

AUGUST–SEPTEMBER 2025

## SAVE THE DATE

Aug. 18–22  
**Staking Technician Training Seminar—Phase III**  
 Georgetown, TEC Training Facility

Aug. 26–29  
**Journeyman Refresher School—Transformers and Metering**  
 Merkel, Taylor EC

Sept. 9  
**Multicircuit Design Considerations**  
 Webinar

Sept. 14–17  
**NUTSEA Conference**  
 Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

Sept. 15–19  
**Digger Operator School**  
 Kaufman, Trinity Valley EC

Sept. 23–26  
**TEC Engineering, Environmental & Materials Management Conferences & Exhibit Show**  
 San Marcos, Embassy Suites

Oct. 7–10  
**Basic Pole Climbing School**  
 Crockett, Houston County EC

Find photos from [Loss Control schools](#) on the TEC website.

TEC works to add schools to the 2025 [calendar](#) as registrations close when the maximum number of students is reached. Waiting lists are available. Click on the desired school for details.

## ALWAYS THINK SAFETY

Gloves | Grounds | Cover Up



A BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION  
 FROM TEC LOSS CONTROL

## CoServ Recovers To Lead All Co-op Teams at Lineman's Rodeo

CoServ's journeyman team stumbled even before sunrise at the Texas Lineman's Rodeo, potentially squandering their months of training for the annual competition.

The team's first event July 19 at Nolte Island Park in Seguin was changing out two insulators. But the rules called for a process that was different from how CoServ lineworkers do it on the job.

"That threw a wrench into everybody's plans," Justin Brown said. "We ended up with a two-point deduction because we went over the time."

That meant the team had to be perfect the rest of the day.

"We made sure on all other events, we ran them clean, staying focused, staying calm so we don't get any other gigs and points deducted," he said.

That focus paid off as the CoServ team of Brown, Jared Day and Garrett McFerren finished in first place in the co-op division and fourth overall among 56 journeyman teams.

Kenny Beutter added to CoServ's best rodeo showing by finishing fourth overall among apprentices and fifth in the written test. And the team of Alex Garza, Luke Hawkins and Chris Hammonds finished third in the senior division.

Bluebonnet EC's Cooper Lucherik and Lane Magnuson led a 1-2 finish out of 150 competitors in the apprentice division.

"Participating in the rodeo helps in the day-to-day work largely because of the knowledge and experience we gain," Lucherik said. "We spend a lot of time studying and practicing for the rodeo, which in turn makes us better linemen."

The first-place journeyman team was from CenterPoint Energy. A team from the city of Seguin, which participates in the TEC Loss Control program, finished third.

Journeymen from MidSouth EC finished first and third in the pole climbing competition, with Trinity Valley EC claiming second.

In the insulator changeout that stymied the CoServ team, Pedernales EC teams took the top two



From left, Coserv's Jared Day, Garrett McFerren and Justin Brown with their Texas Lineman's Rodeo trophies.



Bluebonnet EC's Cooper Lucherik, the apprentice champion, descends a pole after completing his hurtman rescue event.

spots, and a PEC team also won in hurtman rescue. Overall, PEC teams finished eighth and ninth.

Apprentices from Rusk County EC and PEC finished 1-2 in the three-phase transformer bank event.

In all, 12 Texas co-ops competed. The others were GVEC and Bandera, Deep East Texas, Farmers, HILCO and Navasota Valley ECs.

TEC is one of the rodeo's sponsors, and Loss Control instructors provided tool inspections for apprentices and served as judges for two events. And TEC once again offered a station where kids could put on lineworker gear and pose in a utility bucket for photos that were put onto a mock *Texas Co-op Power* cover.

[Click here](#) to see the full results.



## New Schools Target Journeymen

The basics of working with electricity haven't changed since Curtis Whitt entered the utility industry at the age of 24. And there is so much to learn—the theories of electricity, how to work on the equipment that keeps the grid functioning—about the duties and staying safe.

Whitt, the manager of TEC's Loss Control program, shakes his head to think he attended just one formal training class in his 17 years as a lineworker. That wasn't nearly enough, and so he was determined to learn on the job the best he could.

"It's easy to get into bad habits. It really is," says Whitt, who has been a TEC instructor since 2002. And there can be no guesswork around electricity. "You know, in our line of work, 'I think' doesn't cut it. 'I think' is where we get in trouble."



TEC's new Journeyman Refresher Schools could be a good fit for seasoned lineworkers such as Magic Valley EC's Carlos Garza, who has 14 years of experience.

Loss Control has long trained employees of cooperatives, municipals and contractors starting out in the industry, but Whitt realized experienced lineworkers need reminders as they settle into their careers and move into the roles of mentors.

So Whitt is adding two Journeyman Refresher Schools to TEC's training lineup. One will focus on transformers and metering, on the calendar for Aug. 26–29 at Taylor EC in Merkel. [Click here](#) for more information and to register. The other school will focus on regulators, reclosers, capacitors and leadership. It will be added to the calendar in 2026.

Whitt said conversations with experienced lineworkers and supervisors at organizations that participate in the Loss Control program affirmed there is a need for these schools. They will target employees who have been on the job for eight to 20 years, emphasizing the proper application of equipment and installation procedures.

He wants to prevent workers from straying from practices learned in previous training. The bottom line, he said, is for workers to be well-equipped to work safely and go home to their families at the end of every shift.

"Our struggle is to make people do what they already know to do," Whitt said. "In line work, you never quit learning. You learn your entire career."

## TEC UPDATE

### 2026 Loss Control Scholarship Applications

The TEC Loss Control Scholarship program supports students in the cooperative and electric utility industry family. High school seniors in the class of 2026 are eligible to apply if they are children of electric cooperative, electric municipal or contractor employees who participate in TEC's Loss Control program, such as organizational safety meetings, schools or the Loss Control Conference. Scholarship applications will be available on [TEC's website](#) in September. For more information, email [Tami Knipstein](mailto:Tami.Knipstein@texas-ec.org).

### 2026 Loss Control School Registration

Registration opens Oct. 15 for 2026 TEC Loss Control schools. The 2026 school calendar will be available Sept. 1 on the [Events Calendar](#) page of the TEC website.

### Lifesaving Award and 24/7 Good Samaritan Award Nominations

TEC is accepting 2025 Lifesaving and Good Samaritan Award nominations. Complete your organization's nominations and return to [tknipstein@texas-ec.org](mailto:tknipstein@texas-ec.org) by Dec. 1. The nomination forms are located on the [Loss Control](#) page of the TEC website. These awards will be presented at the next TEC Loss Control Conference, March 17–20, 2026, in San Marcos.

### Emergency Contact List

The [TEC Emergency Contact List](#) is updated as needed and is located on the TEC website. Organizations are asked to review their information regularly and email [tknipstein@texas-ec.org](mailto:tknipstein@texas-ec.org) with any changes.

Find photos from Loss Control schools [here](#).



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