



# Wallingford Electric Division Newsletter

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Vol. 37, No. 13  
Winter 2021

## Wallingford Electric Division – New Employees

**WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE RECENT HIRING OF THE FOLLOWING WED EMPLOYEES**

**Michelle Bracale** – Department of Public Utilities Executive Secretary

**Luke Costa** – Meter Reader

**Kevin Lohr** – Meter Reader

**Kelly Maguder** – Customer Service Representative

**Cynthia Nunez** – Account Clerk

**Richard Radomski** – System Operator



## Report a Failed Streetlight

The Electric Division maintains over 4,000 streetlights, and it is important we know when a streetlight is not working properly. If you encounter a failed street light, please report it by calling our System Clerk at (203) 294-2273 between the hours of 7:00 AM and 3:30 PM with a detailed description of the location; preferably the pole number (silver numbers at eye-level). If the pole number is not safely accessible, especially at night, then the street name, nearest cross-street and the address of the nearest home or business should enable us to find the correct street light.



Thank you for your help!

## Day in the Life of a Lineman

It's one of the most welcome sights after a hurricane blows through or an ice storm freezes a town: a utility truck rolling into the neighborhood with linemen aboard, ready to assess damage, make repairs and restore power.

Linemen install, maintain and repair the electric distribution infrastructure that provides power to all residential, commercial, and industrial customers that the electric utility serves. It's a job that often finds them working outdoors at a time when everyone else wants to be indoors, safe and protected from the elements.



A typical day for linemen — when they aren't responding to emergency calls — can involve changing out poles that have been damaged or are beyond their useful life. Linemen inspect poles to see if there are any signs of rotted wood or water damage. Poles can also be damaged by falling trees or vehicle collisions.

A distribution pole can be anywhere from 30 to 60 feet tall. Replacing one is a big job, typically performed by two linemen working above in a bucket truck with others on the ground providing them material. Once the pole is replaced the linemen transfer the power lines from the old pole to the new pole. The communication companies that are attached to the poles are then notified to transfer their lines from the old pole to the new pole.

Other duties for line crews include connections for new residential, commercial, and industrial construction projects, replacement of aging infrastructure, and construction of reliability improvement projects.

Line work can, of course, be dangerous, and it's not just the electricity that can be dangerous. They always have to be aware of their surroundings and the environment they are working in. They always assume the lines they are working on are energized until they are confirmed de-energized through testing and communication with System Operators.

Yes, it can be dangerous, but it is rewarding public service work that linemen take pride in.

## Wallingford Electric Division

100 John Street, Wallingford, CT 06492  
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8:30AM to 5PM  
(203) 294-2020

### To report a streetlight problem

(203) 294-2273

### Outage-related calls

(203) 265-5055

### Energy Conservation Programs

(203) 294-2280

### Public Utility Commission

(203) 284-4016

### Commissioners

Robert Beaumont, Patrick Birney, Joel Rinebold

### Director of Public Utilities

Richard Hendershot

Tony Buccheri- [Electric Division General Manager](#)  
(203) 294-2265

### Payment Locations

Tax Office Room 209, Wallingford Town Hall,  
45 South Main Street

### Drop Box

Wallingford Town Hall  
Adjacent to Prince Street entrance





## Winter Storm Preparation Tips

### Weatherproof your home

- Insulate any water lines that run along exterior walls so your water supply will be less likely to freeze.
- Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.
- Insulate walls and attic.
- Install storm or thermal-pane windows or cover windows with plastic from the inside.
- Repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on your home or other structure during a storm.



### Have your chimney or flue inspected each year

- If you plan to use a fireplace or wood stove for emergency heating, have your chimney or flue inspected each year.
- Make sure batteries are changed in smoke/carbon monoxide detectors and the devices are tested frequently.
- Keep a multipurpose, dry-chemical fire extinguisher nearby.
- Make sure HVAC system is properly maintained for the season.



### Create an emergency car kit

Avoid traveling, but if travel is necessary, keep the following in your car:

- Cell phone and charger
- Items to stay warm such as extra hats, coats, mittens, and blankets
- Windshield scraper
- Shovel
- Battery-powered radio with extra batteries
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Water and snack food
- First aid kit with any necessary medications and a pocket knife
- Tow chains or rope
- Tire chains
- Canned compressed air with sealant for emergency tire repair
- Cat litter or sand to help tires get traction, or road salt to melt ice
- Booster cables with fully charged battery or jumper cables
- Hazard or other reflectors
- Bright colored flag or help signs, emergency distress flag, and/or emergency flares
- Road maps
- Waterproof matches and a can to melt snow for water



### Steps to take Before a Storm Hits

- Listen to weather forecasts regularly and check your emergency supplies, including your emergency food and water supply, whenever you are expecting a winter storm or extreme cold.
- If you have pets, bring them indoors. If you cannot bring them inside, provide adequate shelter to keep them warm and make sure they have access to unfrozen water.
- Have maintenance service on your vehicle as often as the manufacturer recommends. In addition, every fall, make sure it is ready for winter driving.
  - o Make sure the tires on your car have adequate tread and air pressure. Replace any worn tires and fill low tires with air to the proper pressure recommended for your car (typically between 30-35 psi).
  - o Keep the gas tank near full to help avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
  - o Keep your car in good working order. Be sure to check the following: heater, defroster, brakes, brake fluid, ignition, emergency flashers, exhaust, oil, and battery.