



New Indoor Pole Yard Ready for Action

Like mail carriers, linemen are often called upon to work in rain, sleet and snow. “Learning how to climb poles in these types of conditions is a real challenge for first-time climbers,” notes Assistant Director-Related Training Wes Roberson, who is looking forward to conducting training in Missouri Valley’s new indoor pole facility next winter.

“The new 55-foot high facility with 45-foot distribution poles means winter training sessions will not have to take place in sub-zero weather,” explains Roberson. “The new facility allows us to provide a continuity of training, regardless of weather, while making it a little more comfortable for apprentices to learn this essential skill.”

“Although linemen may find themselves working in inclement weather during emergency situations, our first priority is to get them comfortable climbing in a more controlled setting,” explains Roberson. He compares the process to learning how to drive a car. “You don’t start off teaching someone to drive on black ice. That comes with experience.” Roberson is quick to note that things may not be as comfortable as they appear. “The new facility does not have air conditioning or heat!”

In addition to the indoor pole yard, Missouri Valley converted a 4,500 square foot building south of its current location for storage and the crane certification program. The building has sufficient room to meet additional training needs in the future. There have also been technology upgrades made to the existing building.

Why all the recent growth? “That’s a simple question to answer,” says Roberson. “As more people learn about the career opportunities for linemen, we are seeing increased enrollment, and we want to offer the next generation of linemen the best training facility possible — regardless of rain, sleet or snow.”

More About The Missouri Valley Constructors Apprenticeship & Training Program:

The apprenticeship program based in Indianola, Iowa, is one of seven locations operated by the organization. The others are in the states of Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The Iowa program occupies a training facility, which includes an outdoor pole yard. The Iowa program trains thousands of apprentice linemen each year.

For additional information, or to schedule a visit to our training facilities, contact

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MISSOURI VALLEY LINE CONSTRUCTORS APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING PROGRAM

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