Member Spotlight

My name is Lyle Lamote, line superintendent and safety coordinator for Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc. I have been a volunteer fireman for the Tyler Fire Department for the past 24 years, and currently serve as vice president of the Relief Association. I have been involved with the Minnesota Safety Council SW Region for the last five years.

Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative strives to provide safe, reliable electric energy to our members in Southwest Minnesota. Based in Tyler, MN, Lyon-Lincoln has provided service to our members for nearly 80 years. Our 17 dedicated employees serve nearly 4,000 member’s services and maintain 1,666 miles of energized line.

What does safety mean to your company?
Here at Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, safety is our top priority, a key component of providing reliable electricity to our members. Safety is a team effort, starting at the top and encompassing all levels of the organization. This helps to ensure that all employees can go home to their families at the end of the day, and that members of the cooperative can stay safe in our rural communities. Keeping safety first increases morale for the employees when they are out restoring power outages. Knowing that they have each other’s back and knowing that Lyon-Lincoln gives them the resources, education, and equipment to get the power back on safely.

Describe a defining safety moment.
We all know electricity can be dangerous, and if you are not thinking about the dangers it can cause, electricity will come back and get you. By continually educating our employees with safety meetings and hands-on experiences we can lessen our chances of having an accident. We conduct crew visits to make sure our linemen are doing their jobs safely, and if a job requires additional resources to complete in a safe manner. Technology and equipment are always changing, so by completing the crew visits and communicating with the linemen, we can make changes to job procedures to ensure safety.

What advice would you give to other safety leaders?
As leaders, we have to continually encourage positive attitudes and safe work practices to ensure our employees feel safe at work and are willing at all levels to communicate with each other to make sure we keep a strong safety culture at work and within our communities.