

# Power Line Worker

Build and repair the high voltage lines that carry electricity to everyone else. Outdoors, dangerous, and paid like it.

## TYPICAL PAY

**\$95,320**

a year, full time

## PAY RANGE

**\$51k to \$129k**

starting to experienced

## TIME TO QUALIFY

**3 to 4 years**

after high school

## DEMAND

**Very high**

job outlook

## LICENCE NEEDED

**No**

anyone can do it

## WHERE YOU WORK

**Utility yards, roadsides, storm sites, transmission corridors**

## How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12  
Algebra is the one that matters. Get strong, get comfortable with heights, and keep your driving record clean.
- 2 Commercial driver's license** A few weeks  
Most crews need you to drive the bucket truck and the digger derrick, so a Class A CDL (commercial driver's license) is either required up...
- 3 Optional lineworker school** 3 to 15 months  
A 15-week to 15-month certificate at a school like Northwest Lineman College, which has campuses in Idaho, California, Texas and Florida,...
- 4 Get into a registered apprenticeship** Weeks to a year of waiting  
Through a utility, a line construction contractor, or a joint union and employer program. Expect an aptitude test, an interview, a physical an...
- 5 Work the apprenticeship** About 3 and a half to 4 years  
Most outside line programs run about 7,000 hours on the job plus classroom work. You climb, you dig, you frame poles, you learn to work...
- 6 Journeyman lineworker** After your hours  
You top out at the full rate, take your own truck and start training the apprentices behind you.

## Pros and cons

- + A six figure median without a degree or debt
- + Paid from the first day of the apprenticeship
- + Demand is rising as the grid gets rebuilt and expanded
- One of the genuinely dangerous jobs in the country
- Storm callouts at 2am, holidays included
- Weeks away from home on travel and mutual aid work

## Good to know

### About 127,000 people do this job

Federal occupation data counts roughly 127,400 electrical power-line installers and repairers in the United States, with employment projected to grow 7% or more over the decade. It is a small trade hol...

### The survey says it plainly

In the federal occupation survey, more than 80% of line workers report daily exposure to hazardous conditions and to working in high places, and 83% say they wear specialized protective equipment eve...

## Optional boosts

Transmission work. Troubleman. Substation and relay technician. Foreman or general foreman.

### Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers (49-9051.00)  
O\*NET OnLine: Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers  
Apprenticeship.gov, the Department of Labor apprenticeship finder  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/power-line-worker>



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