lineman and retired from there 13 years ago. Growing up with a dad as a serviceman meant I got to ride along on trouble calls with him on the weekends and rode to school in his bucket truck every morning until I was old enough to drive. But it also meant he was gone a lot and missed most of my ball games and events. I told myself I was never going to take a serviceman



Jared Greenlee at an ice storm in Spruce Michigan, March 2026.

4 to 6 miles of underground lines through old farmland, installing hundreds of pad mounts and secondary pedestals on each project. Around that same time, I finally convinced a beautiful girl I had chased forever to go on a date with me. We have now been together for 22 years and have a beautiful family together. For most of our marriage, I was still on call with Entergy full-time and responded to every thunderstorm that hit. She was used to my phone ringing around the clock and FR clothing taking over the closets. After I left Entergy in 2020, I took a foreman position on a reconduct crew with a union contractor. This meant I was no longer

I founded my own company, Journeyman Gear, and I have released one brand new tool per month ever since.

on call, had more freedom than ever, and definitely made more money. Even more importantly, it allowed me to move forward with all the new tool inventions I had thought about for years. I founded my own company, Journeyman Gear, and I have released one brand new tool per month ever since. At Entergy, I rolled on many hurricanes and ice storms, but nothing like what I've seen as a union contractor. Since 2020, I have responded to storms from Colorado to Michigan, Maine to the Everglades, and every state

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position for that reason—I knew how it felt as a kid and wasn't going to miss out on my own kids' lives the same way. After high school, I was offered what I considered a dream job for an 18-year-old country boy: driving around a fish farm shooting ducks, water turkeys, and snakes with their trucks, guns, and unlimited ammo. I thought I had won the lottery. Believe it or not, that got old after a record hot summer and record cold winter. That's when I got offered a job on an underground crew for Entergy and never looked back. I immediately started on a crew working all over North Arkansas. Back in the 2004 era, most of the new White River bottomland communities were being built. We would unload equipment and dig in



Corner Pocket.

in between. After my crew returned home from Houston for Hurricane Beryl in July 2024, I knew I had way too much on my plate—running a growing tool company, raising a family, and building powerlines. I hung up my full-time crew life and now only take storm calls. This has allowed me to travel coast to coast attending lineman rodeos, tool expos, and appearing on several major linemen podcasts. Most importantly, I'm now able to be the dad in the 3 p.m. school pickup line, the husband at

the dinner table, and part of my family's home life every day. Those will always be the highest priorities on my list.

What inspired your first tool invention for Journeyman Gear, and can you walk us through one or two of your favorite or most popular tools so far—how they solve real problems on the line, and what kind of feedback you've gotten?

My first tool to move into production and release to the public was the Corner-Pocket (#JG222). Every bucket on earth has about 40 inches of combined corner space that you couldn't store tools in because a bucket hook won't stay on the corners due to the lip of the bucket getting thicker. The CornerPocket is the only tool on earth designed to mount into the corners of our buckets, providing a solid option for hanging tools and equipment. It has been approved by most of the largest utility companies in North America. We've sold thousands of these amazing tools since 2022, and I just released the second version last month with many upgrades. Naturally, that will always be

my favorite because that's where it all started. My second favorite, going off sales alone, is the Bit-Grip. This is a solid steel 7/16 quick chuck with a strong carabiner system welded in. It is designed to safely holster our auger bits and bone sockets while working off hooks. This tool was envisioned after I was hit in the head by a falling drill bit while on hurricane duty in Delaware two years ago. My pole buddy was up a pole trying to balance his bit on his belt between uses, and it got away from him. When I see a problem,



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my mind cannot help but look for a new way of doing it. By that night I had it figured out. I immediately ordered material and 12kN carabiners by the thousands. The Bit-Grip was a hit. My third favorite and most-used tool is the Journeyman Gear EDC Plumb Bob. These are laser-cut out of 1/4-inch steel plate and powder coated. They come with a Hi-Viz orange string with a magnet on the end so when you wrap it up, it stays that way until the next pole. This one is definitely a major hit. Such a simple but genius tool. Most of my career I had used makeshift plumb bobs on every pole. Never had one that could fit in a pocket, much less be carried all day. Probably 10 years ago I made the first one of these by hand, and I still have it on display now. It stayed a secret until last year when I released them to the world. With well over 5,000 sold worldwide in the first year, it was a great secret to share. It is the coolest feeling when I get feedback from other linemen using my tools. I have heard great things, along



I love running into guys on storm calls that have my tools and don't have a clue that I'm the guy who invented it.

with some issues. Over the years I have made several changes and upgrades to tools at the request of guys in the field—from material changes and measurement adjustments to add-ons and options. I would be a fool not to keep my ear to the tracks in this industry. I love running into guys on storm calls that have my tools and don't have a clue that I'm the guy who invented it. I like to keep it a secret as long as I can, but usually by the end of the storm they have it figured out from the other fellas. The ultimate humble feeling comes when I open an email or get a call saying one of my tools has now been approved by a major utility like PG&E or Duke Energy. When I worked at Entergy, I was on the tool approval board, so I know how many hurdles there are when trying to introduce a new product. In some cases, I jumped hurdles for four years straight trying to get Journeyman Gear in those doors. So to see many of my tools make it through those gates feels unreal. I'm forever grateful to all the





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people who have helped me get there. I'll never stop inventing new tools. I will run out of time way before I run out of ideas. So stay tuned.

PL: What advice would you have for other linemen that have a good idea?

There are a few things I'd like to go back and tell myself when I started Journeyman Gear—which would be exactly what I would tell anyone with a great idea and the vision to see it come to life. Don't let the fear of failure make any decisions for you. The absolute worst-case scenario as a lineman starting any side quests is if it fails, you just go back to a line crew until you retire. Please note that would be most guys' best-case scenario if they never try something new. Don't be reserved about starting out small. Every single company there is was started as a small operation, usually in a garage or spare room. You don't need a half-million-dollar building with a sign out front to get started. You need a \$150 computer and an LLC to get stepping. If you have a great idea, there will be two options for you:

You manufacture the tool yourself and market it under your own brand (which is what I did). This option will cost the most upfront but will pay the most once the tool is rolling.

You build a prototype and pitch the tool to an established manufacturer within the same industry the tool is designed for. For linemen these will be companies like Klein, Milwaukee, Estex, Utility Solutions, Journeyman Gear, MADI, LineRoots, DDIN. The list is long. This option is very tough to ink a deal with that would pay you enough in royalties to satisfy your efforts.

I can say as a tool inventor and a manufacturer, it is much easier to come up with a new idea than it is to bring it to life, get it into production, and maintain inventory. The absolute hardest fight you will encounter is getting a new product out into the world of marketing and into the field on jobsites. This will take twice as long as you think, and networking with distributors is your only hope. Like we talked about earlier, I have always had newly invented tools on my trucks, but I let the fear of failure or starting out small keep me from doing anything with them. I wish I would have started Journeyman Gear way earlier in life. I can say that now we are at nearly five years in and I'm proud of how far I've gone with it. I spend a lot of time coaching guys in this industry, and I'd be happy to help anyone with a new idea.

Is there anything you would like to say to the younger generation of Linemen?

I can tell you something I've experienced my whole career that works makes a huge impact. Drive around until you see a line crew, pull over and go shake some hands and introduce yourself. Get 1x number to call that afternoon when they are not too busy. Trust me.

If I can ever help anyone, don't hesitate to get ahold of me. I'll make time and pay it forward just like guys did for me before. Find me at www.journeymangearhq.com, jared@journeymangearhq.com.

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The Rural Electrification of America

The creation of Rural Electric Cooperatives marked a turning point in American history, lifting rural communities out of isolation and hardship by replacing darkness with light, and uncertainty with opportunity and hope.

By Alan Drew, Northwest Lineman College

As the use of electric power evolved, most power companies quickly found that the biggest profits came from supplying power to customers in densely populated areas. There were obviously more customers per mile of line to pay for the costs of building power lines. Accordingly, people and businesses located in larger cities were able to enjoy the benefits and improved lifestyle that electric power provided.

The farmers of rural America became familiar with the benefits of electricity when they visited friends or relatives in larger cities. They were able to see how appliances such as washing machines, irons, and electric lights improved the quality of life.

In addition, some farms were located near enough to the larger cities to have power

The beginning of the effort to bring power to the farms can be traced back to Theodore Roosevelt's administration in the early 1900s

and use it for pumping, harvesting, and other tasks, which significantly improved productivity. The effort to bring power to the farms can be traced back to Theodore Roosevelt's administration in the early 1900s. Many politicians recognized the drudgery-ridden conditions on the farms, and were alarmed at the number

of young Americans leaving the farms for the larger cities

In the 1920s, the Governor of Pennsylvania commissioned Morris Cooke, an electrical engineer from Philadelphia, to conduct a study of power utilization in the state. Cooke stated that the study indicated that "Widespread rural electrification is socially and economically desirable and financially both sound and feasible."

America was reeling from the throes of the Great Depression when Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected President in 1933. Roosevelt promised a "New Deal" to improve productivity and quality of life for America. Roosevelt was aware of Morris Cooke's knowledge and efforts regarding power for rural America and appointed him to his administration. Cooke, along with Nebraska senator George Norris, was



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largely responsible for paving the way for the electrification of rural America.

Formation of the REA

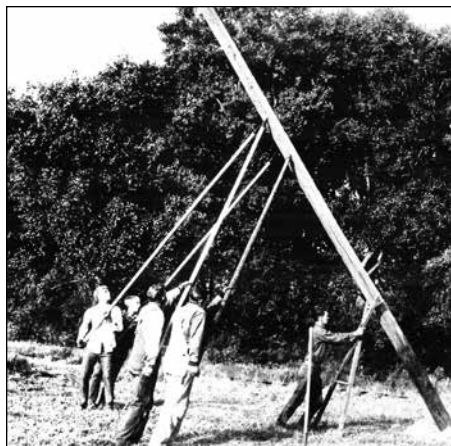
On May 11, 1935, Franklin Roosevelt signed an executive order which officially established the Rural Electrification Administration, which would be referred to in the future as “The REA”: The next milestone was the legislative approval and presidential signing of the REA Act in 1936. The newly formed REA had a momentous challenge – “electrify more than 5 million farms.” At this time, only 10% of all rural farms had central station electric service.

The Formation of Rural Electric Cooperatives

With the REA, officially established cooperatives began to form in rural farm areas of the East and the Midwest. Public meetings were held, and REA representatives answered farmers’ questions and explained the cooperative’s formation and the loan process for financing the construction of the lines. Farmers were told they would be responsible for the wiring of their buildings to utilize power. Farmer’s wives were encouraging their husbands to come up with the required \$5 membership fee so they could get an iron, a radio, a washing machine, etc.

Building the Lines

Under the direction of Assistant Administrator John Carmody, REA engineering made a significant effort in studying ways to reduce the cost per mile of line, while



A Cullman Electric Cooperative gang setting a pole using wooden pikes and the “jenny” to set a pole on a rural line extension.



The famous photo of the four horsemen operating the payout reels of overhead conductors that were being installed on a rural line extension.



Showing a Garkane Rural Electric Cooperative line crew setting a pole with a home-made derrick in Southern Utah.

at the same time expediting construction. Many significant innovations, which are still in use today, were developed by REA engineers. Three of the key concepts were:

- The use of high-strength conductors permitted longer spans and reduced the number of poles per mile from about 30 to 18.



Cooperative linemen installing a transformer to serve a farmer at the end of a rural line extension.

Moving Belt Assembly Line

1. **Pole location determination and staking** – Two men with a load of stakes and some paint determined span lengths and staked the pole locations. Construction symbols were painted on the stakes. In many cases, farmers were recruited to remove any trees along the route of the line.
2. **Pole delivery** – a truck driver and his helper delivered poles along the route of the line.
3. **Material layout** – two men in a truck offload insulators, cross-arms, and hardware based on the symbols on the stakes.
4. **Hole digging and framing** – a gang of men dig the holes by hand and frame the poles with crossarms, insulators, etc. They hand-dig and install anchors and assemble guy wires. In some cases, homemade mechanical diggers were used.
5. **Pole setting** – a gang of men with pike poles and a “jenny” set, plumbed and tamped the poles. In some cases, homemade derricks were used.
6. **Conductor stringing** – the last function involved a large gang who strung the conductor and installed transformers and services.



Showing a Cooperative lineman connecting a service to a farmer's ranch.

- A single-phase line design with lower class poles minus the then-familiar cross arms.
- The development of a system-wide planning mechanism that puts construction on an assembly line basis.

The REA "moving belt" assembly line technique revolutionized rural line construction. This assembly line consisted of six separate specialized functions that were performed in sequence (See sidebar).

As one can imagine, this was an impressive operation with gangs of men spread out over the line routes moving along at a rapid pace. The experienced line crews were supplemented by large numbers of farmers who provided a considerable amount of labor for digging holes, stringing conductors, and removing trees.

With respect to wire stringing, the most widely published photo from the early days of electrification was the four horsemen of the lines. The photo shows four local farmers who were hired by a line contractor to assist with wire stringing a rural line extension for the Brown-Atchison Electric Cooperative in Kansas.

Clay-Union Electric Corporation in southeastern South Dakota is generally recognized as the first rural electric cooperative established under the Rural Electrifica-



A Pedernales Electric Cooperative lineman installing his tools in preparation for providing service.

tion Administration (REA) program, with members meeting on November 25, 1935.

Getting Ready for Power

The wiring of the farms to use power also presented quite a challenge for the farmers and the cooperatives. "Group wiring plans" let co-op members join together to get their farms wired ahead of the lines being energized, while minimizing the cost to each farmer. Lighting equipment

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Advertisement about the REA.

manufacturers working with the REA offered lighting packages, including nine modern fixtures at a low price of \$18. In most cases, the farmers were ready for power before it arrived, and there were hundreds of farms with lighting fixtures, electric ranges, refrigerators, radios, anxiously waiting for the time that the magic power would be turned on.

Let There be Light

Farmers and their families witnessed the glow of a naked light bulb and were in

awe of what it did and meant. When the lights came on, the experience became an iconic event that would be recalled many times over the years. Any example of this is well expressed by the following recollection of a Kentucky farmer. "We were all waiting for the line to be energized late in the afternoon. Everyone was running around turning switches on to see if the power was there. When my father finally flipped a switch, the light came on. He did not want to let go of the switch for fear the light would go out. Tears streamed down my mother's face, and we all rejoiced at the miracle that had just occurred."



Children in a rural school viewing the magic of an electric light provided by a Rural Electric Cooperative.

An East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative member's son recalled his father's reaction to receiving electric power:

"My father cried the night we got electric power on the homeplace. He didn't want to go to bed. He sat at the kitchen table with his bible under that bulb and read for hours. We thought the light bulb was a miracle."

The REA continued to develop more uniform standards and construction methods, which lowered costs and allowed more cooperatives to be established. By 1941, more than 800 cooperatives were established, and 35% of all rural farms were electrified. World war two slowed the cooperative movement, but by the end of 1950, more than a million miles of lines had been energized, and more than 75% of American farms were electrified.

Conclusion

The electrification of rural America stands as one of the significant accomplishments of the 20th century. The cooperative spirit is carried on today by more than 900 cooperatives serving 42 million customers in 47 states. Being a lineman at one of these cooperatives is a rewarding position that can lead to a great career. I ask the readers to pause and think about how it must have been for those farmers when those first lights came on!



The International Lineman's Museum, One Year Later

By Robert Padgett

Well, it's been a year since we announced that we would be moving the International Lineman's Museum to the "Sunshine State." For those of you who may have missed last year's article, we were able to acquire sixteen acres and five buildings in the central Florida area of Leesburg. It has generated an overwhelming positive response that has included many more visitors than expected for a project that is still in its infancy.



1940's era "A-Frame Pole Setter and a 25-ft. Ladder Truck.



1950's era AB Chance Live-line Trailer.

However, there have been a few who are partial to the original Shelby, North Carolina location and wondered if the Memorial Brick Walkway and Courtyard would be moved from its current location. The answer is no. The plans are to keep it as is and that will allow those interested, to still be able to have a new brick inserted next to a current brick of a family member or "Lineman Brother" if they wish to do so.

There will also be many artifacts still on display at the original museum. This only makes sense as the goal of the ILM is to preserve the history of this great trade. Removing everything would be like

erasing a part of history that this museum's foundation was built on.

The new brick courtyard will be overlooking a pond (yes, including native alligators who were here first) as well as a twenty foot cross that goes with the mission of a provider of this property, "To Honor Linemen and Glorify God."

Thanks to folks like Excursion Line Con-

struction out of London, Kentucky, who donated their time and resources to relocate/transport at least a half dozen pieces of equipment like the 1920 Westinghouse mobile substation that weighs over 30,000-lbs. as well as the 1945 Studebaker ladder truck. Without generous people like this, we would not be able to build this "Showcase of Linework History."

We have had volunteers from local utilities come to offer their support as well as some South Carolina Co-op linemen who traveled down to frame and set poles. We've had linemen from as far away as Texas take vacation to come and assist with the



1920 Westinghouse Portable Substation.



Oldest known Wooden "Hotstick Trailer," circa. 1926.

building of the museum.

Please don't assume that we are fully open for business though. We have much yet to do and it is a daily, never-ending work in progress type project.

A few major projects nearing completion are the Edison Light Plant, Westinghouse substation and the Tesla Laboratory, built inside the 12,500 sq. ft. building. Also, "Pardon our dust, under construction" displays like an early original glove and blanket test lab and Mathias Klein's original blacksmith shop.

One thing that is up and running is the The Venue at Lineman Ranch. The five thousand square foot banquet facility has been hosting meetings, retirement parties, weddings and even celebrations of life ceremonies from locals to customers many miles away. The goal of the 'Venue'



The Fallen Lineman Memorial Building.

is to help fund the daily up-keep and monthly operating expenses of the ILM. However, that doesn't mean that we are not in need of your generous donations while we are building the many displays etc.

Example; If you are mad at a family member and want to remove them from your will, we will gladly take their por-

tion of the inheritance. Not really, but anything helps.

The Fallen Lineman Memorial building is in the middle of a remodel as well and will pay tribute to those taken too soon in the line of duty. Paying such a tribute is not meant to be a sad display, but more like a "You are not forgotten after paying the ultimate sacrifice."

There is a lot of work to be done in the coming months in order to make this the premier showcase of "Lineman History" and the preservation of it. Please check us out on Facebook @linemanmuseum, instagram @lineman_museum, instagram @linemanranch, and Facebook @TheFallenLinemanOrganization, to keep up with the news, happenings, and progress of the museum, as well as dates for the opening of various parts of the Lineman Ranch LLC.

An advertisement for DragonWear Pro Dry Tech Dual Hazard Long Sleeve FR Shirt. The ad is split into two panels. The left panel shows a lineman in a grey long-sleeve shirt and white hard hat working on a wooden utility pole. The right panel shows a lineman in a tan and brown long-sleeve shirt and white hard hat. The DragonWear logo is in the top left. A red 'NEW' banner is on the left. Text at the bottom includes the product name, technical specifications (CAT 2, 12 CAL/cm², NFPA 70E, NFPA 2112), the website (DRAGONWEAR.COM), and social media icons for Instagram, TikTok, X, YouTube, and LinkedIn.

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Lineman Relief Watch

By Tammy Duncan

This dedicated spread honors the real risks of our trade while shining a light on the non-profits stepping up for injured linemen, their families, and the fallen. The quarterly report covers incidents reported from January 1 to April 30, 2026, drawn from public industry reports and news accounts. These are our brothers. Their stories remind us why the rules exist and why these support networks matter more than ever.

Quarterly Incident Report: January 1 – April 30, 2026,

January 2026

Jonesboro, LA (Entergy): Hunter Alexander, a 24-year-old Entergy lineman, was

electrocuted while restoring power lines damaged by Winter Storm Fern. Working from a bucket truck, he suffered severe electrical burns to both arms and hands. He was airlifted to a specialized burn unit, placed on a ventilator, and underwent multiple surgeries including fasciotomies and tissue debridement. He faced serious complications, including bleeding that required readmission.

February–March 2026

Ongoing recovery from January storm-related incidents continued under challenging post-storm conditions. No major new public reports of fatalities emerged in February.

March 2026

Harlan County, KY: Bryson Cottongim, a 19-year-old lineman from Clay County who had been on the job only a few weeks, was electrocuted while installing fiber cable from a bucket truck. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Family and friends remember him as a country boy full of life and enthusiasm who was just beginning his career in the trade. The loss of such a young man has been felt deeply in the local community and beyond. Early March also saw a non-fatal incident in Baton Rouge, LA, where a utility worker fell from a burning bucket truck and sustained serious burn injuries. He was hospitalized in serious condition.

April 2026

Fort Worth, TX: Ryan Vargas, a 21-year-old lineman apprentice, was fatally electrocuted while working on power lines from a bucket truck on East Berry Street. An arc flash occurred during the job, and a second lineman was also injured and hospitalized. Ryan is remembered by his crew as a dedicated, hard-working young man who stayed close to home to care for his family. His loss has hit the Texas lineman community hard.

These incidents serve as sobering reminders of the persistent dangers in our trade — especially during storm restoration and everyday energized work where bucket-truck contacts, arc flashes, and fatigue can turn deadly in an instant. Even when crews move with care and follow established safety practices, the job can change without warning. That's precisely why the support networks and charities exist — to stand with our injured brothers, their families, and those left behind.



Cartoon by Dale Hammond, colored by GROK.



Join the LADWP Team!

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has immediate openings for qualified journey-level line workers. At LADWP, you'll make a difference by providing the power supply that runs industry, commerce, and households throughout the City of Los Angeles. You'll also enjoy competitive wages, generous benefits, and year-round sunshine.

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*After enrollment in underground cross-training program

For more information regarding our current journey-level line worker openings and upcoming apprentice lineman/splicer positions, please contact:

- John.Poplawski@ladwp.com or (818) 771-4884
- Kyle.Morgan@ladwp.com or (818) 771-4839



Apply at joinLADWP.com
or Scan the QR Code

Follow-Up on Injured Linemen (Late 2025 – Early 2026 Incidents)

Holly Springs, MS (December 2025)

The utility lineman from Holly Springs Utility District who was severely electrocuted while working on powerlines remains in recovery. Limited public updates have been available since the initial critical hospitalization and airlift. The brotherhood continues to hold him and his family in thought during this challenging time.

Rayne, LA (December 2025)

The lineman who suffered serious burns while working in the West Power Substation was airlifted to a specialized burn

unit. No recent public details on his current recovery status have surfaced, but we continue to wish him strength and steady healing.

Jonesboro, LA – Hunter Alexander (January 2026, Entergy)

Hunter Alexander has shown remarkable progress after a difficult road. He endured multiple surgeries, complications that led to readmission, and additional procedures. Despite the setbacks, Hunter was released from the hospital, has been off the ventilator, regained the ability to talk and move around, and — most encouragingly — has retained use of his hands and arms. Reports describe

him in good spirits, focusing on day-by-day recovery, and expressing thanks to the community for their prayers and support. He still faces a long rehabilitation ahead, but the signs of healing have given many hope. These updates remind us how unforgiving the job can be during storm restoration, yet they also highlight the incredible fighting spirit so many of our brothers bring to recovery. The charities and support networks play a vital role in helping injured linemen and their families navigate the months and years that follow. This follow-up is drawn from publicly shared family and news updates. Recovery journeys are deeply personal, and details can evolve.

February 19th – One Step Too Close

Been a journeyman lineman since 2011. Been doing this long enough to know the game—poles, primaries, neutrals, the whole dance. But some days, the ground itself decides to play dirty.

It was Thursday, February 19th, 2026. Warm spell hit Minnesota, snow melting fast, turning everything into a sloppy, muddy soup. We'd just finished setting a tangent pole, transferred three-phase eight-kV primary and the neutral—clean job. Next step: load the pole next to the truck for the upcoming job onto the Digger Derrick. Simple.

I was standing five feet from the truck when my buddy Tony swung the boom. Auger hoses caught—just a little hitch. That's all it took. Step potential. Eight thousand volts didn't care about distance or boots or mud—it shot straight up my right leg.

I remember the jolt—like a sledgehammer to the shin. Then nothing. My body folded, landed elbow-first. Electricity crossed my chest, stopped my heart dead. Right hand slapped the wet ground—exit burns there. Left

elbow took a half-dollar-sized burn. Right foot? Pinky toe and the left side of my foot charred black.



Tony found me. He was the one on the truck—saw me drop, yelled, ran over. I don't remember any of it. Just... blank. Two full days gone. No lights, no tunnel, no voices.

Saturday morning, I woke up in the burn unit at Regions Medical Center, Saint Paul. Machines humming, bandages everywhere, nurses drifting in and out. I was an angry monster just wanting to get out of that hospital. No one told me anything—just checked vitals, changed dressings. I figured it out myself: last thing I remembered was work. Now I was here.

They must've used an AED—someone said that later—but I still don't know how long I was flatlined. Or what Tony saw when he got to me.

All I know is: I walked out of that hospital. Not whole, not fast—but breathing.

And next time I step near a live line, I'll look twice at the mud. Because one second, one wet patch, five feet from the truck—and you're not just hurt—you're gone. Until you're not.

By: Chris Cottelit

Non-Profit Assistance Groups



NSUJL

It is NSUJL's Mission to provide financial, emotional and physical assistance to fallen/injured members of the IBEW. Those who will qualify must be Journeymen Linemen, Apprentice Linemen, Groundmen, Equipment

Operators, Line Clearance Tree Trimmers and/or their spouses and minor children. NSUJL offers emergency funds, monthly financial assistance, physical/home support, emotional and mental health support, scholarships, and an annual giving tree.

Our web page: <https://www.facebook.com/NSUJL>

Accidents can be reported here: <https://nsujl.org/report-an-accident/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NSUJL>

The best way to make donations is on our website or reach out to us for other methods. Please feel free to email: info@nsujl.org or call us at 570-550-2978. Donations can also be mailed to PO Box 29, Salem MO 65560.



Fallen Linemen Organization

Our Mission: To provide financial support to electric utility linemen injured on the job, scholarships, and assistance for related organizations and institutions. We do it for the people who climb the poles. Our story is really about them.

Our Web page: <https://fallenlinemen.org>



LineLife Foundation

LineLife Foundation is there for the Powerline workers and their families in times of crisis and immediately following work related accidents. LineLife Foundation is dedicated to compassionately serving Powerline workers in

times of need during storm restoration.

The best place to donate is <https://linelifefoundation.com/>

Our facebook is: <https://www.facebook.com/linelifefoundation>

Our volunteer Group is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/233517897213848/>

Transmission & Distribution Marketplace



To report storms: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/4581295775266289/>

Our Mission: To provide financial support to electric utility linemen injured on the job, scholarships, and assistance for related organizations and institutions. We do it for the people who climb the poles. Our story is really about them.

Line Brother's Keeper

Our Mission: Line Brother's Keeper was founded by a Journeyman Lineman who was injured on the job and *truly* understands the needs and the importance of helping other injured electrical linemen and their families find the "new normal" in life.

We are here to help! We are dedicated to assisting Fallen/ Injured Electrical Journeymen and Apprentice Linemen & Linewomen, Groundmen, Operators, Substation Technicians, and the families thereof. We aim to provide emergency financial, emotional, and physical assistance in work-related injuries, burns, or fatalities.

Zachary Spicer: (615) 405-2570

Mylynda Spicer: (615) 483-0136

Office Number: (615) 619-4046

zmspicer@linebrotherskeeper.com

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DEFENDER and PRO-TECT-OR Team Up for Enhanced Safety

By Line Pro Safety

The Line Pro development team has developed the DEFENDER to be used in substations, tagging circuits to prevent accidental closure with solid blade switches.

The DEFENDER is now on the market and available for purchase. Though effective on its own, it can also be paired with the

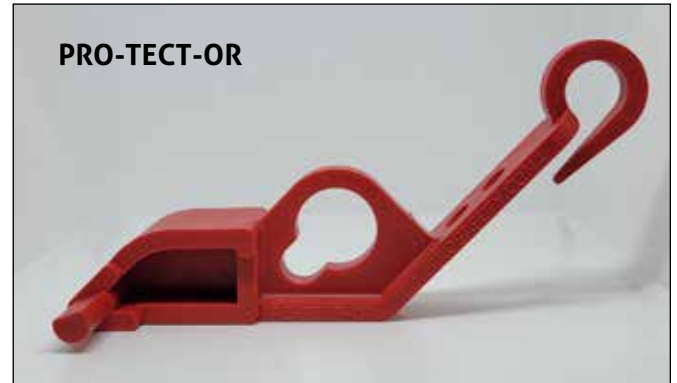


DEFENDER

PRO-TECT-OR for enhanced safety—helping to prevent accidental injury or death to those exposed while operating on the line. Designed for easy installation and built

with robust durability, these devices provide visible isolation that enhances safety for utility personnel and maintenance crews.

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By Utility Solutions

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