

CVEA employs over 40 Alaskans, all of whom live and work in the communities we serve. We are proud of our employees and the work each one does to help fulfill CVEA's mission to provide exceptional customer service through safe, reliable, cost-effective electric service as well as CVEA's vision to reduce or completely eliminate our dependence on fossil fuel and stabilize the Cooperative's cost of generation with regional, sustainable resources.

Each year, CVEA recognizes employees with extended years of loyal and dedicated service to the Cooperative. We invite you to join us in congratulating them on their accomplishment.

Look Who's Working Hard For You

2020 Employee Service Awards



Jaime Matthews
Chief Financial
Officer
Copper Basin
15 Years

Jaime is the Chief Financial Officer for CVEA. She's been with the Co-op for 15 years, but has been in the industry for 20. She started her career in the utility industry working as a budget coordinator for Homer Electric Association.

Originally from Cordova, Alaska, Jaime now lives in the Copper Basin with her husband Mel, daughter Cassidy, son William, and Black Lab, Kona. Growing up, Jaime never envisioned herself living in the area, but now says it is Alaska's best kept secret, with some of the best hunting and fishing opportunities the state has to offer.

In her spare time, Jaime loves to travel and spend time with her family across Alaska. She volunteers many hours in the community for the school district, through CVEA, and with the hockey program.

In the last five years, Jaime believes the accounting department has gained many efficiencies, and it has been exciting to implement SmartHub to give members new tools for analyzing their usage and payments. She is also proud to be responsible for the risk management program, making

improvements and realizing cost savings for the members.

When asked what one thing she wishes people knew about CVEA employees, she said, "in general our industry is amazing. Being part of a Co-op is special. Our employees take a lot of pride working for our members." Jaime goes on to say that her favorite thing about CVEA is the professional environment. "Our employees and the relationships developed keep us all motivated to do our best."

CEO Travis Million said, "Jaime played a vital role at CVEA for the last 15 years. Her knowledge in cooperative finance is second to none. It is clearly demonstrated by her leadership at CVEA and also in heading up the Alaska Power Association audit committee for nearly the last decade. Under her leadership CVEA has received clean audits her entire tenure. I look forward to working with Jaime for many years to come."

Jaime left us with this quote, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader." - John Quincy Adams



Garrette Francis
Journeyman Lineman
Valdez
10 Years

Garrette has been a lineman at CVEA for 10 years. Although originally from Washington State, he has lived in Valdez for 30 years.

With him in Valdez is his wife Melody, their children Hunter and Heidi, and their pets Gambit, Remie, and Storm.

Garrette enjoys fishing, hunting, snowmachining, snowboarding, shooting, and relaxing and spending time with his family.

He says that not much has changed in his position in the last five years, “we just continue working as a team to keep the power on.” Garrette wishes people knew that CVEA employees are ‘likeable’ for the most part and work hard for the members

of the Cooperative. His favorite thing about working for CVEA is being able to go home every night with all his fingers and toes.

According to his supervisor John Schenck, “In his 10 years with CVEA, Garrette has demonstrated his abilities as a journeyman lineman on many occasions. He is very active in our safety program and can be counted on to share his knowledge and ideas with the team. He is involved in the Valdez community and always volunteers for events and company activities. I appreciate all that he does for CVEA.”

When asked to provide a quote, he offered “life is tough, but it’s tougher when you’re stupid.” - John Wayne



Jessi Gallatin
Customer Service
Valdez
10 Years

Jessi has worked as a Customer Service Representative in the Valdez District for 10 of her 45 years in the area. Prior to CVEA she worked as a procurement specialist for the Department of Transportation.

Jessi lives with husband Tom, son Jaxson, and daughter Jazlyn. She also has two grown sons, CJ and Travis, and grandchildren Eva, Georgie, Cambree, Kathleen, Bethanna, and Alyssa. Multiple dogs and cats round out the family. Camping, darts, softball, and hanging out with her family is how she spends her spare time.

In the last five years, Jessi has been involved in the implementation of SmartHub,

Doc Vault, and other technological advancements at CVEA.

Jessi says one thing she wishes people knew is that, “we really do care about our members and keeping the lights on.” She goes on to say her favorite thing about working at the Co-op is her awesome coworkers and all the new people she meets.

Jaime Matthews had this to say about Jessi, “Jessi works hard to provide excellent customer service to our Valdez members. She works hard to have consistency in her position and is always dedicated to do her best.”



Matt Craig
Power Plant Operator
Valdez
5 Years

Matt Craig has been a Power Plant Operator in Valdez for five years. Prior to working at CVEA, he was an electrician and was in general construction. He is originally from Valdez, where he lives now with wife Meagan, children Austin and Anina, and pets Lyla, Keystone, and Nimmo the fish. They are also soon expecting a baby girl.

In his spare time, Matt enjoys spending time outdoors in the fresh air with his family and friends, hunting, sports, and working on projects.

When asked what Matt’s favorite thing about working at CVEA is, he commented,

“the diversity of the job. No two days are the same. I also like the great group of employees who all bring different strengths and backgrounds to the organization.”

According to Wayne McKinzey, CVEA Production Manager, “Matt is a terrific member of our team. He’s an excellent operator, a forward-thinker and has a critical eye. I especially enjoy his dry wit.”

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COPPER VALLEY ELECTRIC

Employee Service Awards

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Joyanna Hoffman
Office & Billing Admin
Copper Basin
5 Years

Joyanna has worked for CVEA for five years, starting as the Customer Service Representative and later becoming the Office & Billing Admin. Prior to CVEA she waitressed, was a special education teacher's aide, and an ATV tour guide.

Originally from southern California and Mexico, Joyanna has called the Copper Basin home for 13 years. She lives with her family Jamey Kemp, daughter Harper, dog Hatch, and their fish, and has nine siblings spread out from California to Arkansas.

Joyanna enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, gardening, and spending time with family in her spare time. When asked her favorite

thing about working for CVEA, she says, "I really enjoy the people I work with and the progressive work environment."

Jaime Matthews had this to say about Joyanna, "Joyanna always greets CVEA members and employees with a smile. No task is too big or small for Joyanna, her calm demeanor and work ethic makes her a great employee." Sharon Scheidt, CVEA Director of Communications, added, "Joyanna is critical in making our large-scale events, like the annual meeting, director elections, and Halloween Spooktacular, successful. I value and appreciate all she does for our membership."



Coreen Palacios
Regulatory & Compliance
Copper Basin
5 Years

Coreen joined the Cooperative five years ago as the Regulatory and Compliance Specialist. She lives in Glennallen, but originally came from Saipan.

Coreen lives with her husband, John, children Ce'Anika and Chloe, and their fish and birds. She enjoys biking, playing games, taking vacations, and spending quality time with family barbecuing.

When asked her favorite thing about working at CVEA she said, "First, it is working with supportive leadership and amazing colleagues that make me enjoy going to work and being a part of the CVEA family. Second, I enjoy the challenge of

staying abreast on ever-changing environmental compliance, OSHA, and dam safety regulations. Being involved in improvements makes my job exciting and worthwhile."

CEO Million says, "Coreen came to CVEA with a background in education. She quickly demonstrated her ability to learn a new industry with 'regulations' being a core commonality. She navigates the environmental and regulatory requirements better than most in her role at other utilities. Coreen continues to want to learn and take on additional responsibilities. It has been a pleasure to work with and get to know Coreen over the last five years."



John Schenck
Operations Manager
Valdez
5 Years

John Schenck came to CVEA as the Operations Manager five years ago. Prior to joining the team, he was the Supervisor of Construction and Maintenance for New York State Electric & Gas in upstate New York.

John and his wife, Wendy, have children Coryn, RJ, and Tyson, and live with their spoiled dog Lucy and Calli the cat. John likes to work, but when he can't do that he enjoys pretty much anything outdoors.

His favorite thing about working for CVEA is "a small utility like CVEA allows everyone the opportunity to be involved in projects that wouldn't be possible working for a larger company. We always have

something to do and it's seldom routine."

John also noted "in the five years I've worked for the Co-op we've made significant progress in improving our system, reliability, and safety culture. I'm very proud of our accomplishments and look forward to many years of making CVEA the most reliable electric utility in Alaska."

CEO Million had this to say, "John joined the team when the operations department needed stability and guidance. He has proven to be an invaluable member of the leadership team, with an amazing drive and vision to improve the CVEA system. I look forward to future improvement under John's direction."

Call Before You Dig. Every Time.

By Michael Rovito

As the snow melts and the ground thaws, many Alaskans turn their attention from snow shoveling to summer projects.

Since warmer weather in Alaska only lasts a few months before the freeze comes back, there can be a sense of urgency to accomplish all the tasks on your summer to-do list.

But there is a good reason to take a step back and handle an important aspect of pre-project planning. Buried beneath the ground around many homes in the state are electric lines, gas lines, telephone and cable lines, and sewer lines, all of which can cause various levels of frustration—and a high amount of danger—if they are accidentally damaged.

Many electric utilities in the state bury portions, if not all, of their electric distribution lines. Once the ground is put back and the dig marks vanish, it can be impossible to tell where an electric power line is buried. If a homeowner were to dig into the ground and strike a live power line, it could lead to significant injury or death from the shock that results.

For many areas of the state, there is a simple way to protect yourself against accidentally striking an underground line—and it's only a phone call away. The Alaska 811 Digline is a centralized, pre-excavation service that provides messaging between excavators and underground facility owners.

Founded in 1988, 811 helps the public, contractors, utilities and other excavators notify the owners of underground facilities before dig activities are undertaken. The service also coordinates each utility's technician, who will come to your home with a special device that locates underground lines. Using colored spray paint, each technician marks the ground— with the colors corresponding to different



types of underground facilities—so everyone is aware of the areas to avoid during excavation.

This service is free for the first locates on a project. It's important to pay attention to the time frames provided by 811. For more information on this service, visit www.811ak.com. The website provides a listing of communities where 811 is active.

Not every community in Alaska has access to the 811 service. In those cases, it is crucial to contact your local utilities before digging so they can advise you on where underground lines are located. Your local electric utility is be a resource

if you plan to excavate and don't have access to 811's services.

Striking a buried power line is extremely dangerous. The risks cannot be overstated. Even if you feel confident you know where the power line is, that's not enough for the safety of you and those around you.

Building a new fence or expanding your deck is a good feeling of summer accomplishment, but it's not worth taking unnecessary risks. There can be a lot of infrastructure right under our feet. Taking a moment to find out where everything is can mean the difference between life and death. ■

Keeping Lines Clear

Tree trimming and vegetation removal improve safety and help your utility keep electricity flowing

By Pam Blair

Despite your electric utility's best efforts to maintain a safe and reliable system, Mother Nature often has the last word.

Strong winds snap trees like toothpicks. Heavy rains saturate the ground, weakening tree root systems. Ice and heavy snowfall weigh down and break branches. Sparks ignite vegetation and spread fire.

Regardless of the cause, when any part of a tree contacts a power line, the result is the same: loss of electrical service and compromised public safety.

Even before alleged poor maintenance of transmission lines by Pacific Gas & Electric caused deadly wildfires in California, community-owned utilities invested millions on inspections and tree trimming.

At \$1.76 million a year, vegetation management is the largest single line item in the budget of Lane Electric Cooperative, based in Eugene, Oregon, says Tony Toncray, operations manager.

"In 2001, we realized we needed to look deeper into our tree program," Toncray says. "We had not been clearing our rights-of-way, and it was causing problems. We added staff, and began a three-year rotational trimming schedule.

"We know some trees grow faster—cycle busters—so we drive our system every year looking for those. We now are gathering data about the species in each right-of-way and entering it into a database."

A minimum of three and up to four contract crews work year-round in Lane's territory.

Northern Lights Inc., based

in Sagle, Idaho, annually spends about \$2 million on trees, says Kristin Mettke, engineering and operations manager.

"We want to keep the lights on," Mettke says. "If trees don't get into the lines, we have less outages—and with less outages, we spend less on overtime for line crews. It's buying an insurance policy, essentially."

NLI has two year-round contract tree-trimming crews and a full-time tree foreman. From April through October, that balloons to five to six aerial crews and two to three ground crews that clean up debris or grind stumps.

Trees along the system's 1,570 miles of overhead line are trimmed an average of every five to six years, although faster-growing areas are visited more often, and crews are redirected as new hazards are discovered.

"During a storm, people are more willing to have their trees trimmed," Mettke says. "They want their power on."

Pat Holley, assistant general manager at Lassen Municipal Utility District in Susanville, California, says LMUD inspects every distribution and transmission line in its system every year. The 1,900-square-mile district ranges from desert valleys to high alpine, and includes private as well as federal forests.

"Now we are inspecting at ground level, but we are gearing up to begin drone inspections this year," Holley says. "We will be able to look down on structures to detect problems."

One contract crew works year-round trimming trees. LMUD personnel each spend



A 2018 wildfire destroyed the electric distribution system serving Eagle Lake in Northern California, leaving about 1,000 people without power. PHOTO COURTESY OF LASSEN MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

about a month a year doing inspections and related work. A 20-foot area is brushed clear of vegetation around the base of all poles with equipment mounted overhead in high fire danger zones every year so sparks have nothing to ignite.

As part of its state-mandated wildfire mitigation plan, LMUD plans to extend easement width clearing from 50 feet to 200 feet where possible to provide better protection from windstorms and serve as a fire break.

Distribution line rights-of-way typically are 20 feet—not enough to prevent things



A contract crew with Asplundh Tree Experts trims trees away from power lines along a snowy roadway in Northern Idaho. PHOTO BY TRAVIS COTTIER/NORTHERN LIGHTS INC.

outside the right-of-way from causing problems, Toncray notes.

Wildfire is a serious concern. In 2018, the Whaleback Fire—suspected to have started from lightning—burned 18,703 acres, closed portions of Lassen National Park, forced evacuations and destroyed LMUD’s 125-pole Eagle Lake distribution line. A portable generator provided power to the area for months while the 6.5 miles of overhead line was replaced with

10 miles of underground wire.

Although PG&E was ruled responsible for wildfires because it failed to correct maintenance issues it had tagged, “nine of 10 wildfires are manmade or naturally occurring,” Holley notes.

As part of its mitigation plan, LMUD is expanding the capabilities of its computer monitoring and control system. Rather than automatically fixing a fault during fire season, a crew checks the line before it is re-energized.

Prevent Problems: Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

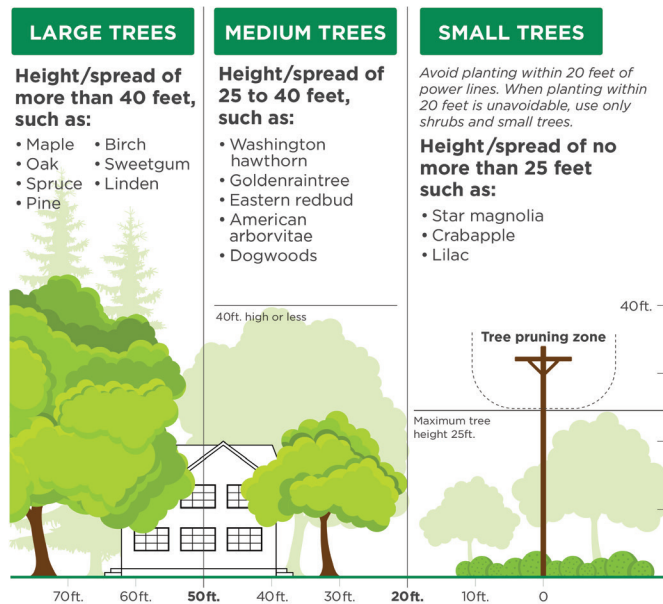
Trees beautify homes and property, and can lower utility bills if planted in the right spot. But care should be taken with trees near power lines. Outages are caused by trees or limbs falling on lines. Restoring power is expensive. So is trimming trees.

Be safe. Always call 811 before you dig to locate buried utility lines.

Before planting trees, bushes or shrubs, look up to see where overhead power lines may conflict with their growth. Remember: A 2-foot-tall fir seedling will grow more than 100 feet tall and 30 to 50 feet wide.

After you have looked up, look down. Planting over underground utilities can result in outages when tree or shrub roots grow into the lines, or in a potentially deadly shock if you dig into buried lines.

Your local nursery, garden center, electric utility or state forestry department can help you determine the appropriate tree for your situation. For information concerning tree selection and care, visit the National Arbor Day Foundation website at www.arborday.org.



Federated Insurance CEO Phil Irwin, who works with electric utilities on coverage, appreciates the investments.

The mutual insurance company buys reinsurance to mitigate its risk—and in the wake of PG&E’s proposed \$24.5 billion settlement of all wildfire claims, reinsurers have little appetite to write policies for utilities, Irwin says.

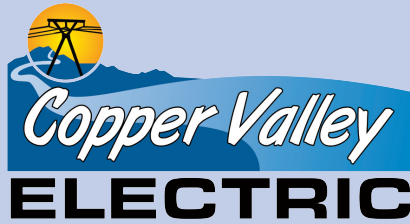
When talking to reinsurers, Irwin says he emphasizes the difference between PG&E and

publicly owned utilities, where staff live in the communities they serve and problems are much more personal.

Drought, more dead trees and an extended fire season mean trimming is not only the law, but it is the right thing to do, Toncray says.

“It’s important to keep public safety as our highest priority,” he says. ■

If you see a tree problem, please contact your utility. Most have a program to replace removed trees.



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Important Dates

April

CVEA Board Meeting: The April meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, 2020, in Glennallen

Voting Deadline: Director election ballots must be received in the correct CVEA mailbox by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 28, 2020
*don't forget to sign the back of the ballot envelope

May

CVEA Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting scheduled for May have been postponed until further notice

CVEA Board Meeting: The May meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, May 21, 2020, in Valdez

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will be closed Monday, May 25, 2020, for Memorial Day

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CVEA Annual Meeting Postponed Until Further Notice

Message from CVEA CEO Travis Million

The 2020 CVEA Annual Meeting scheduled for May 5, in the Valdez District, and May 7, in the Copper Basin District, has been postponed due to a Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendation posted March 15, 2020, stating that all in-person gatherings expected to be 50 people or more, in the next eight weeks, should be canceled or postponed.

CVEA will continue to closely monitor the situation and will update the members as soon as additional information becomes available.

We encourage all members to stay up to date on CVEA issues, as they relate to COVID-19, by monitoring the CVEA Facebook page and cvea.org. We are in a fast paced, ever-changing environment, but will do our best to ensure you have the most current, accurate information regarding decisions made by the Co-op.

The health and safety of our members and employees are of utmost concern to the Cooperative at this time. We will do our part and follow CDC recommendations and encourage everyone to do the same. We will continue to work hard and provide reliable electric service to our communities.

We are thinking of each of you and know we will get through this difficult time together.

Lineman Appreciation Day - April 18

On April 18, electric cooperatives across the nation will celebrate National Lineman Appreciation Day.

We proudly recognize all electric linemen for the services they perform around the clock, often in inclement weather and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

A team of seven linemen maintain over 500 miles of transmission and distribution lines throughout CVEA's service territory. CVEA encourages all members to honor the dedicated co-op employees who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on.

Please join us! Visit CVEA's Facebook page on April 18 to enter a comment of thanks and show your support for the employees who light up our lives.

Please use #thankalineman