



**Stoughton Utilities**

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*Serving Electric, Water & Wastewater Since 1886*

# News Release

## Stoughton Utilities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Robert Kardasz, Utilities Director

### **Stoughton Utilities Recognizes Lineworkers for Service, Safety**

Line workers have a vital role in the community, working in harsh weather and sometimes hazardous conditions to keep electricity flowing year-round and to restore power immediately during an outage. In honor of National Lineman Appreciation Day on April 18, Stoughton Utilities commends its lineworkers' commitment to service and safety.

"Our linemen are on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and they have to be ready for any situation. They're often the first responders during storms, making the scene safe for other public safety workers. We value the work they do every day to maintain reliable service to homes and businesses," said Stoughton Utilities Director, Robert Kardasz.

The utility recently earned the American Public Power Association's national Electric Utility Safety Award, receiving a first place award for its outstanding safety record, including that of the lineman crew. It also received a Safety Achievement Award issued by the Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin.

Stoughton Utilities' lineworkers also participate in a national mutual aid system to send crews where needed in the event of an emergency, such as Hurricane Sandy in 2012 when three Stoughton linemen traveled to eastern Pennsylvania for provide assistance for more than two weeks.

There continues to be a strong demand for highly trained lineworkers, Kardasz said. Learning the trade often involves completing a technical college program, followed by an apprenticeship. It's challenging but rewarding profession that requires significant training, knowledge, attention to detail and physical stamina, he explained.

Each year, the utility awards a \$1,000 Lineworker Training Scholarship to a high school senior who plans to attend a Wisconsin technical college that offers the Electrical Power Distribution Program.

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Founded in 1886, Stoughton Utilities serves electric customers in Stoughton and the surrounding area; and wastewater and water customers in Stoughton.