

It's a Bird. It's a Plane. It's, It's . . .

Last winter, a major telecommunications provider faced a superhero-sized task. Its mission was to install a major aerial fiber optic distribution line in western Massachusetts before its arch nemesis—winter—arrived.

A utility contracting company called On Target was awarded two phases of the project. The scope of the job included installing 41 miles of a 288F All-Dielectric Self Supporting (ADSS) cable in the power space on the distribution pole line. The first plan called for construction to begin at the start of October and be completed by the end of the year. The first hurdle the team crossed was getting delivery of the fiber optic cable. Although the cable reels were not delivered until early December, they knew the client was still hoping for completion by year-end.

With superhero determination, the team took a unique approach. They created an intense schedule for the line crew assigned to the project. Their charge was to install a full 14,000-foot reel of ADSS cable daily, over a two-week period. When that effort was complete, the fiber techs donned their hero's cape and goggles to complete splicing and testing. Without a doubt, this shortened the delivery cycle. Final testing of the entire build was then completed within two days because any corrective splicing that was necessary had already been completed.

Look, Up in the Sky!

The aerial line crew, consisting of 17 linemen and a foreman, mobilized from Portland, Maine on Monday, Nov. 30, for the day-long drive to the work location. On Tuesday, framing and P-lining began. On Wednesday, Dec. 1, the first reel was pulled and clipped in. From this point on, one reel was installed every day over a ten-day period—and two reels were installed on the next-to-last day. The environment was their enemy; they dealt with snow, cold and only a few hours of daylight to meet the client's schedule. Looking back at the project, the line crew installed 29 miles of fiber optic cable in 11 days, and the fiber technicians delivered final test results within a week after the build was complete.

The team celebrated their victory back at the site. To document the moment, they pointed to the sky and celebrated the fruits of their labor. While world peace was not at stake during this installation project, the aerially inclined team knew they deserved a superhero pat on the back.

Last we heard, however, they are still waiting for the ticker-tape parade.



On Target is a utility contractor operating out of Portland, Maine, that provides a variety of services to the electric, telecommunication and cable TV industry throughout the Northeast. For more information visit: www.ontargetservices.com.

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