

OCTOBER–NOVEMBER 2025

## SAVE THE DATE

Oct. 14

[Underground Cable  
Installation Guide](#)

Webinar

Oct. 15–18

[International Lineman's Rodeo](#)  
Overland Park, Kansas

Oct. 20–24

[Staking Technician Training  
Seminar—Phase III](#)

Georgetown, TEC Training Facility

Oct. 28–31

[Advanced Pole Climbing School](#)  
Kaufman, Trinity Valley EC

Nov. 4

[Utility Easements  
Rights and Obligations](#)

Webinar

Nov. 11–12

[Fundamentals of Electrical  
Theory for Lineworkers School](#)

Tahoka, Lyntegar EC

Dec. 9

[Sizing Three-Phase Transformers](#)  
WebinarFind 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

## Fortifying the Workforce

New journeyman school provides experienced lineworkers with renewed focus

**T**EC has taken its first steps toward reaching lineworkers long on experience but perhaps years removed from the type of formalized training intended to establish robust skill sets and sound safety habits. More than a dozen students, with field experience ranging from three years to 40 years, attended the Journeyman Refresher School—Transformers and Metering in August.

“I think we met a need with this school,” said Curtis Whitt, TEC Loss Control manager and the instructor for the four-day course in Merkel.

TEC’s 60-plus statewide schools each year have mostly targeted apprentices getting their starts in the industry, and Whitt began to realize veteran workers would benefit greatly from pausing their careers for a week and focusing on the proper techniques and safety practices that are industry standards. He said the school will make them better lineworkers and, maybe more important, better mentors.

To that end, another new school, the Journeyman Refresher School—Apparatuses and Leadership, is on the 2026 TEC Loss Control calendar four times. That school debuts March 10–13 in McGregor. Besides leadership, that school will focus on regulators, reclosers and capacitors.

The Journeyman Refresher School—Transformers and Metering also is scheduled four times next year, the first set for Jan. 20–23 in McGregor.

Feedback on the August school was roundly encouraging. Surveys of the students noted “the in-depth and detail of the presentation” and “the discussion within the group” as the most beneficial aspects of the school. “The field training was a great experience for hands-on learning,” one student wrote.

That’s exactly the takeaway for Elbie Wilson, a 22-year employee at North Plains EC.

“I believe anyone would benefit from this class. The curriculum was in-depth and presented in a way that is understandable,” said Wilson, who added he has attended all of TEC’s schools, some multiple times.

“It was actually the best transformer school and metering school that I’ve ever been to,” he added. He said he has recommended that NPEC send more of its seasoned lineworkers to the journeyman schools.

The creation of the new schools is just one of the

accomplishments for the Loss Control program as it approaches the end of another record-setting year. Its 62 schools have to date enrolled 1,236 students, a record for the second consecutive year. In addition, the program has conducted more than 750 safety



Elbie Wilson, who has 22 years of experience at North Plains EC, takes a single-phase recloser out of the loop and places the downstream line behind the fuse as part of the co-op’s preparations for a major wind event in March.

meetings for 95 organizations—56 cooperatives, 29 municipalities and 10 contractors.

TEC administers NRECA’s Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program, and Loss Control specialists are providing the on-site observations that will certify the accreditation of 16 co-ops for 2025.

At the annual TEC Loss Control Conference in March, 278 safety and operations professionals participated in four days of sessions and conversations that emphasized safety in the workplace and celebrated more than 100 awards that recognized exceptional safety records for individuals and organizations.

The 2026 TEC Loss Control Conference & Exhibit Show will be March 17–20 at the Embassy Suites in San Marcos.

## TEC's Oranday Rescues Woman After Fiery Rollover Wreck

The weekend had arrived, and José Oranday was on his way home to Cotulla on Feb. 28 after a "date-night" dinner with his wife in Devine.

Suddenly chatter on his handheld radio told the member of the Cotulla Volunteer Fire Department that he was about to come upon a rollover wreck on Interstate 35. Oranday, supervisor of the TEC warehouse in Dilley, knew he had to assist.



COURTESY JOSE ORANDAY

José Oranday has worked at Medina EC's warehouse in Dilley since 2005 and has been a TEC employee since 2010. He joined the Cotulla Volunteer Fire Department in 2013 and serves as assistant chief.

A pickup truck and the grass around it were on fire, and he charged in and pulled a woman from the passenger seat. Her husband, the driver, was not in the truck, and Oranday discovered he had been ejected and killed.

"I believe if I hadn't stopped, there would have been two fatalities," said Oranday, who credits his co-op safety training with giving him the skills to act quickly in a crisis. Before joining TEC, he worked five years at Medina EC. "My only regret is not getting there a few minutes sooner to help the other victim."

Twice before he became a firefighter, he helped save victims' lives after rollover wrecks. The incidents made him decide to join the fire department. "I saw the need to help people," he said.

"I don't consider myself a hero. The real heroes are the men and women who do this type of work every day and night."

## TEC Welcomes New Instructors

Two Loss Control specialists have joined the training staff.

Charlie Aleman comes to TEC after a 24-year career at GVEC. He has served as a control room operator and cross-trained in the field with the line department.

Kenny Frazier began his line work career in 1994 with a Georgia municipality and in 2008 moved to a co-op, where he worked until relocating to Texas this year.



Charlie Aleman



Kenny Frazier

He has worked in the apparatus shop, served as a crew lead lineworker and, most recently, handled all aspects of trouble work.

"Each role has helped shape my understanding of the industry and the importance of teamwork and safety," he said. "I look forward to helping crews stay safe and supporting the next generation of lineworkers."

## TEC UPDATE

### Injury and Safety Information Needed

TEC requests your organization's data for 2025. The Injury/Incident Report forms will be available Nov. 1 on the [TEC website](#).

Lifesaving Award and 24/7 Good Samaritan Award nomination forms are available now on the [TEC website](#).

### Important Deadlines

**Dec. 1:** Nominations for 2025 TEC Loss Control Lifesaving Awards and 24/7 Good Samaritan Awards. **Late nominations will not be accepted.**

**Jan. 30, 2026:** 2025 Injury/Incident Report. This report includes all employee recognitions and award nominations.

### 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.

### 2026 Loss Control School Registration

**Registration opens** Oct. 13 for 2026 TEC Loss Control schools. The 2026 school calendar is available on the [Events Calendar](#) page of the TEC website. Note that TEC asks organizations that register three or more students in a single hotline school to provide a guest instructor and double-bucket truck for that school.

### Record Attendance in 2025

TEC Loss Control set a school attendance record of 1,236 students. The program hit that mark in August through 62 schools as it continues to expand its safety and skills training across the state.

### Co-op Participation

The Loss Control program continues to thrive with the participation and support of TEC's member co-ops, which provide training fields, classrooms and guest instructors across the state. In 2025, 56 co-ops turned to TEC for safety meetings, 53 participated in Loss Control schools and 63 attended the Loss Control Conference.

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