



The 18th Annual **Florida Lineman Competition**

March 9-10, 2018 • Kissimmee, FL



General Information & Rules

The Florida Lineman Competition is a competitive event in which utility lineworkers work as teams, demonstrating their skills and knowledge in a fun and safe environment.

What is the purpose of the Competition?

- To encourage individual and team safety while performing various job skills and procedures.
- To enhance the communication and safety of working as a team.
- To emphasize the need to learn the correct and safe methods of performing power line job procedures.
- To provide opportunities for individuals from all segments of the industry to attend and participate.

What are the advantages of participating in the Competition?

- Creates safety awareness
- Boosts morale
- Enhances team concepts
- Improves working skills
- Reinforces positive behavior
- Creates networking systems with other utilities

Mandatory Full Fall Arrest

The Florida Lineman Competition requires the mandatory use of personal fall protection for all Journeyman team and Apprentice climbing events. Fall protection systems shall be supplied by the competitor and be used in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications along with the use of a secondary work positioning strap or lanyard while transitioning around attachments on the pole. While using the secondary positioning strap or lanyard the competitor shall not get into a position to allow for a free fall greater than 0.6 meters (2 feet).

Fairness and Consistency must be shown

Each judge is encouraged to be competitor-friendly but must also be shown due respect by each competitor. If a judgment call could be considered questionable, the team will be given the benefit of the doubt. The competition event is intended to be a fun time for all and should not become stressful to either the participants or the judges.

Judging Irregularities

Should the Chief Judge observe inconsistencies in judging, he or she shall advise the Event Judge on the inconsistencies. If the discrepancies continue, the Event Judge shall be replaced with an alternate judge.



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Master & Chief Judge's Information

Journeyman Master Judge: James Alexander, Orlando Utilities Commission

Chief Judges • Journeyman Team Events

- **4kV Bell Change Out** – Richard Boley, Orlando Utilities Commission
- **4kV Transformer Switch Conductor Relocation** – Paul Bailey, City of Tallahassee
- **15kV Switch Replacement** – Paul Page, Lakeland Electric
- **Mystery Event** – Jason Wright, Kissimmee Utility Authority
- **Vertical Hurtman Rescue** – Lamar Whitaker, Beaches Energy Services

Apprentice Master Judge: Billy Caruthers, Ocala Electric Utilities

Chief Judges • Apprentice Events

- **Double Dead-end Multiskirt Changeout**– Leonard Holton, JEA
- **Hurtman Rescue** – Chris Henry, Ocala Electric Utility
- **Jumper Replacement** – Nick Rector, Ocala Electric Utility
- **Mystery Event** – Sam Holt, City of Tallahassee
- **Phase Clip In** – Nick Short, Lakeland Electric
- **Written Test** – David Sparks, Gainesville Regional Utilities

Awards

Awards will be presented Saturday evening at the Awards Banquet and will be given to:

- *Journeyman: First, second, third, fourth and fifth place overall*
- *Journeyman: First, second, third place for each event*

- *Apprentice: First, second, third, fourth and fifth place overall*
- *Apprentice: First, second, third place for each event*

Changes & Additions to the events

Information is subject to change and will be posted on www.publicpower.com and primary contact persons for each utility will be notified by e-mail.

Questions/More Information

Any general questions should be directed to the Florida Municipal Electric Association. Contact Cheryl Anderson or Brenda Thompson.

Cheryl Anderson
Deputy Executive Director of Education, Member Services FMEA
(850) 251-5465
Email: canderson@publicpower.com

Brenda Thompson
Competition Registrar, Office Manager, FMEA
(850) 224-3314 ext. 3
Email: bthompson@publicpower.com



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Event Point Deductions

Infractions – 2-Point Deduction

1. Failure to properly wear OSHA-approved P.P.E., loss or dropping P.P.E. (personal protective equipment) i.e. hard hat, gloves, safety glasses, long-sleeved shirt, etc.
2. Not wearing long-sleeved shirt, sleeves completely down and/or buttoned.
3. Any competitor not wearing work gloves with a gauntlet when rubber gloves are not required.
4. Dropping tools or material from the pole or hand line.
5. Improper cover-up (cover not extending past reach, slip or fall zone).
6. Improper use of cover (improper installation or improper care).
7. Cut-outs/Slips (with both gaffs out of the pole, loss of elevation, loss of control).
8. Failure to wear gaff guards while working on the ground.
9. Hot-dogging. (Defined as: being out of control and or excessive uncontrolled speed, both gaffs out of the pole at the same time. The climber must maintain one gaff in the pole at all times.)
10. Climber on any pole without hand line, except for the last climber coming down.
11. Performing work on the pole without a hand line secured to the pole.
12. Twisted hand line operation.
13. Hand line operation while climber is ascending or descending the pole.
14. Railroaded tools or material down hand line (letting tools or material slide down hand line).
15. Carrying material on belt or in nut bag when climbing other than hand tools, hand line and gloves.
16. Fall arrest system is not used in accordance with manufacture's specifications.
17. Performing work on the pole while other Lineman is ascending or descending other than positioning (repositioning is a maximum of two steps).
18. Ascending or descending the pole under a load (any load above the bottom of climber's feet).
19. Working on the ground under a load (competitor shall not be directly under load except actual hand line operation).
20. Performing work with your fall arrest system out of adjustment in a manner which you could fall greater than 2 feet. (This includes, but is not limited to, handing off tools, moving conductors, moving cover, moving hand line.)
21. Exposed blade on skinning knife (must be folded or sheathed).
22. Stepping or standing on material attached to the pole that is not designed to support a worker.
23. Incidental contact with energized covered conductor or uncovered neutral other than with rubber gloves.
24. Improperly marked minimum approach distance on sticks or tools.
25. Exceeding minimum approach for the voltage class on uncovered conductor. (Minimum approach distance is calculated from the fingertips of the rubber gloves and/or closest part of the climber's body.)
26. Over-reaching minimum approach markers on sticks and tools.
27. Exceeding the mean time. An additional two points will be added for exceeding the drop dead time.
28. Poor housekeeping.

* See individual events for specific event rules or exceptions. Deductions continued on next page.



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Event Point Deductions (continued)

Infractions – 10-Point Deduction

1. Contact with uncovered, energized phase.
2. Cutout/Fall to the ground (Climber's feet are approximately 6" from ground level prior to fall)
3. Working opposite energized phases or conductors of different potential at the same time.
4. Loss of control of any energized conductor.
5. Hand line contact with uncovered phase conductor.
6. Deliberate misuse of live line tools and sticks (misuse that could cause the tool or stick to fail).
7. Altering of equipment or tools that could cause them to fail.
8. Unprofessional conduct.

Infractions listed here are intended as guidelines and judging should not be limited to this list. Infractions observed, but not identified here, should be noted and explained in the scoring sheet.

The Event Judge has the discretion to determine the following:

1. Amount of point deduction depending on severity.
2. If a tool has been illegally modified.
3. The condition of personal tools and equipment.

Appealing Judge's Scoring:

Each team or Apprentice shall have the right to appeal the scoring of the Event Judge. Appeals will be made to the Chief Judge before the team leaves the event. If the Chief Judge overrules the scoring of the Event Judge, the deduction shall be reinstated.

Further Appeals:

A team or Apprentice shall have the right to appeal to the Master Judge in regard to the ruling of the Chief Judge. Should the Master Judge overturn the ruling of the Chief Judge, the team or Apprentice will not receive the point deduction. Should the Master Judge uphold the ruling of the Chief Judge, the team or Apprentice will forfeit an additional two points.



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Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do competitors have to sign a liability release?

Yes, release forms will be available and must be signed at registration.

2. What items will be scored?

- Safety procedures
- Work practice
- Equipment handling
- Neatness
- Timely completion of each event (Time will be used only in case of a tie.)

3. Who will judge the competition?

Operating utility linemen, foremen or supervisors. We welcome and encourage judges from all FMEA members and cooperative utilities. A person may volunteer to be a judge representing a utility without having team or apprentice in the competition. All teams must provide a judge for the competition.

4. Will there be any causes for immediate disqualifications?

Yes, any mistake, which under normal working conditions would cause serious injury or death, will disqualify the team for the event in which the mistake was made. The Chief Judge can also disqualify a team for inappropriate conduct and the modifications of safety equipment.

5. How many teams can come from a utility?

There is no limit to the number of teams or apprentices who can participate. But every utility must provide judges for the competition. One judge per journeyman team or one judge per three apprentices is required. There is a fee for utilities not providing judges.

6. How will an injury be addressed?

A first aid station and paramedics will be on the grounds.

7. Will there be seating for family members and spectators?

No, you may bring lawn chairs.

8. Will there be a fee for family members and spectators?

No, everyone is welcome. Additional Awards Banquet tickets may be purchased in advance. The Awards Banquet is free for all Competition participants.

9. Will lunch be provided during the Competition?

No, however, concession stands will be available throughout the day. Coolers and a picnic lunch are permitted.

10. May I bring a tent to put on the grounds?

Yes, the tent must be set up within the designated team area. Please indicate tent size on the registration form. Tents may be rented (see registration form).

11. Who should I call if I have any other questions?

Contact: Cheryl Anderson, Deputy Executive Director of Education, Member Services, FMEA
(850) 251-5465, or email: canderson@publicpower.com.



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Registration Forms & Check-in Process

Locations

Registration for **Teams and Apprentices** takes place from 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM on Friday, March 9 at **registration at Osceola Heritage Park**. All team members must register together, and all competitors must sign a release form before the registration packet will be distributed at the registration desk. Registration packets will contain each contestant's competition schedule, shirt, complimentary banquet ticket, as well as any pre-ordered additional banquet tickets.

Registration for **Competition Judges** will take place at 2:00 PM on Friday, March 9 at **registration at Osceola Heritage Park** followed by a mandatory judges' meeting. All judges are required to sign a release form.

Event Schedule and Score Sheet Procedure

In the registration packet, each team and Apprentice will find his/her event schedule order. Each team and Apprentice must bring the event schedule with them for the judge to verify everyone is following their pre-assigned order by initialing the schedule. Only the chief event judge or master judge can authorize a competitor to complete an event out of sequence, for example, to avoid backlogs.

After event completion, the judge must sign the scoring sheet. The Chief Judge or designee will check the scoring before distributing the scoring sheet with copy one being given to the runner to take to master scoring, copy two staying with the Chief Judge, and copy three going to the competitor. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure his/her competition number, name, score and time are recorded accurately, and that he/she leaves the event grounds with only one scores sheet.

