

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

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From: Tracy Gibb
Communications and Member Relations Specialist
Firelands Electric Cooperative, Inc.
tgibb@firelandsec.com



P.O. Box 32 • 103 Industrial Drive
New London, OH 44851
1-800-533-8658
Fax 419-929-8550
www.firelandsec.com

Students win behind-the-scenes look at linework

Three area elementary students recently had the opportunity to go on a private tour of Firelands Electric Cooperative and have lunch with several linemen in conjunction with an electrical safety contest held in May.

Open to students in kindergarten through fifth grade, the contest focused on learning about lineworker safety equipment. Those who submitted the five-question safety quiz and entry form had their names entered into a drawing for a chance to spend a day behind the scenes at the cooperative.

On July 31, winners Vinton Robson of New London, Graham Painter of Willard, and Dalton Felter of New London spent over an hour touring the cooperative's facility in New London. They were able to get an up-close look at a bucket truck, track machine, and other vehicles, as well as try on some of the linemen's safety gear, such as rubber sleeves and overshoes.

Firelands Electric linemen Rick Bowers, Chris Kent, and Zach Hart demonstrated pole climbing and showed students how they use a special tool, known as an extendo stick, to replace a pole-top fuse from the ground. The linemen also answered questions from both students and their adult guests about the generation of electricity, working during a storm, and the training that linemen complete.

Following the tour and demonstrations, students enjoyed a pizza lunch with the line crew. Each student also went home with a gift bag of electrical safety activities, Firelands swag, and their own junior lineman hard hat.

"Our annual electrical safety contest is a wonderful way to connect with our younger members," says Communications and Member Relations Specialist Tracy Gibb. "This is the co-op's second year holding our lunch with a lineman contest, and we really hope to see interest in this program grow. It an excellent opportunity for students, and they get some great one-on-one time with the cooperative's line crews and other staff."

To view photos from Lunch with a Lineman, visit the co-op's photo gallery at www.flickr.com/photos/firelandsec/albums.

Firelands Electric, A Touchstone Energy Cooperative®, is a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative providing electric service to over 9,200 homes and businesses in rural areas of Ashland, Huron, Lorain, and Richland counties. For more information on the cooperative's community programs, visit www.firelandsec.com/community.

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[PHOTO ALSO ATTACHED]



[LEFT PHOTO]

Apprentice Lineman Zach Hart recently did a pole-climbing demonstration for (l-r) Graham Painter, Vinny Robson, and Dalton Felter, who won a special, behind-the-scenes tour of Firelands Electric as part of the cooperative's Lunch with a Lineman contest.

[RIGHT PHOTO]

Journeyman Lineman Chris Kent helps Graham Painter try on rubber gloves and sleeves.

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