



Serving a Public Power Community

**Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TMLP Wins 2025 Northeast Power Association Lineworker Rodeo

(Hull, MA) – Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant (TMLP) Lineworkers put their skills to the test and came away as the overall winners at the 2025 Northeast Power Association (NEPPA) Lineworker Rodeo on Tuesday, May 6. Competing for TMLP were Tim Rose, Ben Ingemi, Chris DeSousa, Jason DaCuhna, Jon Joy and Matt Champagne.

Linework is a very dangerous job which requires physical acumen, attention to detail, coordination and observation of your crew to keep our service reliable and community safe in every weather condition. If for some reason a bucket truck is not available, our lineworkers need to use their trained skills to get the power on quickly and safely.

“We’re incredibly proud of our lineworkers and the dedication they show every day, not just at events like this, but in every storm, outage, repair call and helping out in mutual aid,” said Kimberly Holmes, TMLP General Manager. “Their performance at the NEPPA Rodeo reflects the high standards we set at TMLP for safety, teamwork, and service to our community.”

The 17th annual rodeo was hosted by Hull Municipal Lighting Plant at the Nantasket Beach Resort in Hull, Massachusetts. NEPPA offers the challenge each year and it features three-person teams competing in six different events. Each event’s primary purpose is to promote safe work practices. The rodeo is designed to enhance skills and job knowledge, foster stronger working relationships, encourage teamwork, and provide a better understanding of utility work for families and other attendees.

The events are:

1. Hurtman Rescue - consists of rescuing a mannequin from the top of the pole to represent an emergency rescue of a lineman in the field.
2. Pole Climb with Bell on 40’ Pole – consists of climbing a pole as safely and quickly as possible and ring the bell located at the top of the pole, following the guidelines exactly, climbing safely and professionally.
3. 4kV Lightning Arrestor Change out - Event construction is a 4kV single phase tangent pole. A C/A bracket is also mounted on the pole with a 4kV lightning arrestor attached and tapped up to the primary conductor on the high side and tapped to the pole ground on the low side. A changeout

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of the existing arrestor shall be done by one climber and then repeated by the other climber with the average time of both climbers recorded as the score.

4. Obstacle Course - This event will consist of moving arm mounted devices from one side of a standard six pin cross arm to the other by the first climber and back to the original position by the second climber.
5. USD / Rider Changeout – consists of changing a bad wire for a good wire to energize a transformer as quickly and safely as possible.
6. 7.2kV Single Phase Insulator Change - The purpose of this event is to change out a single pin Tie Top insulator using a tie stick to untie the insulator and move the wire to a temporary fiberglass arm that is already installed.

Our own Benjamin Ingemi was interviewed by WCVB NewsCenter 5. “Speed is very important, but safety is No. 1 always,” said Ingemi. “Just know we’re out here to do whatever we can to get your power back on as fast as possible, as safe as possible, so you know we’re here for the community and do the best we can.”

The event takes place annually and is a great opportunity for lineworkers from around the state to come together and build camaraderie and connections.

“We all work in different towns, but we all do the same thing, and this is what brings everyone together,” said Scott Larsen, a master judge at the rodeo, to WCVB NewsCenter 5.

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