



BEING A HERO

IS JUST PART OF THE JOB FOR THIS LINEMAN

For 41 days this spring Matt Moriva felt like a hero. According to Matt, that's just one of the many benefits of being a lineman. He was among the hundreds of linemen who were called into action to restore power in the wake of tornadoes that hit Alabama in April.

Matt was safe and sound in his Wisconsin home when he got a late-night call telling him to report to the Henkels & McCoy yard outside of Madison, Wis., at 6 a.m. the following day. After a two-day drive to Tuscaloosa, Ala., and a briefing from the local power company, Matt and a crew of 30 were assigned the task of working on 138 KV transmission line that went through a local golf course. After the crew finished this line, they went to Parrish, Ala., to reconstruct a triple bundled 500 KV transmission line.

"It looked like a bomb hit the area," remembers Matt. "There was destruction in every direction you looked." The crew worked 16 to 18 hours a day, seven days a week, to help restore power to the area. "You could sense that local residents were thankful we were on the scene," he says. "Churches would bring us refreshments and everyone was quick to thank us for our efforts."

Although Matt has worked on several hurricane and storm crews, he quickly learned there were greater challenges associated with working in the wake of a major tornado. With so many linemen working in a small area, he had to really focus on safety, and although he was not involved in it, he did enjoy seeing fellow linemen working from helicopters. "That's not something linemen get to do or see very often."

Thanks to his training at Missouri Valley Line Constructors & Apprenticeship and Training Program, Matt is prepared to handle any job that comes his way — from working on storm crews to routine work. "Mo.Valley is probably the best apprenticeship program in the country for teaching you the technical and safety skills a lineman needs," claims Matt, who is about 300 hours away from earning his journeyman status. Today, he's putting that training to use working a 69 line with distribution under-build in Brodhead, Wis.

Matt worked as a carpenter for 17 years prior to entering Missouri Valley Line Constructors Apprenticeship & Training Program in 2007. "I wanted to try something new," he explains. "I found a career that offers great pay, outstanding benefits and makes me feel like a hero."

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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