

# CVEA Cares For Kids Summer Activity Program

**CVEA Lineman Walt Lynch generously donated \$2,000 to fund kid's program prizes**

Heading into summer CVEA recognized the difficulty local youth had been experiencing as a result of COVID-19. It has been a tough year. To assist with the negative impacts of the pandemic, CVEA created a summer activity program for kids, ages 2-18, to support their physical, social, and mental well-being.

The CVEA Cares For Kids Summer Activity Program provided an opportunity to complete fun, healthy, tasty, and kind activities in order to earn gift cards for local businesses and a chance to win \$500.

According to CVEA CEO, Travis Million, "this program was created by a volunteer group of employees wishing to support our kids and make sure they know that we are all in this together. Our goal for this program was to remind kids there are still so many great things to do, and so much fun to be had, even during difficult times."

There were three age groups (2-6 years old, 7-12 years old, and 13-18 years old) in each district. All participants who completed 10 activities were entered into a drawing, for their age group, for a \$500



grand prize.

The grand prize was funded in part by CVEA Copper Basin Lineman, Walt Lynch. Walt felt strongly that the youth in our community deserved something special, and he donated \$2,000 towards the grand prize to ensure there was a prize big enough to encourage participation from kids of all ages.

CVEA is grateful to Walt for his incredibly generous donation, and the large grand prize worked. In total 153 kids completed activities and submitted their photos. It has been a joy to see all of the fun

and smiles shared with the Co-op.

The \$500 winners were announced on August 10.

## **Copper Basin**

2-6 Thandrew Carlson  
7-12 Evelyn Johnson  
13-18 Jessica Hale

## **Valdez**

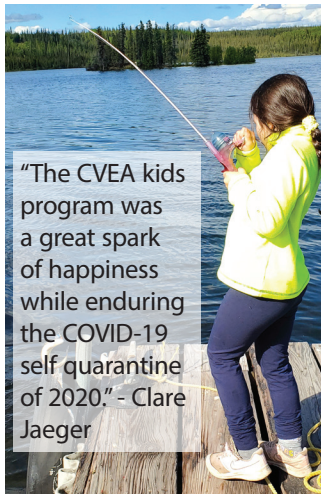
2-6 Carl Hamman  
7-12 Paxson Williams  
13-18 Madeline O'Neil

CVEA would like to congratulate the winners and thank all of the kids and families who participated. ■

"The kids enjoyed doing all sorts of activities this summer for sure – the kids loved getting mail today. Thank You CVEA!" - Dahlia O'Neil



"Oh wow! Thanks so much! Carl is pretty excited that he won! Thanks for the program!" - Caris Hamman



"The CVEA kids program was a great spark of happiness while enduring the COVID-19 self quarantine of 2020." - Clare Jaeger



Opposite, CVEA Lineman, Walt Lynch, preparing the Co-op float for the 4th of July parade  
 Top left, Valdez 13-18 age category winner, Madeline O'Neil, and her siblings posing with the local gift cards they earned from the CVEA Cares for Kids Summer Activity Program  
 Top right, winner Carl Hamman with his sisters completing their 'activity in or near water'  
 Above left, winner Paxson Williams with his brothers taking a picture with a fish  
 Above middle left, Copper Basin 7-12 age category winner, Evelyn Johnson, completing her 'fishing' activity  
 Above middle right, Jessica Hale picking up garbage, to check off one summer activity and support her community  
 Right, winner Thandrew Carlson chose to pick wildflowers as one of his summer activities

ABOVE PHOTOS BY DAHLIA O'NEIL, CARIS HAMMAN, LARISSA WILLIAMS, CLARE JAEGER, JESSICA HALE, AND ANDREW & KELSIE CARLSON

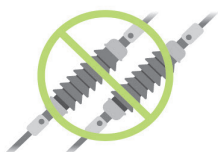
# Electrical Safety Tips for Hunters



This hunting season, we encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment and take necessary precautions while hunting. Keep these tips in mind as you enjoy the great Alaskan outdoors.



**Take notice** of posted warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.



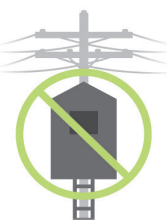
**Do not** shoot at or near power lines, insulators, marker balls, or other electrical equipment.



**Know** where power lines and equipment are located on the land and in the area you hunt.



**Be especially careful** in heavily wooded areas where power lines and guy wires may not be as visible.



**Do not place** stands on utility poles or climb poles to increase your line of sight. Energized lines and equipment can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing electric shock or electrocution. **Do not** place decoys on utility equipment. It can cause an obstruction and serious hazard to line crews.

# The Winter Lineman

By Michael Rovito

Outside the walls warmed by the wood stove, the winter wind whips in a fury. To the lineman inside, the only discomfort is to the ears, as the sound of the rattling fence gate pierces the low thuds of wind gusts slamming the house.

This blizzard is one of many that has barreled across Alaska's landscape. The lineman sees it as no bother. Hot chocolate, insulated walls, and something good to read or watch will help pass the time until digging out commences.

The storm has other plans. Soon, a ringing phone adds to the cacophony of sounds inside the house. A power outage—some lone tree or pole a victim of the wind, perhaps, and the lineman's refuge must end.

Pulling on insulated coveralls, sturdy boots, hat, gloves and safety equipment, the lineman heads into the storm, traveling north to bring the power back without so much as his name being known.

The road is slick. Snow covers the edges. Only the rumble strip betrays where the pavement ends and the ditch begins.

Other linemen are en route now as well, rustled from their cozy havens, carefully navigating the darkness of deep Alaska winter, sipping coffee to warm from the inside.

The lights of homes along the road give way to an eerie darkness as the blackout area comes into view. Houses poke above rising snow, like a swimmer trying to hold their head above water. Flashlight beams and candle flickers cast shadows on family room walls as the lineman's truck rumbles by. The people inside wonder when their power will come back, but know help is on the way after the electric cooperative put out the word.

Arriving in the area of the outage's suspected culprit, the lineman trains his lights on the power line running above.



Alaska linemen are ready to go to work, day and night, winter or summer. ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY JAMES HANNIBAL

All seems normal until the light lands on a crooked tree trunk laying on the power line, singed black from contact with electricity.

Just as the lineman suspected, one scrawny tree caused a plunge into darkness.

There is no time to think about that, though. It is deep winter, and not even midnight yet. The sun won't come up until mid-morning. Furnaces and Toyo stoves and lights need to be turned back on.

The linemen go to work.

The wind howls now. Exposed skin feels frozen in minutes. Icicles hang from beards, eyelashes and hair peeking from wool caps and hard hats. Snow, blowing sideways from the wind feels like sand in the eyes. All the while, the linemen keep a wary eye toward other trees holding on as nature's winter fury bears down.

Like being caught in the eyewall of a

hurricane, the storm does not relent. It batters the linemen, persistently trying to penetrate the layers of fleece and down.

Inside darkened homes, parents try to entertain kids with games, pulling out decks of cards, reliving the days before streaming and Wi-Fi. A certain family togetherness happens, huddling around the only source of light, keeping warm as the time since the furnace last kicked on ticks by.

High on the utility pole, the linemen are fixing the problem. Their knowledge of the system and expertise under pressure makes this an easy correction. They move methodically, ignoring the storm and focusing on the safety of the crew. Bit by bit, the parts are repaired. The linemen now start to feel the chill as the wind finds its way through the layers.

Everything is ready. A call is placed to the dispatcher or power plant with orders to turn the line back on. Silently, electricity begins racing across the line again, through transformers, down to the meter and into each house.

Like a Christmas tree, lights begin to glow again, appliances beep, their life force returned. The furnace kicks back on, and the family breathes a sigh of relief.

Back on the road, the lineman heads home. Thoughts of a warm bed occupy a drive just as harrowing as the last, as the trip passes the lights of homes illuminated after the temporary respite from the modern comfort of electrons harnessed to power our lives.

Home now, stomping snow-caked boots in the entryway and shedding layers like a nesting doll, exhaustion sets in.

To those who had their electricity restored, the lineman was but a phantom in the night, unseen and unheard. But his presence was felt.

The storm outside continues incessantly. The wind seems to grow stronger, but for now, the lineman can rest. ■



Left, Solomon Gulch penstock excavated for thickness measurement

Opposite left, Alex Gearhart, CVEA Plant Operator, working on GD9 overhaul

Opposite right, work at Serendipity project

Opposite bottom, H-120 pole line

# CVEA Packed Improvement Projects Into 2020

Summer is the busy season for most Alaskan businesses with construction projects to complete. CVEA, like many others, took advantage of increased daylight and long summer days to complete several important projects that will provide benefit to Co-op members and communities. Below is a summary of some of the more significant projects the CVEA team has worked on this summer.

### Allison Creek Control Upgrades

The controls on the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Plant were upgraded. This was a joint effort between the production and engineering group. The control system hardware and

software was upgraded to allow the seven megawatt plant to respond better to system disturbances, thus minimizing outages.

The upgrade has already proven itself earlier this year when it responded to two faults on the system.

### Five Year Solomon Gulch Penstock Thickness Inspection

Every five years the thickness of the penstock walls are measured using an ultrasonic thickness gauge. The penstocks are the 48 inch diameter steel pipes that carry the water from Solomon Lake to the power turbines in the powerhouse. The pipe walls are approximately one-half inch

thick. The same locations are inspected every five years to monitor the rate of corrosion.

Many of the locations require excavating the dirt from around the penstocks so that those areas most susceptible to corrosion are measured. The inspection is required as part of CVEA's operating license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

### GD9 Overhaul

At the Glennallen Diesel Plant, unit 9 (GD9) was overhauled. The engine is an Electro-Motive Diesel 16-cylinder that produces 2.8MW of power. The scope included replacing the turbocharger, power assemblies (cylinder

heads, cylinder liners, pistons, and connecting rods), fuel injectors, and various pumps and bearings.

### F425 Coordination

Old hydraulic oil reclosers on the line heading north out of the Glennallen substation were replaced. The new electronic reclosers and sectionalizers are programmable and will require little to no maintenance which will improve reliability and reduce operation costs.

The enhanced coordination available from the electronic equipment will reduce the line miles between interrupting devices. This will improve CVEA linemen outage response times, reduce the number of customers out



during an outage, and reduce the duration of those outages.

**H-120 Line Extension**

In order to serve a new service for an industrial customer, a line extension was necessary. This project consists of 3.5 miles of new single phase underground and overhead primary distribution.

**North Line Automation**

Four new reclosers, six new sectionalizers, and a voltage regulator were added on the distribution line from Glennallen north to Sourdough, and to the end of CVEA's line on the Tok Cutoff.

This project will improve the reliability and system stability for all co-op customers north of Glennallen.

**Transmission Right-of-Way Clearing**

CVEA continues to re-establish the 100 foot wide transmission

right of way in several remote areas between Tonsina and Valdez. Local contractors will clear 11.5 miles of ROW through difficult to access, mountainous terrain this season.

This program is ongoing and has resulted in a dramatic reduction in vegetation related transmission line outages over the past four years.

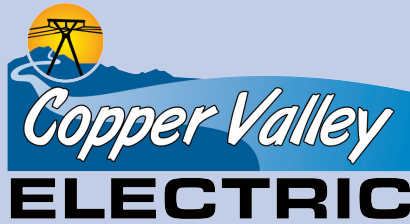
**Serendipity Subdivision**

Approximately 7,000 feet of new underground primary distribution is being installed in the area.

This project will provide power to the 26 lots on the east side of the Serendipity Subdivision at Mile 46 of the Richardson Highway.

For additional information on these or any CVEA projects, please contact Sharon Scheidt at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email [scheidt@cvea.org](mailto:scheidt@cvea.org). ■





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**Valdez District**  
907-835-4301  
367 Fairbanks Dr.  
**After hours outage line**

#### Important Dates

##### September

**CVEA Offices Closed:** The CVEA offices will be closed Monday, September 7, 2020, for Labor Day

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The September meeting of the Board of Directors is cancelled

##### October

**Ruralite Cover Photo Contest:** Submit photos October 1 - October 29, 2020

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The October meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, October 15, 2020, in Glennallen

**National Co-op Month:** Stay tuned for Co-op Month announcements

AK-34

## 2020 Ruralite Cover Photo Contest

Would you like to see your photo on the cover of Ruralite Magazine; CVEA's primary member communication tool? Over 2500 copies of Ruralite are distributed each month to members in the Copper Basin and Valdez. That means excellent exposure for local photographers!

### Details

- Winners will be chosen by CVEA employees
- Final decision will be announced by Monday, November 23, 2020
- Winning photos will be featured on the cover of Ruralite for one issue in 2021 and on cvea.org
- Winners will receive \$100 per winning photo and will be announced to the local media
- CVEA will retain rights to utilize all photos submitted in various communication tools including print and web
- Future photo usage in Ruralite or on cvea.org will include photo credit

### Contest Rules

- Photographers must reside in a dwelling that receives service from CVEA
- Photos must be from within CVEA's service area (Valdez to Sourdough, out to Kenny Lake, and over to Sheep Mountain)
- Content can include scenery, community events, and community residents enjoying local activities; photos from all seasons should be considered, at least two winter photos will be chosen
- Only vertical photos will be eligible to win cover contest; horizontal photos may be submitted for use in other print or web based applications
- Maximum six photos submitted per contestant
- Each photo submission must include a digital and printed copy at 8X10 inches; digital files must have a resolution of 300 dpi at 8X10 inches
- Each photo submission must include photographer's name, location of photo, and photo title
- Photos must be submitted between October 1-29, 2020
- Photos can be dropped off at the CVEA offices in each district or sent directly to Sharon Scheidt: [scheidt@cvea.org](mailto:scheidt@cvea.org) or P.O. Box 927, Valdez, AK 99686
- Photographer submissions must include permission form; visit [cvea.org](http://cvea.org) or email [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org) for blank form
- Contact Sharon Scheidt at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email [scheidt@cvea.org](mailto:scheidt@cvea.org), with questions

**Submission Dates: October 1 - October 29, 2020**