

3,700 power poles and knocked offline more than 63,000 meters across 15-plus cooperatives in West Texas and the Panhandle. The October storm coated power lines with half-inch-thick ice, which can add 500 pounds to a single span of line, toppling crossarms, lines and poles across sparse stretches of plains.

Help poured in to the co-ops affected by the ice, which a South Plains EC spokesperson called "the most devastating storm we've had in 20 years"; Lighthouse EC general manager Albert Daniel said was "the worst storm to ever hit Lighthouse by all recollections"; and Lyntegar EC called "likely the largest single outage event ... in the history of the cooperative."

Suddenly Glasscock and many fellow first responders were the ones in need of help after they just provided it.

"In my nearly 20-year career, I've never seen anything this detrimental to our system," Glasscock said. "Most of the time it's in one specific area. This was our whole system."

United lineworkers Perry and Morrow headed west, just weeks after their tireless work out east, joining a major rebuilding effort in the Panhandle.

"Just seeing those guys roll through the gates, I thought, 'Man, we've got help,'" Glasscock said. "I knew we were in good shape then."

Progress was much slower in the Panhandle, where homes can be separated by miles.

"I believe the first day that we went out, there were 13 or 14 poles that were on the ground that fed one house," Morrow said. "In Louisiana that might have gotten 30, 40, 50 people on, if not more." But the payoff was no different. "The relief in people's eyes and the joy that they experience is the same."

Between the hurricanes and ice storm, Perry spent about three weeks away from his family over the course of about two months. "I don't know that I'll ever forget this year," said Perry, a 16-year line work veteran. "This has been one of the craziest years that I've been a part of in this work."

Those in need kept him going. That was just as true this past February, when co-op members supported crews through an unprecedented polar vortex. Dangerous roads, iced-over lines and poles, and grid-mandated outages made lineworkers' jobs even more challenging.

"There was the normal fatigue that comes from working so many 12-hour days in a row, but sometimes that was compounded by coming home to a cold house," said Kendal Fiebrich, a Bluebonnet EC lineworker.

Sympathetic members lent support online and in the field - like a woman in Moss Bluff, Louisiana. She cooked up a meal of gumbo "and any kind of Louisiana fixin's you could think of," Morrow said, for linemen from Texas and Missouri who restored her

power after weeks of living off a generator.

Strangers united by the co-op family.

"It's the people who make it worthwhile," Morrow said.

"You'll never find someone more thankful and willing to help you when you're there to help them."

Walking the Lines

After Texas thawed and the

lights came back on in February, co-op lineworkers still weren't done.

When February's polar vortex brought to Texas enough snow, ice, cold and wind to strain every bit of infrastructure, Cody Hansen, a Bandera Electric Cooperative lineworker, parked his bucket truck on the side of a Hill Country road. He was hoofing it.

"The roads were super more difficult when you have to snowed over. Then instead of walk the lines out and try not to patches of black ice, we had all break an ankle."

(Continued on next page)



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The Colorado River Municipal Water District is accepting applications for an **Assistant Operations Superintendent**.

Position is responsible for supervising maintenance employees to assure smooth operation of District facilities while following direction of the Operations Superintendent. The position will work out of the San Angelo field office.

The successful candidate will have the experience necessary to successfully plan, direct, organize, and oversee the daily activities of crews maintaining the District's raw water pipelines, pumps, and pump stations. Must have progressive experience managing multiple projects and personnel. Prior experience in water supply operations and distribution strongly preferred.

CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and sick, vacation, and holiday leave.

Applications are required and are available at the District's office, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas or by calling (432) 267-6341.

BRONTE HEALTH AND REHAB CENTER

is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

BUSINESS OFFICE MANAGER

Position Summary

Under the direct supervision of the Administrator, the Business Office Manager (BOM) ensures the fiscal responsibility and financial health of the facility. The BOM manages and ensures that the financial system is accurate, efficient, and in accordance with professional accounting practices and government regulations.

Essential Position Functions

- Performance and/or supervise the collection of all A/R and A/P accounts, billing and collection of Medicaid, Medicare, Hospice, and Private Insurance - Process payroll, orientation of new employees, maintain personnel employee files - Handle disbursements, collection of personal trust funds - Provide administrative and clerical support - Obtain resident admission data - Ensure resident confidentiality, treat residents with dignity, kindness, and respect; know and comply with Residents Rights, Rules - Assist in preparing departmental budgets - prepare for and record board meeting
- Census tracking, completing 3618/3619's - Responsible for monthly Medicare Triple Check, timely and quarterly completion of bad debt, reconcile all facility accounts using the appropriate worksheets and accounting software, assuring that all accounts are kept current - Responsible for full Medicaid applications and annual renewals - Assist with cost reports, occupancy reports - Prepare and facilitate aging reviews with Administrator - Ensure timeliness of all company and regulatory requirements involved with BOM functions - At times there will be other special assignments/duties
- Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance, or other related field is preferred
- Licensing Requirements: None
- Job Type: Full-Time
- Must be Bondable/Notary
- Recommended Skills: 1. Billing Accounts, Receivables, Office Management, Finance, Collections, Account; 2. Must be able to relate positively to residents, and families and work cooperatively with other employees; 3. Must meet all State health regulations; 4. Must have knowledge of office machines and equipment; 5. Must have basic knowledge of computer, and skills necessary to accomplish the job

Benefits for eligible staff include medical, vacation, holiday, sick, and travel pay.

Please apply in person at
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