RPU SENDS LINEWORKERS TO THE 
APPA LINEWORKERS RODEO IN SHAKOPEE
Established in 2001 by the American Public Power Association (APPA), the Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo is where public power lineworkers come together from all over the United States and some U.S. territories to demonstrate their skill and knowledge in the craft of linework. At the Rodeo, journeyman and apprentice lineworkers compete for professional recognition, attend training courses, and practice essential skills in a safe environment. Furthermore, attendees have a unique opportunity to connect with and learn from the nationwide community of lineworker professionals.

It’s true! Pileated woodpeckers cause significant damage to the distribution and transmission poles in Rochester. The damage left by woodpeckers in the utility poles compromises the integrity of the poles, which could lead to safety concerns or outages. Depending on the damage, the type of pole, and the age of the pole, certain things are done to repair the pole and then deter woodpeckers from doing future damage.

In the case of the transmission poles behind Mayo Field heading east toward Quarry Hill, the wood poles were able to be filled in, if necessary, and then a heavy wire mesh was installed around the poles. RPU lineworkers spent a number of days inspecting the transmission poles for damage and then installing the wire mesh. The mesh doesn’t allow the woodpeckers the space they need to dig into the poles, so they (hopefully) move onto trees for their habitat.
A Quick Q&A about RPU Tree Trimming

RPU puts significant resources into its tree trimming program to better ensure that overhead lines and equipment are clear of tree limbs and other vegetation. In 2015 alone, RPU budgeted nearly $1 million for tree trimming operations.

Our electric outage statistics show that the added attention to tree trimming has paid off in fewer and shorter outages due to less clearing needed along distribution lines. This work often goes unseen by customers until a storm requires clearing of vegetation, but it is important that customers understand the tree trimming process and reasons behind it.

We sat down for a few minutes to speak with RPU’s tree trimming operations work planner Matt Behrens to find out more about the importance of tree trimming and how it can affect electric outages.

Q Why is tree trimming so important to electric reliability?
A Storms and weather cause damage all the time to trees, causing branches and sometimes entire trees to fall into overhead lines and equipment. When this happens, we often find that it could have been prevented with proper tree trimming and clearing around the lines.

Q What can homeowners do to help prevent overgrowth into overhead lines?
A If a homeowner has trees and branches growing into the line, they can call RPU (507.280.1500) to have this assessed. If necessary, RPU will remove branches and vegetation near the lines. There is no charge for this service.

Q What if a homeowner is concerned about losing the tree coverage on their property?
A We work with homeowners all the time to educate them on the types of trees that should go in certain areas of their property. Clearing vegetation away from overhead lines will help to ensure that you and your neighbors don’t lose power in a storm, but it can also be a safety decision as well.

Q Talking about safety, why should a homeowner never try to do the tree trimming themselves?
A Tree trimming is very dangerous work and when electricity is involved it can be even more dangerous. Leave the work to the experts, by calling RPU or a licensed and certified tree trimming professional.

Q As we get closer to spring, what do you recommend homeowners do to prevent outages due to trees and overhead lines?
A Each spring, homeowners should walk their property and look for areas where vegetation is getting close to overhead lines. As leaves and foliage begin to grow, keep an eye on those areas and if limbs are weighing down too low or the branches are close to lines, call RPU (507.280.1500) to have an assessment done.

Q In 2015, how many vegetation areas did you trim or how many trees did you remove that could have potentially affected electric reliability?
A We trimmed almost 1,300 locations and removed 284 trees that could have potentially caused electric outages.

Q What would you like to leave as a final message to readers?
A Always keep safety as a priority. Leave tree trimming and tree trimming decisions up to the experts. Do not try to do the work yourself. Call RPU (507.280.1500) for an assessment of your trees and vegetation near overhead power lines.
RPU’s 14th Annual Arbor Day Celebration

and Minnesota DNR’s 2016 State Arbor Month Celebration Kick-off Event

Friday, April 29, 2016 • 11am-1pm • Three Links - Silver Lake Park

ADMISSION IS FREE!

- FREE Food* • FREE Trees* • Giveaways* • Live Music • Family Activities • Poster Contest Winners Awarded

RAIN LOCATION: RCTC’s Field House • QUESTIONS: Stephanie Humphrey 507.280.1639 • MORE INFO: www.rpu.org

*while supplies last

SPONSORING PARTNERS:

CO-SPONSORS:

PARTICIPANTS:

Olmsted County Environmental Resources • Olmsted Soil & Water Conservation District
Rochester Public Library • Rochester Public Works • Zumbro Valley Audubon

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
(Arbor Month 2016 Partner)
When planting a tree in your yard, it is important to take into account the type of tree you are planting, the location, and the function for the tree. All of these items feed into the Arbor Day Foundation’s right tree, right place education.

Planting a large tree under or near overhead power lines will require future maintenance of the tree including pruning to an unnatural size and shape or possibly even removal of a healthy tree. Large trees near overhead lines cause a major issue for electric reliability and for safety.

Always consult with your local tree expert or contact RPU before planting trees near overhead lines.

Right Tree, Right Place

Partners in Planting

$10 NURSERY COUPON

GOOD FOR $10 TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF ANY TREE PRICED AT $75 OR MORE, FROM JIM WHITING NURSERY OR SARGENT’S GARDENS.

Must be an RPU customer to participate. One coupon per household.

Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Phone: ( ) Email:

Type of tree purchased: Size of tree purchased: Planting distance from house:

On which side of your home will you be planting the tree? north south east west

In support of RPU’s Partners in Planting program.
ATTEND A FREE ENERGY EFFICIENCY WORKSHOP AND QUALIFY FOR A $50 HOME ENERGY AUDIT! (‘400 value!)

LAST SCHEDULED WORKSHOP:
Tue 05.17.16 • 6:30pm • George Gibbs Elementary

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT CONTACT:
Stacy Boots Camp
888.734.6365
sbootscamp@mncee.org

LEARN MORE AT:
www.rpu.org

HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING

Thank you for dropping off all of your old holiday lights! We collected 1,578 lbs. of holiday lights for recycling, which will keep them out of a landfill!

ATTEND A FREE ENERGY EFFICIENCY WORKSHOP AND QUALIFY FOR A $50 HOME ENERGY AUDIT! (‘400 value!)

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WATER CONSERVATION

MONTHLY TIP ON SAVING FROM THE TAP...

One drip every second adds up to five gallons per day!
Check your faucets and showerheads for leaks.

Lower Your Energy Usage To Lower Your Energy Costs!

Attend one of our FREE efficiency workshops to learn how.

Attend one of our FREE efficiency workshops to learn how.

($400 value!)
Call Before You Dig

As you are plotting out your tree plantings, landscaping, or even a new deck or play area, remember to always Call Before You Dig this spring. Gopher State One Call is a free utility locating service. Gopher State One Call is an important service to help keep customers and utility workers safe. It’s not only quick and easy; it is also your responsibility as a homeowner.

Color Code Chart

The American Public Works Association encourages public agencies, utilities, contractors, associations, manufacturers, and all others involved in excavation to adopt the ULCC Uniform Color Code using the ANSI standard Z53.1 Safety Colors shown below. These colors are used to mark the various underground utilities that may be found during a dig. Flags or paint are examples of materials that are used to mark areas using the colors below.

- Proposed Excavation
- Temporary Survey Markings
- Electric
- Gas-Oil-Steam-Propane

Communication-CATV-Fiber
Water
Reclaimed Water-Irrigation
Sewer

- Electric
- Gas-Oil-Steam-Propane

www.gopherstateonecall.org | 1.800.252.1166

It’s Easy Being GREEN with CONSERVE & $AVE™

LEAP into living green!
RPU offers rebates when you purchase new energy and water efficient appliances and equipment!

HOP on to our website to learn more about our RIBBITS!
Oops, we mean our REBATES.
View a list of eligible items and download applications with complete terms and conditions.

www.rpu.org
Thanks for Stopping by Our Booth!

We had a great time meeting and talking with everyone who stopped by our booth at the Rochester Area Builder's Home Show! If you weren't able to stop by the booth and you have questions, give us a call at 507.280.1500.