



NEWS RELEASE

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Electric Linemen to Showcase Their Skills *Annual Rodeo Competitions Set for March 27-28 in Caroline County*

(RUTHER GLEN, Va.) Ever wonder how the electricity you use every day makes it through miles of wires to your home? Utility line workers' skills and equipment will be on display March 27 and 28 at the 13th Annual Terex® Gaff-n-Go Equipment & Lineman's Rodeo.

Scheduled to kick off at 10:15 a.m. Friday at the Caroline County Agricultural Fairgrounds, equipment-operator's rodeo participants will test their ability to maneuver the bucket trucks and digger derricks used to maintain electric distribution systems. Beginning at 7:45 a.m. on Saturday, the Gaff-n-Go Lineman's Rodeo will feature competitions among individual apprentices as well as three-man journeyman teams. More than 225 utility workers and volunteer judges from seven states are scheduled to take part in this year's event.

"The name Gaff-n-Go refers to the 'gaff' or metal spike that linemen attach to their boots to assist in climbing wooden utility poles," explains Richard Johnstone, executive vice president of the Virginia, Maryland and Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC), which hosts this event.

Working 40 feet above the ground on a course of utility poles, these professionals will demonstrate their technical skills as they perform 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.

"Since 2003, this two-day event has celebrated the skills of those who work to keep the lights on in all types of conditions," Johnstone says, adding that VMDAEC provides a four-year lineman training program and certification to its 15 member co-ops.

Designed for the entire family, these rodeo competitions give line crews' families and others a chance to celebrate and learn more about the skilled tasks these utility workers do to ensure reliable electric service.

Noting that Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe signed a proclamation declaring March 28, 2015 as "Electric Utility Lineman Day," John Lee, president and CEO of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative and chair of the Rodeo Committee, says, "These are incredibly tough men, with huge hearts, who work

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hour after hour in unimaginable conditions without complaint. I've personally witnessed them in action and seen the determination to get the lights back on for their members and to make sure the work is done safely so everyone gets home to their families.”

Both days' events are open to the public, with free parking and admission. A food vendor will be on site, and children can also enjoy a petting zoo and balloon-artist activities from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday. A “Gaff-n-Grin” photo booth will give families, friends and co-workers an opportunity to have their photos taken and share the spotlight with their favorite lineman.

This year's rodeo is sponsored by Terex® in partnership with Scott Powerline & Utility Equipment, with Cintas® serving as the awards banquet sponsor. 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. A major supplier of heavy equipment used in the utility industry, including digger derricks, aerial devices, cranes and cable placers, Terex® manufactures a broad range of equipment used in general construction, quarrying, mining, shipping, transportation, refining and energy industries. For more information, visit www.terex.com.

About Scott Powerline & Utility Equipment

Headquartered in Monroe, Louisiana, Scott Powerline & Utility Equipment is a full-service equipment distributor that specializes in serving the electric power industry. Scott Powerline offers rentals, sales, and rent-to-purchase options on new & used models of the top brands in the industry like Terex®, TSE International, PowerTraxx, Skylift & many more. For more information, visit www.scottpowerline.com.

About Cintas®

Headquartered in Cincinnati, Cintas Corporation provides highly specialized services to businesses of all types primarily throughout North America. Cintas designs, manufactures and implements corporate identity uniform programs, and provides entrance mats, restroom supplies, first aid, safety and fire protection products and services.

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 and utility management training; governmental affairs and legislative support; and communications services, including the publishing of *Cooperative Living* magazine. For more information, visit www.vmdaec.com or www.co-opliving.com.

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