



APRIL–MAY 2023

## SAVE THE DATE

May 9

Overview of Double  
Circuit Design

Webinar

May 9–12

Metering School

Tahoka, Lyntegar EC

May 22–26

Workshop: Staking Technician  
Training Seminar—Phase IGeorgetown,  
TEC Training Facility

June 6–9

Basic Pole Climbing School

Tahoka, Lyntegar EC

June 13

Mitigation of Animal-Caused  
Outages

Webinar

June 20–23

Metering School

Seguin, City of Seguin

July 11–13

Supervisor/Foreman School

Itasca, HILCO Civic and  
Event Center

July 11–14

Troubleshooting School

Merkel, Taylor EC

## ALWAYS THINK SAFETY

Gloves | Grounds | Cover Up

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Use the [TEC Safety and Loss Control discussion list](#) on the TEC member website to share and gather information.



**Texas Electric  
Cooperatives**  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

A BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION  
FROM TEC LOSS CONTROL

# ‘I don’t want anybody getting hurt on my watch.’

## Loss Control Conference emphasizes legacy of workers and their profession

The video played to a darkened hotel conference room.

A man at a restaurant is stricken, slumped over and not breathing. Sam Houston EC’s David Boen jumps up from his nearby table and begins CPR. “It seemed like forever,” Boen says in the video. “I know at least 45 minutes or so.”

He succeeds.

Gary White, SHECO’s director of safety and training, comes onscreen and says, “David, if you hadn’t let this sink in yet, I want you to. You actually saved someone’s life. You brought him back to life.”

The video ends, the lights come back on.

Boen, standing on stage to receive an award, wipes a tear from his eye.

It sank in.

“It was kind of emotional,” Boen says later. “It gets to your heart.”

Getting to the heart was a central theme of the 2023 TEC Loss Control Conference & Exhibit Show, which featured a dozen speakers and dozens more awards, including nine Lifesaving Awards. One of those brought Boen to the stage.

The annual conference, March 21–24 in San Marcos this year, brings the Loss Control community together—288 lineworkers and operations and safety managers, including 110 first-time attendees—to emphasize and celebrate safe work cultures in the electric utility industry. That community comprises 56 of the electric co-ops in Texas, 31 municipal utilities and 11 contractors that rely on TEC for safety meetings and schools that educate operations employees on proper techniques.

“Working on energized lines, restoring power, doing those things, I don’t think, is dangerous. I think it’s



Billy Williams with EHV Solutions visits with attendees during the exhibit show, which featured 48 booths.

unforgiving,” said Corey Parr, vice president of safety and loss prevention at Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange and one of the speakers.

He noted that equipment and training in the industry set up lineworkers for success. Failure is a human component—the product of complacency, poor work practices, rushing.

Parr, formerly a co-op lineworker in Georgia, said incidents, including electrical contacts, are most likely to happen after hours. Lineworkers adopt a mindset that urges them to get the lights back on promptly, especially during storm recovery. “The quicker we get done, the quicker we go home,” he acknowledged.

Another key contributor to after-hours incidents is lack of job oversight, he said.

**Parr listed three practices that would eliminate almost all incidents if consistently followed:**

- Follow clearance and lockout/tagout procedures.
- Always wear proper personal protective equipment.
- Have a qualified observer on-site when energized work is occurring.

“Think about our legacy,” Parr said. “What do you want it to be? What’s the worst thing that could happen to you professionally? I ask that question a lot when we do some sessions with folks, and I get one answer: ‘I don’t want anybody getting hurt on my watch.’”

### 2024 TEC LOSS CONTROL CONFERENCE & EXHIBIT SHOW

March 19–22 | Frisco, Embassy Suites

Continued on Page 2

## TEC Loss Control Conference continued from Page 1

John Ed Shinpaugh, general manager and CEO at Fannin County EC, remembers precisely when that became his reality: July 24, 2017, at 8:05 in the morning.

Again, it brings a tear. Shinpaugh somberly explained that the co-op was involved in overnight storm recovery that day, and an FCEC lineworker went up a pole without gloves on. He made electrical contact. The employee survived but lost an arm.

"That's kind of the day that safety became important to me," said Shinpaugh, speaking as part of a panel discussion about breaking down barriers to speaking up about safety. He was joined by Gary D. Miller, GM at Bryan Texas Utilities, and Neil Hesse, GM at PenTex Energy.

"We were doing all the right stuff," Shinpaugh said, noting FCEC's participation in TEC's safety meetings and schools. "You know, we were safe. And our board president, he said, 'Have we been safe for 80 years or have we been lucky?' And my answer was, 'Some of both, I guess.'"

After that, Shinpaugh said FCEC put its safety culture under a microscope. "I used that situation to leave no stones unturned," he said.

Miller singled out an employee-led safety steering team for shaping the safety culture at BTU. Hesse said employees' safety practices are foremost when being considered for promotion and leadership opportunities. All three agreed that safety must be an ongoing conversation, from the boardroom to the lunchroom.

### Other discussion topics at the conference included:

- Emerging training opportunities involving virtual reality.
- How to be our best by taking care of ourselves.
- Mentoring the next generation.
- Tick bite and Lyme disease prevention.
- Best practices to encourage safe driving.
- The Stop And Focus Everyday job planning app created by Federated.

An array of awards, in addition to the Lifesaving Awards featured in poignant videos, heralded safety accomplishments around the state and the emphasis on ongoing education.

Rayford Harris, who retired from Lyntegar EC in January as a journeyman lineworker, received the Unsung Hero Award. Danny Williams, TEC's Loss Control manager, noted Harris' support of the program, including serving as an underground instructor starting in 2009.

General Electric bestows an award annually, applying a scoring system that includes Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program accreditation, a disability injury index, and records for driving and injury incidents. Navarro County EC earned the GE Safety Award for the third year in a row and fourth time in five years.

"The employees are the safety process," said Sam Miller, safety,



ALEX DAL SANTO | TEC



CAYLYN PHILLIPS | TEC

Above left: "In my mind, the most important, impactful thing that we as executive management and our safety officer and all of our managers can do is simply talk about safety all the time," says Gary D. Miller, GM at Bryan Texas Utilities, during a panel discussion. Above right: Rayford Harris, left, who retired from Lyntegar EC in January as a journeyman lineworker, receives the Unsung Hero Award from TEC's Danny Williams.



CAYLYN PHILLIPS | TEC

Above: "The more you focus on what's important and what's significant, life becomes so much more meaningful," says Carl Smith, a trainer and motivational speaker. Below: TEC's Ronnie Wiggins parades an item up for bid during the scholarship auction. The item, a wooden model of a 1939 Chevy coupe handcrafted by J.R. Rusch, sold for \$1,600.



CAYLYN PHILLIPS | TEC

Continued on Page 3

## STAFF

**Martin Bevins**, VP, Comm. & Member Services  
(512) 486-6249, [mbevins@texas-ec.org](mailto:mbevins@texas-ec.org)

**Danny Williams**, Loss Control Manager  
(512) 413-0509, [dwilliams@texas-ec.org](mailto:dwilliams@texas-ec.org)

**Curtis Whitt**, CLCP, LC Assistant Manager  
(512) 694-0232, [cwhitt@texas-ec.org](mailto:cwhitt@texas-ec.org)

**Wesley Caldwell**, LC Regional Supervisor  
(512) 942-9351, [wcaldwell@texas-ec.org](mailto:wcaldwell@texas-ec.org)

**Phillip Henricks**, CLCP, LC Regional Supervisor  
(806) 438-0067, [phenricks@texas-ec.org](mailto:phenricks@texas-ec.org)

**Tami Knipstein**, LC Program Coordinator  
(512) 486-6271, [tknipstein@texas-ec.org](mailto:tknipstein@texas-ec.org)

**Jay Esquivel**, Loss Control Specialist  
(737) 738-4474, [jesquivel@texas-ec.org](mailto:jesquivel@texas-ec.org)

**Mike Finnell**, Loss Control Specialist  
(512) 942-9673, [mfinnell@texas-ec.org](mailto:mfinnell@texas-ec.org)

**David Nance**, CLCP, Loss Control Specialist  
(512) 804-6748, [dnance@texas-ec.org](mailto:dnance@texas-ec.org)

**Devery Rosenquist**, Loss Control Specialist  
(325) 668-8626, [drosenquist@texas-ec.org](mailto:drosenquist@texas-ec.org)

**Ronnie Wiggins**, CLCP, Loss Control Specialist  
(512) 709-1177, [rwiggins@texas-ec.org](mailto:rwiggins@texas-ec.org)

**Tom Widlowski**, Editor  
(512) 486-6246, [twidlowski@texas-ec.org](mailto:twidlowski@texas-ec.org)



## TEC Loss Control Conference continued from Page 2

training and inspection manager at NCEC. “They are the ones that take what we talk about in our weekly safety meetings and put it into practice.”

An impressive 10 co-ops received Million Man-Hour Awards for reaching that milestone with no lost-time incidents. Magic Valley EC led the way with 2,015,761 hours.

“It is all about the hard work and discipline our employees put in daily,” said Vince Macias, MVEC’s loss control manager. “I believe that demonstrating to our employees that we care about them and their families sets us apart.”

Forty-three organizations received awards for work records of at least one year without a lost-time incident, led by the city of Fredericksburg’s 37 years. In addition, 76 employees were recognized for milestone safety achievements, led by Grayson-Collin EC’s Terry Joe Young, who has worked 55 years without a lost-time incident.

An afternoon-long exhibit show featuring 48 booths allowed vendors to put utility workers in touch with products and services that improve industry procedures and enhance workplace safety.

Motivational speaker Wylie Davidson challenged the conference to make safety personal, and that includes taking it home and into



CATLYN PHILLIPS | TEC



CATLYN PHILLIPS | TEC

From top: GE’s Oscar Rochin, third from left, presents the GE Safety Award to Navarro County EC, represented by, from left, Sam Miller, safety, training and inspection manager; Larry Harrison; and Jaz Luviano. Auctioneer Larry Ogden urges bids on donated items. Zachary Johnson of Sam Houston EC won the Wire Art Challenge with his sculpture of dueling scorpions, which sold during the auction for \$500. TEC’s David Nance, far right, presents a Million Man-Hour Award to Magic Valley EC, represented by, from left, Orlando Peña; Oscar Cerda; Vince Macias, loss control manager; and Juan Sanchez.



SAM HOUSTON EC



CATLYN PHILLIPS | TEC

Eric Hall from Hawrylak & Associates demonstrates a product during the exhibit show.

the community. He reminded attendees that how they go about their jobs and how they behave outside of work is going to be part of their legacy.

Sometimes younger co-workers are watching and learning from our actions, he said. Sometimes it’s family. “You never know the impact you’re making,” he said.

Then again, sometimes you do know.

Boaen knows. And that diner in a Mexican restaurant in Onalaska knows.

“I think God placed David there because he knew that David could and would do exactly what he did,” White said.

\*\*\*

Raising money for the TEC Loss Control Scholarship program is the main purpose of fun activities at the conference. An auction of 80 donated items brought in a record \$74,311. A raffle added \$2,775, and the Gordon Williams Memorial Golf Tournament added \$1,500—for a total of \$78,586. Since 1994 the auctions alone have raised more than \$630,000.



CATLYN PHILLIPS | TEC



# Lifesaving Awards

## DAVID BOAEN Sam Houston EC

The lineworker was having dinner with his wife at a restaurant in Onalaska when a man at a nearby table appeared to be in distress. Boaen, also the longtime chief of the Point Blank Volunteer Fire Department, moved the man to the floor and performed CPR by himself for about 45 minutes until an ambulance arrived.

## JESSE BOONE AND GARY COWEY South Texas EC

A contractor working on a communications tower became overheated and was in and out of consciousness, requiring rescue by his crewmates. Cowey, a communications technician, prepared a recovery area and got water and bags of ice ready to help cool down the victim. Boone, a security officer, helped guide emergency vehicles to the site.

## ZACHARY CAMERON Swisher EC

The apprentice lineworker came across a man who appeared to be experiencing heat exhaustion lying on a sidewalk in New Orleans. Cameron gave the man water and put wet cold rags under his armpits and over his forehead to lower his body temperature while also keeping him conscious until EMS arrived.

## CARLOS CARRIZALES Lyntegar EC

A friend called the journeyman lineworker requesting his help at a wreck in which another friend had crashed his pickup truck into a concrete slab in Seagraves. Carrizales helped remove the victim from the truck, laid him on the street and performed CPR.

## CHRIS KAPCHINSKIE AND JOE RIVERA Nueces EC

At a restaurant in Ricardo, Rivera, a crew foreman, and Kapchinskies, an apprentice lineworker, encountered a patron who they were told was choking. When the man didn't respond to their first-aid efforts, they laid him on the floor and began chest compressions. They then used the AED from their bucket truck and followed the directions given by the device until EMS arrived.

## MARTIN RODRIGUEZ AND HOMERO VEGA Swisher EC

While traveling after a service call, Vega, a crew foreman, and Rodriguez, a journeyman lineworker, came across a pedestrian who seemed to be disoriented. They stopped to check on him and found him to be drenched in sweat. They provided water and damp rags and placed him in their air-conditioned bucket truck. EMS arrived and determined the victim had experienced heat exhaustion.

## 24/7 Good Samaritan Awards

### CODY JONES AND SAM WHATLEY Bowie-Cass EC

While traveling on a county road near Atlanta en route to their next job, Jones, an apprentice lineworker, and Whatley, a lineworker, noticed a fire near a home. They went to the scene and found a fire in a trash can near a carport. They called 911 and put the fire out.

### JACKIE MUENNINK Medina EC

On her way to work one rainy morning, the communication manager watched as the car in front of her veered left off the road, hitting a fence and rolling more than once. She called 911 then jumped the fence to assist the people in the car. She ensured the car had not hit the power pole nearby and no power lines were down, and she made sure all occupants were able to get out safely through the rear window.



DAVID BOAEN



JESSE BOONE



GARY COWEY



ZACHARY CAMERON



CARLOS CARRIZALES



CHRIS KAPCHINSKIE



JOE RIVERA



MARTIN RODRIGUEZ



HOMERO VEGA



Click [HERE](#) to see the 2022 Lifesaving Award videos and videos of previous recipients.

## TEC UPDATE

### APPA Safety Manuals Available

TEC is accepting orders for the 17th edition of the APPA Safety Manual. The manual, produced by the American Public Power Association, is the premier source of information for electric utility safe work practices.

The 17th edition, featuring more than 200 changes, includes the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and National Electrical Safety Code 2023 updates and assists with NESC 2023 compliance. Several sections, including communications and switching, have been added.

Orders of 1-25 copies are priced at \$50 each. Orders of 26 or more are priced at \$45 each. Shipping is included.

The new manuals are binders with inserts only. To place your order, email the following information to [tknipstein@texas-ec.org](mailto:tknipstein@texas-ec.org): quantity, your name and email address, and your organization's physical address and phone number. The manuals will be mailed directly from APPA.

## Remembrance



Bonzo Anderson, right, at his retirement, with Greg Henley, Lyntegar EC general manager.

Glenn "Bonzo" Anderson, a former 50-year employee at Lyntegar EC, died Feb. 20 in Tahoka. He was the co-op's line department manager when he retired in August 2016. He was 85.

Anderson was influential in the direction of TEC's Loss Control program as a member of the advisory committee. In 2001, Anderson won the first Unsung Hero Award awarded by TEC. He won TEC's Ray Pantel Meritorious Service Award in 2004.

"He always made me want to be a better instructor and leader in this industry," Danny Williams, TEC's Loss Control manager, said when Anderson retired. "He has always been a strong supporter of the safety and training program. It is because of people like Bonzo that we have safety and training in this industry."

TEC partnered with South Plains College to open the Glenn Anderson Underground Training Facility in 2002. Planners managed to keep the facility's name a secret from him until opening day.

# ADDITIONAL 2023 TEC LOSS CONTROL CONFERENCE HONOREES



## RESAP SAFETY ACCREDITATION

Bandera EC	Karnes EC
Big Country EC	Navasota Valley EC
Central Texas EC	Nueces EC
Farmers EC	San Patricio EC
Fayette EC	Trinity Valley EC
Guadalupe Valley EC	Upshur Rural EC
Jackson EC	Wharton County EC
	Wise EC

## CLCP CERTIFICATION

Ralph Revilla, Tri-County EC

## ORGANIZATIONS WITH NO LOST TIME

### 37 YEARS

City of Fredericksburg

### 9 YEARS

Wharton County EC

### 34 YEARS

Brownfield Power and Light

### 8 YEARS

Greenstone Electrical Services  
Rita Blanca EC  
Swisher EC

### 15 YEARS

San Patricio EC

### 14 YEARS

Navarro County EC

### 12 YEARS

Lamb County EC

### 11 YEARS

Bailey County EC  
Coleman County EC  
Greenbelt EC

### 7 YEARS

Victoria EC

### 6 YEARS

Concho Valley EC  
Heart of Texas EC  
San Bernard EC

## MILLION MAN-HOUR AWARDS

<b>Bailey County EC</b> 1,006,323 hours	<b>San Patricio EC</b> 1,157,057 hours
<b>Guadalupe Valley EC</b> 1,640,711 hours	<b>South Texas EC</b> 1,607,269 hours
<b>Magic Valley EC</b> 2,015,761 hours	<b>Trinity Valley EC</b> 1,168,860 hours
<b>Navarro County EC</b> 1,313,473 hours	<b>United Cooperative Services</b> 1,063,639 hours
<b>San Bernard EC</b> 1,263,811 hours	<b>Victoria EC</b> 1,112,064 hours

### 5 YEARS

Big Country EC  
City of Seguin  
Fannin County EC

### 4 YEARS

Cotton Utility Constructors  
Hamilton County EC  
Karnes EC

### 3 YEARS

Central Texas EC  
Fayette EC  
Magic Valley EC  
South Texas EC  
Southwest Texas EC  
Trinity Valley EC  
United Cooperative Services

### 2 YEARS

Cherokee County EC  
City of Llano  
Guadalupe Valley EC  
HILCO EC  
Houston County EC  
Jasper-Newton EC  
Kerrville Public Utility Board  
Lamar EC  
Nueces EC

### 1 YEAR

Bartlett EC  
Fort Belknap EC  
Lighthouse EC  
Medina EC  
Wise EC

## INDIVIDUAL SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS (CONT.)

### 30 YEARS

Mike Ables, San Bernard EC  
Terry Ball, Fannin County EC  
Jerry Bible, Pedernales EC  
Mark Buckner, United Cooperative Services  
Erskine Davis, Jackson EC  
Randy Davis, Taylor EC  
Adolfo De La Garza, Karnes EC  
Chris Durden, Trinity Valley EC  
Dennis Faldyn, San Bernard EC  
Diana Garcia, Magic Valley EC  
Brian Goss, Lamb County EC  
Carlos Guajardo, Magic Valley EC  
Ray Hicks, Jackson EC  
Gregory Hood, Tri-County EC

Quentin Howard, United Cooperative Services  
James Kocian, Guadalupe Valley EC  
Garre Lowrance, Deaf Smith EC  
Mark Morren, Pedernales EC  
Monica Muñoz, Magic Valley EC  
Sylvia Romero, Pedernales EC  
Darren Schauer, Guadalupe Valley EC  
Jerry Scott, United Cooperative Services  
Crissy Segner, Central Texas EC  
Jeffrey Siegel, Guadalupe Valley EC  
Jimmy Sierra, South Texas EC  
Deana Stafford, Central Texas EC  
Eusebio Suarez, Medina EC

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### GROUP 1

Alexis Brooks, Rusk County EC  
Mallory Hanks, Deep East Texas EC  
Kaleigha Jacobs, Bowie-Cass EC  
Olivia Lara, Deep East Texas EC  
Mason Miley, Rusk County EC  
Hannah Pace, Rusk County EC  
Kylie Prior, Rusk County EC

Troy Shupak, Houston County EC  
Ava Silva, Deep East Texas EC  
James Thompson, Wood County EC  
Bradley Tullis, Sam Houston EC  
Avery Waldrop, Bowie-Cass EC  
Sarah Whatley, Bowie-Cass EC  
Makenzie White, Bowie-Cass EC

### GROUP 2

Molly Blankinship, HILCO EC  
Kaylee George, Heart of Texas EC

Maci Nash, Bryan Texas Utilities  
Kaylee Tidwell, Navarro County EC

### GROUP 3

Pierce Drake, Trinity Valley EC  
Josey Grewing, PenTex Energy  
Caitlyn Haught, United Cooperative Services  
Macey Jones, Wise EC

Rhett Keese, United Cooperative Services  
Jacob Tagert, Grayson-Collin EC  
Grady Waldrip, Grayson-Collin EC

### GROUP 4

Easton Duniven, Big Country EC  
Dylan Lujan, Big Country EC

Baleigh Pippin, Big Country EC

### GROUP 5

Tandy Blacksher, Greenbelt EC  
Addison Burkhalter, North Plains EC  
Alan Ericsson, South Plains EC  
Ofelia Gonzalez, South Plains EC  
Kassie Kelley, Bailey County EC  
Kendra Kelley, Bailey County EC

Carlee Price, Bailey County EC  
Alfredo Ramirez, Swisher EC  
Emily Swaringen, South Plains EC  
Cortny Taylor, South Plains EC  
Nicholas Vitela, South Plains EC

### GROUP 6

Reagan Henderson, Central Texas EC  
Lauren Johnson, Guadalupe Valley EC

Madison Kloepper, Central Texas EC  
Lee Presley, Guadalupe Valley EC

### GROUP 7

Kirsten Alvarado, Magic Valley EC  
Journey Casares, Magic Valley EC  
Roy Fuentes, Magic Valley EC  
Gregorio Gonzales IV, Karnes EC  
Jacoby Gonzales, Karnes EC  
Derek Lopez, Karnes EC

Isabella Narvaez, Rio Grande EC  
Nicholas Rangel, Magic Valley EC  
Miranda Vargas, Magic Valley EC  
Haileigh Ward, Rio Grande EC  
Amber Williams, Medina EC  
Katelyn Wilson, Nueces EC

### G&T

Daniel Elliott, South Texas EC

### MUNICIPALS

Dylan Ranft, City of Seguin

## INDIVIDUAL SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

### 55 YEARS

Terry Joe Young, Grayson-Collin EC

### 45 YEARS

Allen Boehme, Medina EC  
Peter Dragon, Karnes EC  
Debbie Duecker, Central Texas EC  
Danny Nixon, Lighthouse EC

Chuck Smith, Bailey County EC  
Pat Stahl, Central Texas EC  
Doug Yates, Grayson-Collin EC

### 40 YEARS

Robbie Autry, Lyntegar EC  
Carolyn Bannowsky, Pedernales EC  
Kim Black, Bailey County EC  
Bryan Boehl, Guadalupe Valley EC  
Derly Carrizales, Medina EC  
Tim Chew, Central Texas EC  
Glen Davis, Central Texas EC  
Nancy Gottschalt, Guadalupe Valley EC  
Jacky Hancock, Navasota Valley EC  
Diana Hill, Guadalupe Valley EC  
Emmett Hill, Guadalupe Valley EC  
William Lange, Guadalupe Valley EC  
LaRae Martin, Nueces EC

John Moore, Bryan Texas Utilities  
Danny Moss, Farmers EC  
Marc Padgett, North Plains EC  
Ken Price, Central Texas EC  
Ann Sanchez, Big Country EC  
George Savage, Farmers EC  
Gary Sherrard, Trinity Valley EC  
Tommy Strong, Rusk County EC  
Betty Tice, United Cooperative Services  
David Walla, Fayette EC  
Charlotte Weaver, Navarro County EC  
Todd Williams, Lighthouse EC  
Susan Wilson, Guadalupe Valley EC

### 35 YEARS

Richard Arnett, Wharton County EC  
Chuck Baucum, Wood County EC  
Ray Don Box, Lyntegar EC  
Cindy Bures, Jackson EC  
Sara Coursey, Lighthouse EC  
Paula Cupps, United Cooperative Services  
Linda Graham, Farmers EC  
Tony Grant, Farmers EC

James Henderson, Grayson-Collin EC  
Sandra Herrera, Magic Valley EC  
Linda Key, Big Country EC  
Leonard Malota, Fayette EC  
Ronald Poston, Heart of Texas EC  
Stevie Splawn, Trinity Valley EC  
David Wagner, Pedernales EC