

Tools of the Trade

TREVOR ROBERTSON

Job: Line technician, Western District

Years with SEC: 6

Age: 29

Family: Wife Megan, daughters Kassidy and Ryleigh

Enjoy most about job: "Keeping the lights on for our members and working with a good group of guys."



SAFETY GLASSES:

Protective eyewear is worn to keep foreign objects from injuring the eyes.

HARD HAT:

Adjustable, hard plastic hat protects lineman's head from falling objects. Brim provides shade from sun.

RUBBER GLOVES:

Insulated, they are tested to 30,000 volts and provide protection from electric shocks and burns. Leather protectors are worn over the rubber gloves.

LONG-SLEEVE SHIRT, JEANS:

Specially designed clothing for energized line work. Both include flame-resistant material. The shirt's long sleeves provide another layer to prevent a possible burn.

WORK BOOTS:

Lace-up, steel-toe, leather boots with heavy-duty shank. Boot extends 12 inches up leg. Grip on sole aids on rough terrain.

RUBBER SLEEVES:

Also tested to 30,000 volts, the sleeves provide extra protection from unintentional contact with live wires.

DITTY BAG:

Canvas bag contains connectors, nuts, bolts, staples and other materials linemen need. Hangs from climbing belt.

FALL RESTRAINT:

One belt with two adjustments to make climbing safer and more comfortable. Hangs from climbing belt.

ROPE SAFETY:

Additional safety device on climbing belt mainly used when going over obstacles on the pole.

HAND LINE:

Rope serves as a means for the lineman to pull up materials from the ground and acts as a safety device. "Could be your lifeline one day," Robertson says.

CLIMBING BELT:

Heavy-duty, leather belt with padding and back support. Belt allows the lineman to carry tools and other materials needed when on the job.

TOOL POUCH:

Leather container on climbing belt holds tools, including screwdriver, pliers and ruler.

HOOKS:

The hooks wrap around the legs, just below the knees, and around and over the work boots. They hold the gaffs in place.

GAFFS: Sharp, steel points connected to the hooks. Tips dig into the wooden poles, helping support the lineman and enabling safe climbing.