

# THE MPPD MINUTE



September  
2024

## MOCK DISASTER DRILL

On August 12th, MPPD teamed up with Southwest Public Power District, City of McCook, McCook Fire and Rescue, Red Willow Western Rural Fire Department, Law Enforcement, and Community Hospital for a Mock Disaster drill. Community Hospital's Emergency Management Director, Stacey Aguilar coordinated the exercise.

The exercise gave the power companies the opportunity to test May Day Protocol and public awareness of the dangers of downed power lines. It allowed first responders' to test awareness and proper triage. Hospital personnel evaluated the management of patients, bed control, and communications.

Three of the volunteer victims were MPPD linemen Skyler Kalinski, Brandon Spatz, and Hunter Potthoff. Creating a safe work environment is crucial in this line of work and having the involvement of employees who value safety sets a precedence within our company.



*First responders transport Journeyman lineman Skyler Kalinski to level ground and prepare to load him into an ambulance.*

### ***Stay Away From Downed Power Lines!***

An overhead power line can become damaged or fall due to a severe storm, car accident, public damage or other reasons. If you see a downed power line, take these actions:

- ◆ Consider all power lines energized and deadly.
- ◆ Stay away!
- ◆ Call 9-1-1 or the utility to report the downed power line.
- ◆ Do not approach it or try to move it with another object.

- ◆ Do not approach the scene.
- ◆ Warn others to stay away.
- ◆ Turn around and go another way.

Remember, downed power lines can be hidden by storm debris, water, snow or ice.



## RESCUE TRAINING

Each year linemen are required to participate in Hurtman Rescue and Bucket Rescue training to assure they are capable of safely rescuing a fellow lineworker in an emergency situation.

The purpose of Hurtman Rescue is to safely lower an injured lineworker, who is unconscious and on top of the pole, in less than 3 minutes. Speed is an important factor as it only takes about 4 minutes for brain damage to occur in the event the injured lineworker is not breathing.

Bucket Rescue training consists of lowering the bucket to ground level if the employee in the bucket becomes incapacitated from a medical emergency or another unforeseen issue. The worker on the ground takes control of the system using the lower controls bringing the injured worker to the ground.

*Pictured: Foreman Brandon Jacobs performs Hurtman Rescue Training.*