



Lineman's lingo:

Time to learn your lines

Bluebonnet



Apprentice Andrew Kessler, above left, competes in the Bell Change event. This year marked the 19th anniversary of the Texas Lineman's Rodeo, held at Nolte Island Park in Seguin.

By Chelsea Beauchamp

Our crews speak a language all their own. Eavesdrop on a bunch of linemen getting ready to restore someone's power, replace downed power lines or upgrade a transformer high atop a pole and you'll quickly take note of a lot of lingo.

Let's demystify the discourse. Here are a few terms and their meanings, in case you overhear some linemen on the job:

On the wood: Climbing a pole.

Tooled up: Wearing all the necessary equipment for a task, including safety gloves, safety goggles, hard hat, gear, tool pouch and ditty bag.

Ditty bag: A small canvas bag on a lineman's tool belt where he keeps miscellaneous supplies, such as tape, bolts and other specialized items. It's worn in addition to a leather tool pouch, where he keeps tools such as Kleins lineman's pliers/cutters, a speed ratchet, hammer, knife and screwdriver.

Guts: Yes, that's what it takes for our guys to safely, quickly climb poles and work on dangerous equipment. But in Bluebonnet linemen's lingo, guts are 6-foot-long, 8- to 10-pound rubber tubes (some utilities use plastic) that cover exposed power lines to keep the crew safe from accidental contact with energized lines.

Headache: What a lineman on a pole yells before he drops something from above. In other words, "Get out of the way!"

Sagging wire/up to sag:

Sagging a wire is the action of pulling wire from the ground "up to sag," which makes the wire of uniform height as it stretches to the next pole.

If wires are not pulled up to sag, the top (energized) wire can come into contact with a lower wire, which can result in big, dangerous problems, including outages.

Go online and let Bluebonnet lineman Kenneth 'Carrot' Roush, left, tell you all about the lineman's lingo.

Find the video on Bluebonnet's

YouTube channel by searching for

'Bluebonnet Coop'.



During the opening ceremony, Bluebonnet lineman Jeff Hohlt, at right, prepares to hang the American flag in honor of his friend and fellow lineman Kenny Roland, who died earlier this year.



Sarah Beal photos

Danny Bolding, left, collects his equipment after the Journeyman Downed Primary event.

Find more photos online with this story at bluebonnet.coop and find our video on Bluebonnet's YouTube channel by searching for 'Bluebonnet Coop'.



Bluebonnet's Red Rock Service Center barbecue team — Heath Walden, Jeremy Lynch, Brian Peters and Michael Jeffrey — took home the grand prize for best overall barbecue. If you want to sample some of their smokin' good barbecue, head to Brady Sept. 4-5 for the World Championship BBQ Goat Cook-Off.

