



## SPRINGFIELD UTILITY BOARD

### Job Description

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**TITLE:** Apprentice Lineman

**STATUS:** Non-exempt / Union - IBEW

**REPORTS TO:** Line Superintendent and Line Foreman

**RANGE:** Contract

**POSITION SUMMARY:** An Apprentice Lineman commits to a three-year apprenticeship program (not including the first six-month period as a Groundman) and works under the supervision of a Journeyman Lineman at all times. All apprentices will be required to register under the Oregon State Law of Apprenticeship and participate in such related on-the-job training programs as made available through this agency. The Apprentice Lineman apprenticeship program shall comply with the Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC) program requirements for the Eugene/Springfield area. Performs other duties as assigned.

#### **MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

##### *Essential Functions*

1. Supports and models behavior to promote the Mission and Core Values of SUB to staff and customers.
2. Develops and maintains professionalism and effective teamwork in the performance of job duties.
3. Maintains reliable and predictable attendance.
4. Must maintain passing grades at required Saturday classes and at Camp Rilea throughout apprenticeship program.
5. Performs overhead and underground electric line construction and operation and maintenance under the direction of assigned Journeyman Lineman and/or Line Foreman.
6. Installs, operates and maintains overhead facilities according to SUB standards and the NESC when permitted through the Apprenticeship Program.
7. Installs, operates and maintains underground facilities according to SUB standards and the NESC when permitted through the Apprenticeship Program.
8. Operates electric line construction equipment to include, but not limited to, stringing equipment, backhoes, derrick diggers, material handlers and trucks when permitted through the Apprenticeship Program.
9. Efficiently and safely performs line work while on a pole or in a bucket truck when permitted through Apprenticeship Program.
10. Demonstrates a respect for authority and a commitment to work cooperatively with others and supervisors.

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11. Performs work on energized electrical lines and equipment (“hot” work) when permitted through the Apprenticeship Program.
12. Loads and unloads materials.
13. Responds with sound judgement to unusual and hazardous circumstances.
14. Represents Springfield Utility Board in a manner conducive to good public relations.
15. Maintains a current Oregon CDL Class A driver’s license and good driving and safety record.
16. Possesses and displays a working knowledge of and abides by SUB working rules and safety practices, SUB policies and procedures and the IBEW contract.
17. Maintains responsibility for verifying the condition of all vehicles, equipment and tools provided for use in the performance of company work.

### ***Marginal Functions***

None

*Given the dynamic and challenging environment of the utility industry and our mission to provide exceptional service to our internal and external customers, additional duties and responsibilities, other than those listed in this job description, may be assigned (contingent on labor agreement provisions, if applicable). Your supervisor will communicate these changes either formally or informally, verbally or in writing.*

### ***Attributes***

SUB strives to promote a safe, positive and caring work environment. In addition to the above responsibilities, the following attributes are essential to be a successful employee at SUB:

- Being committed to SUB’s Mission and Core Values
- Complying with safety practices and policies
- Being professional, honest, courteous and respectful to others in your conduct
- Being responsive to suggestions to improve performance
- Being flexible to adapt to a changing work environment
- Performing as a productive team member
- Being accountable for your own performance, behaviors and contributions
- Taking the initiative to accomplish your responsibilities to the best of your ability

These qualities in our employees ensure that working at SUB is motivating, fun and enjoyable while performing a valuable service to our utility and community.

### **OTHERS SUPERVISED**

- None

## MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

### *Experience*

- Prior experience working in an electric utility preferred

### *Knowledge, Skills & Abilities*

- Demonstrates the interest and ability to commit to a three-year apprenticeship program (not including the 1000 hours of ground work) that includes classroom, home study and on-the-job training
- Proficient in basic mathematics
- Work in all types of weather conditions
- Must obtain an Oregon Class A CDL driver's license within the first six months
- Ability to learn the methods, procedures, hazards and safety precautions for working on energized lines
- Ability to use of hand tools, power operated equipment and hot sticks
- Ability to work confidently and safely at significant heights
- Ability to learn and apply electrical concepts, codes and standards

### *Education/Certifications*

- A new employee in this position must pass the OSHA-accredited written exam for Digger Derrick Crane Certification for SUB's equipment within six (6) months of hire, and must complete the OSHA-approved Digger Derrick Crane Certification within one (1) year of hire and maintain the certification thereafter.
- High school diploma or equivalent

## PHYSICAL AND MENTAL REQUIREMENTS

- **ALERTNESS & CONCENTRATION:** Maintains full alertness and concentration at all times while working on top of poles, work platforms, on the ground and around energized wires, even in inclement climatic conditions, at night and at the end of a 36-hour emergency storm shift (with no sleep and break only for meals).
- **ABILITY TO DEAL WITH STRESS:** Interacts well with co-workers in stressful situations. Makes decisions quickly and calmly when working near energized wires. Thinks and reacts quickly in emergency situations, especially those involving energized wires or a pole top.
- **VISION:**
  - Far Visual Acuity:** Assesses status of fixtures (i.e. wires, and devices) on top of a 45-foot pole from the ground. Sees adequately to drive line truck and equipment.
  - Near Visual Acuity:** Reads small print stamped on metal plates on transformers.

**Peripheral Vision:** Maintains full field of vision in all directions to assess proximity to energized wires, co-workers, movements of bucket and other equipment, or objects falling from above. Assesses position of knuckle on bucket truck boom in relation to overhead wires while maneuvering the bucket.

**Color Vision:** Judges red, green and yellow traffic lights adequately to drive line trucks on highways. Differentiates red and green control lights on switching equipment and color of underground utility locate paint.

**Depth Perception:** Judges depth very accurately to: (1) Ensure positive contact of a connector and an energized wire when using an eight-foot hot stick, when missing contact would cause a dangerous arc; (2) Assess position of the top of a pole with respect to overhead lines while moving the butt of a pole on the ground when setting poles between energized wires; and (3) Assess position of the end of a boom holding a load (i.e. a transformer) from the ground up to 50 feet away, while attempting to get the load within a few inches of the correct position.

**Night Vision:** Maintains the visual abilities listed above when working at night and in poor light and inclement weather conditions.

- **HEARING:** Hears spoken conversation well while working on top of a 45-foot pole and communicating with a co-worker on the ground, despite heavy background noise from traffic, construction equipment, rain or wind, and when visual signals cannot be used. Accurately hears the high-pitched "fuzzing" noise (about 6,000 Hertz) which occurs when making certain types of connections on energized wires. Hears adequately to operate a two-way radio.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Communicates clearly to be accurately understood when on top of a 45-foot pole and communicating with a co-worker on the ground or when up to 100 feet away from a co-worker when energizing conductors, despite heavy background noise from traffic, construction equipment, rain or wind and when visual signals cannot be used. Communicates by two-way radio.
- **STANDING:** Stands on a pole or in the bucket of an aerial lift, usually a minimum of 30 minutes at one time. May actually be up a pole 4 hours at one time, maneuvering around the pole at intervals. Total standing time is 15% - 40% of the average shift.
- **SITTING:** Worker sits on a bench-style pickup seat 1.5 hours maximum at one time while driving to a job site. Total sitting is 3 to 4 hours per shift.
- **WALKING:** Rarely walks one to two miles at a time on uneven ground. More common maximum distance walked is 1/4 to 1/2 mile. Total walking per shift is 30% - 50%.
- **LIFTING/CARRYING:** 0-10 lbs. - Continuous; 11-20 lbs - Continuous; 21-50 lbs. - Frequently; 51-75 lbs. - Frequently; 75-100 lbs. – Occasionally. Worker climbs the pole wearing a belt with 24 lbs. of gear and tools. When positioning a cross-arm, worker may take the full 95 lb. weight while holding the cross-arm in place up to 10 seconds until it is secured into position. When performing a pole top rescue of a co-worker, worker may take the full weight of victim on rescuer belt (could be over 200 lbs). Worker may take full weight of two spans of wire (about 150 lbs) on shoulder while lifting it up one foot onto an insulator; or

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may use arm's length around the end of a cross-arm using body belt, safety strap and hooks. The hot stick is a telescoping plastic pole that extends to a length of 36 feet and is used to lift parts weighing up to eight pounds up to the pole. Insulators or cross-arms weighing 96 lbs. may be lifted from below waist level to shoulder height up to five times per day. This would involve some twisting as these items would come up to the worker via a hand line.

- **PUSHING/PULLING:** The 350 MCM triplex (2-inch diameter wire weighing 1.2 lbs. per foot) is pushed through a 3-inch conduit, often while bent over in a ditch for up to 15 minutes at a time, 4 times a day. Also may be done while up on pole, standing on hooks, wearing a body belt. Other pushing/pulling would involve using a rake when finishing an underground project.
- **REACHING/HANDLING:** While on a pole, worker occasionally works at full extent of his/her reach and leans back while using tools, often standing on one leg and in awkward positions. May be required to maneuver a chain saw at top of pole to cut off part of pole. Grips and firmly holds hand tools, lines and equipment for several minutes at a time, often at arms length while up on a pole. Squeezes wire cutters to cut 10 mm wire with steel core. Operates finger controls and rotates hot sticks deftly to remove cotter keys from suspension insulators. Threads nuts and washers on cut outs and fixes fuses. Uses tools wearing heavy gloves. Operates lever controls on digger derrick and bucket trucks as well as knobs and levers on wire pulling machine when stringing new wire. Gives hand signals when setting poles. Writes reports and draws diagrams. Uses pistol grip hand control, which control movements of baskets of aerial lifts. Uses jack hammers, chain saws, electrical drills, hydraulic tree trimming saws and hydraulic tamps.
- **TWISTING:** Rotates head fully to both sides to observe equipment and co-workers while maintaining body in awkward position on poles. Some twisting is required when lifting items that are brought up to the lineman on a hand line. Often works in awkward positions when on the pole.
- **CLIMBING:** Climbs in and out of buckets and baskets of aerial lifts with tools and equipment. Climbs 30-90- foot poles using hand safety belt and climbing hooks on boots while carrying 24 lbs. of equipment. Climbs to ends of cross-arms and down onto suspension ladders on transmission towers. Climbs into manholes in underground vaults. Climbs hills and walks over uneven ground while carrying equipment. Climbs 30-50-foot transmission poles while carrying equipment; may rarely climb a 90-foot pole.
- **CRAWLING:** Not usually required.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:** Performs a variety of strenuous tasks outside with temperatures varying from below zero to over 100 degrees, sometimes in rainy, windy, snowy or icy conditions. Works around high voltage wires, using hot sticks and insulated rubber gloves when appropriate. Exposed to noise from traffic construction equipment near construction sites, jack hammers, hydraulic saws and tamps, and chippers (used when tree trimming), as well as chain saws up to six hours per day. Hearing protection is provided. Works in confined spaces, such as underground vaults requiring entry through a manhole. Works in ditches 60 inches deep by 24 inches wide when laying underground wire. Exposed to chemicals used to treat poles primarily through skin contact, or inhaling wood dust after

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drilling. Exposures may include creosote, pentachlorophenol or keminite. Exposed to chemicals used to treat poles. primarily through skin contact, or inhaling wood dust after drilling. Exposures may include creosote, pentachlorophenol or keminite. Exposed to currently used cable cleaning products that are used to clean cables before splicing when installing underground wires. The solvents cleaner is placed on a rag and the cable is cleaned. This is often done in the ditch. Exposed to silica-based paints while painting transformers. Exposure to mineral oils if transformers and other equipment is damaged. Exposed to numerous types of pollen. Bee/wasp stings, animal bites or poison oak may also occur.

- **PRODUCTS AND MATERIALS:** Works with lumber, wire, bolts.
- **MACHINES/TOOLS/EQUIPMENT:** Operates and uses power tools, hand tools, jack hammers, chain saws, hydraulic tree trimming saws, hydraulic tamps, rakes, aerial lifts, digger/derrick cranes, trucks, and hot sticks.

Revised: January 23, 2019