

# **BRINK**

CONSTRUCTORS, INC.

A  QUANTA SERVICES COMPANY



## **Brink Constructors Quarterly Newsletter** July-September 2018

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**Zane Brink**  
**President**  
**Brink Constructors, Inc.**

# A message from the President

## Production

At Brink we often say we live and die by the manhour. What does that mean? It means we base everything we do in this organization off of a Manhour. So, you say, what is a Manhour? A Manhour is the amount of work that One Man performs in One Hour. If you have an 8 man crew the works for 10 hours in a day then you have spent  $(8*10)$  80 MH's in that day. If those 8 men (80 MH's) set 5 Poles then your unit production for the day for setting poles is  $(80/5) = 16$  MH/pole. That in a nut shell is production.

How many Manhours does it take me to do something? We estimate our bids using Manhour production rates and we gauge our costs by how much something costs us per MH. If we are renting 2 bucket trucks at \$1000/day each and we have 4 men and they work 10 hours then we have 40 MH's and a cost of \$2000 per day. Our equipment costs us \$50/MH. All Costs are measured against a MH. At the end of the project it will costs us \$/MH to do the project.

When you come down to production we say:

- Safety First
- Equipment Second
- Production Third

We say this because you can get be the fastest clipping crew out there but if you're hurting people and tearing up equipment then your cost per MH is increasing. For example, a safe-equipment minded 8 man crew who completes 5 structures per day at a cost of \$80/MH is more productive than an unsafe, tear-up-equipment 8 man crew who completes 10 structures per day at a cost of \$160/MH. Their production rates are different: 16 MH/structure vs. 8 MH/structure, but the costs are the same at \$1,280 per structure. If you take the liability from the cost of equipment being down, add management of work comp cases, then the 5 structures per day is your most productive work.

Be productive by thinking and acting safe and taking care of your equipment.

### A Safe Attitude

Have you ever heard somebody say that a smile can brighten a room? I have, and today I wanted to look a little deeper into the saying. If someone is smiling, it usually means they are having a good day, or are at least maintaining a positive outlook. That positive outlook can be passed onto others, thus making a more positive, brighter room, or work environment in our case. On the other hand, if someone is having a bad day and is showing it with a negative outlook, that will spread as well leading to a negative work environment. Once the work environment has a negative attitude, that will spread to a poor safety attitude and employees saying things such as “I’m going to do things my way, I know what I’m doing” or “I don’t have time to think about safety, I need to get this job done right now”. This is something that we always need to avoid so that we can maintain a safe work environment. We need to always avoid having a negative outlook and maintain positivity. To help show this, below is a short inspirational story known as “The Trouble Tree”.

“The carpenter I hired to help me restore an old farmhouse had just finished a rough first day on the job. A flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric saw quit, and now his ancient pickup truck refused to start. While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence.

On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands. When opening the door he underwent an amazing transformation. His tanned face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier.

"Oh, that's my trouble tree," he replied. "I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children. So I just hang them on the tree every night when I come home. Then in the morning I pick them up again."

He paused. "Funny thing is," he smiled, "when I come out in the morning to pick 'em up, there ain't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before."

Author Unknown

As we continue through life, let's all learn from the carpenter and his “trouble tree” so that we can have a smile on our face to do our part in brighten the Brink work environment and avoid incidents. We all know that things happen, so we just need to learn what we can from the incident and move on, maintaining a positive, proactive attitude, wear a smile, and always lead with a YES rather than a no.



**Keenan Caesar (104)**

Hire Date: May 12, 2014

Pictured above: Keenan Caesar, Dan Bachmann  
and Chris Shagla



**Justin Kells (159)**

Hire Date: July 7, 2014

Pictured above: Tim Torres and Justin Kells



**Brady Doty (150)**

Hire Date: January 13, 2014

Pictured above: Brady Doty and Kris Gonzales



**Brandon Stolz (104)**

Hire Date: May 11, 2015

Pictured above: Seth Scott and Brandon Stolz



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Brent Voorhees, Tony Cuezla, and I had the pleasure of attending the Lazy Q Line School graduation in June where two of our employees, Riley Kleven and Austin Biers, successfully finished the program. We could not be more proud of them!

They will both be returning to work on project I60 at the Minnesota and North Dakota border with Kris Gonzales and crew.



Riley Kleven and Austin Biers



Austin performing "Hurt Man Rescue"



Riley and Lazy Q classmate performing "Cross Arm Change Out"

# T-Line Spotlight with Tim Kehr

## Project 150– Duke Energy

We have had a crew in Florida since October 2017 working for Duke Energy. We are located in Wildwood, FL and are working a 100 mile radius in the Central Florida area mainly on maintenance construction. The safety and quality of work Brink has produced in Florida has impressed Duke. We have been able to secure multiple projects and are currently working on a 6 mile 100 pole changeout and reconductor. Due to nightly outages and traffic constraints the crews will be working mostly at night on this project. We will be setting the line and then retiring the existing 795 conductor with 1272 and installing fiber. There are multiple small projects that we have completed as well.

## Hwy 27 Pole Changeout and Conductor Transfer

We replaced 21 wood poles with SSS poles and transferred conductor. The line is located on a busy 6 lane highway in Leesburg, FL. Traffic and pedestrians were always a safety concern.

## Sebring Project

This project was a multi pole change out project with many different ROW conditions such as swamp, sand, and people's yards. Most of our projects in Florida have been located in parking lots, side streets, major highways, and backyards. The crews have been doing an excellent job on mitigating hazards and maintaining professionalism in these public settings.

## Box Work at Leesburg and Archer Substations

This project consisted of multiple outages to remove and reinstall slack spans for sub bay rebuild. We also had to isolate the sub by installing temporary spans of wire and multiple jumper configurations.

The summer months have brought heat, humidity, thunder storms, and an inconsistency in work schedule. The crews have kept a positive attitude and are working as a team to deal with these conditions. As a supervisor, I appreciate everyone's efforts and attitude on these projects.



Building a bypass to isolate sub bays for rebuild at Archer Substation.



Working on a pole change along Hwy 27 in Leesburg, FL



Working night shift due to traffic and outage constraints. Installing a self supported steel pole for line rebuild.



Changing out an angle dead end structure in Sebring, FL. Called in a sub contractor crane crew to set pole over existing lines.

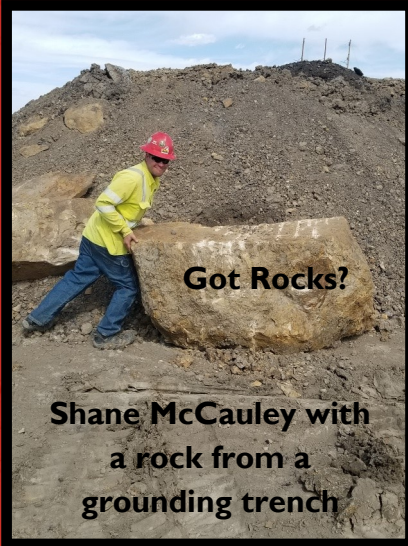
# Substation Spotlight with Justin Winkler

## Project 139 / 152 - Collum Gulch Substation

The Collum Gulch Substation project is a two-phase, green field project on the ColoWyo Coal Mine, near Meeker, CO. The coal mine is the first new mine being built in the area in over 25 years. Brink is building a 4-breaker ring bus, with a 4-bay distribution rack substation. The substation is being built out as a 138kV to 34.5kV, operating at 69kV to 24.9kV. We are working for White River Electric Co-op (WREA), which will be supplying power to the new mining facilities and the drag line. Brink began Phase I in mid-October last year, with the foundation group starting the foundations. With the winter coming and other work commitments, the foundation group de-mobilized for a winter shut down. We started again in March 2018, with the assistance of Silverline Construction completing the foundations and the substation crew starting in April on the below grade work. Over the winter, Brink was also awarded the second phase of the project, which was the remaining above grade work, to complete the station. This allowed us to build the station as a normal build, streamlining the process. Being an MSHA regulated site has presented many challenges to the crew and required the help of multiple employees within the Brink organization. The job will be complete at the end of July. I would like to offer a big congratulations and thank you to the crew and all others involved.



**Before our return in  
March 2018**



**Got Rocks?**

**Shane McCauley with  
a rock from a  
grounding trench**



**Barry Ware and  
Garrett Simpson  
installing  
ground grid**



**Almost done!  
June 27, 2018**