



NEWS RELEASE

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Electric Linemen Showcase Their Skills *12th Annual Rodeo Competitions Set for April 4 and 5 in Caroline County*

(**RUTHER GLEN, Va.**) More than 120 electric linemen from Virginia and seven other states will compete in the 12th Annual Terex® Equipment Operator's Rodeo on Friday, April 4 and Gaff-n-Go Lineman's Rodeo on Saturday, April 5. Both competitions will be held at the Caroline County Agricultural Fairgrounds near Ruther Glen.

“This two-day event is a celebration of the skills of line crews who work to keep the lights on in all types of conditions,” said Richard Johnstone, executive vice president of the Virginia, Maryland and Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC) that hosts the event. VMDAEC provides a variety of services to its 15 member co-ops in the three states, including an array of lineman training programs, both for apprentice linemen and for more seasoned journeyman line crew members.

The only competitions of their kind held in Virginia, these utility equipment operator and climbing rodeos are open to linemen from all types of electric utilities, with competitors from as far away as South Carolina and Rhode Island planning to attend.

Friday's rodeo features equipment operators testing their ability to maneuver the bucket trucks and digger derricks used to build and maintain electric distribution systems.

Saturday's Gaff-n-Go competition features three-man journeyman line-crew teams and individual apprentice linemen. Working 40 feet above the ground on a course of utility poles, these professional linemen will demonstrate technical skills performing a variety of work tasks during timed and scored events. Each team or individual apprentice is judged on the time it takes to perform a task and, more importantly, on whether the task is performed according to safe and efficient work practices.

The Saturday rodeo gets its name from the “gaff” or metal spike that linemen attach to their boots to assist in climbing wooden utility poles. Participants and attendees can also check out the latest in tools and equipment each day as part of a vendor expo held in a pavilion adjoining the rodeo field.

Designed for the entire family, these rodeo competitions give linemen's families and others a chance to celebrate and learn more about the work linemen do every day. Both days' events are open to the public beginning at 11:15 a.m. Friday and 7:45 a.m. Saturday. Admission and parking are free and food vendors will be available.

(More)

Electric Linemen Showcase Their Skills — Page 2

“A lineman works around high-voltage power lines every day, often in the toughest weather conditions,” said Johnstone. “Both the Gaff-n-Go Lineman’s Rodeo and the Terex® Equipment Operator’s Rodeo showcase the special qualities those who choose this profession must possess — discipline, training, teamwork and confidence,” he continued, adding that this annual event provides their families and friends with a unique opportunity to see their sons, husbands and brothers in action.

Major sponsorship is being provided by Terex® Equipment and the Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), a not-for-profit lending institution. Terex® is a major supplier of heavy equipment used in the utility industry, including digger derricks, aerial devices, cranes and cable placers. Terex® Utilities, Inc. will also provide equipment, judges and awards for the equipment operators’ rodeo.

For more information on the rodeo and directions to the Caroline County Agricultural Fairgrounds, visit www.gaff-n-go.com. Facebook fans of this event can check out photos from previous years and find out the latest at www.facebook.com/gaffngo.

About Terex®

Terex® Corporation is a diversified global manufacturer operating in four business segments: aerial work platforms, construction, cranes and materials processing. Terex® manufactures a broad range of equipment for use in various industries, including the construction, infrastructure, quarrying, mining, shipping, transportation, refining, energy and utility industries. For more information, visit www.terex.com.

About CFC

Organized in 1969 to provide electric cooperatives with additional financing options beyond those offered by the Rural Utilities Service, the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation is a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative whose loans help members acquire, construct and operate the utility infrastructure needed to deliver services in rural areas. Together, CFC and its affiliates, the National Cooperative Services Corporation (NCSC) and the Rural Telephone Finance Cooperative (RTFC), provide financing to 1,460 member organizations and affiliates in 49 states, the District of Columbia and two territories. For more information, visit www.nrucfc.coop.

About VMDAEC

Founded in 1944, VMDAEC is the trade association for 15 not-for-profit electric cooperatives that serve more than 650,000 homes, farms and businesses throughout Virginia, Maryland and Delaware. The Association provides its members with safety training; utility board-level and management courses; governmental affairs and regulatory support; and communications services, including publishing *Cooperative Living* magazine, whose circulation of over 500,000 gives it the largest circulation of any publication in Virginia. For more information, visit www.vmdaec.com or www.co-opliving.com.

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