

Trudging up through the snow to Mt Temple ski fields near Arthur's Pass with gear on his back is all in a day's work for Connetics trainee line mechanic Simon Wilson of Christchurch.

Simon says the day's routine work plan sometimes gets put to one side when there's an emergency. While maintenance of electricity distribution is vitally important, faults can happen any time without warning. A car may have hit a power pole, or falling trees or a truck may have taken down some electricity wires. Quick restoration of electricity supply is a critical part of the job. That's what Simon loves about the job.

"It's a great trade and a great lifestyle. There's plenty of variety and it's always interesting. Every day is different. You always have to be ready for the unexpected," he says.

Simon says it takes a particular kind of person to enjoy being a line mechanic.

"You've got to be reasonably physical and enjoy the outdoors as well as have an interest in the technical stuff. You also definitely need to be able to get on with people. You work in a gang all day so if you don't get on with them it doesn't make for a very enjoyable day."

Simon joined Connetics Limited in 2008 as a trainee line mechanic and has completed 18 months of his training towards a National Certificate in Electricity Supply, Line Mechanic – Distribution, Level 5. He's due to finish the qualification in March next year and once registered he plans to further his qualifications by undertaking live wire training.

A mature student with two children under four, Simon was selected from 42 entries nationally for ESITO's Overall Trainee of the Year Award, also receiving the Networks Trainee of the Year Award at ESITO's Annual Connection event.

Connetics Overhead Manager Kevin Head has no doubts Simon will become a leader within the electricity supply industry.

"He has the right attitude and ability to further progress his career within the electrical industry and has already demonstrated leadership among his peers," he said.



*Simon Wilson*

