

Transcript of Debby Rayworth, Technical Manager

The coolest part about this job is... we get to work outside on days like this on top of a pole!

As a cable technician, or a technical manager supervisor, my job involves a lot of physical activity and problem solving. As a technician you spend some time inside with the customer, but a lot of time is spent outside, and not in typical weather. It could be dark or light, it could be sunny or rainy, it could be stormy, it could be a hurricane, it could be pretty much anything. You can't be afraid of that and you can't be afraid of bad hair!

Sometimes I have to put on about 70 pounds of gear on top of my body weight, and then I have to climb a pole. It could be in bad weather, or dark, and I love it. Average day on the job for me would—I'm on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, so it can happen at any time; but I assess the work load and have the service work load taken care of and any maintenance, and then take care of any emergencies as they come in—so shift the work load and priorities. And we're always implementing new technologies so there is a lot of training involved with that as well.

The toughest part of this job; trying to juggle all the projects as they're coming in because it's all priority and you have to deal with it quickly. It can be a little stressful, it can be very exciting, because I find the stressful situations very exciting. The best part of this job for me—because I am a thinker—is that I get to trouble shoot everything that comes our way. We're in the service-related industry and people only call when they are having problems, they never call and say, "hi, we're doing great over here." So we get to think our way through those problems. I like the challenge.

I didn't know what I wanted to do. I tried several careers and my home life—my father was an electrician, and just seemed to be a natural fit. I almost fell into it—lucky for me. But at one point I actually sold encyclopedias door to door.

This career actually pays very well. I've been very fortunate and it's enabled me to purchase my own home by myself. I also have a motorcycle for fun, and I'm planning a trip this year to go to Greece with some girlfriends. So, I can afford to do that. I can afford to comfortably do that because I made a good career choice.

If you like working outside in all kinds of weather and thinking through problems and being physically active then this might be the career for you.

Find out what it is you love to do. No matter what it is, get the education that will pull you through that and take it as far as you can go.